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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES April 9, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Sonya Shaw, Jeff Wingfield, and Chester Zwirn  
Supervisors Absent: none  
Ex officio Members: Dollie Gonzalez, RTL NRCS  
Staff Present: Shirley Deason and Tanya Fell

Vice President Richards declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 6:00 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Updates were made by each board member to the mileage calendar.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Supervisor Shaw moved to approve the March 5, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Shaw moved to accept the financial report and pay the April bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. The current bills paid are:

- March payroll
- American Clay Works
- Barlow Ag Sales
- Premier Accounting
- Wray Market
- Lake States
- Wray Gazette

The exemption from audit for fiscal year 2023 prepared by Premier Accounting and adopted on March 27, 2024, was reviewed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2024: to be used for pipeline, new tanks, storage tanks, livestock tank monitoring. Supervisors reviewed applications for the grant. Applicants are: Alyse Wenstrom, Alva Deterding, Leroy Deterding (pending state land lease is eligible), Jamie Deterding, Randall Boden, and the Marjorie Anderson Trust.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: District Manager Fell, Office Assistant Deason and President Lenz met with Travis Taylor (CSU extension), Duane Stegner (CPW - property manager for Bonny) and Kyle and JoLynn Richards. It was determined that grazing would be held on 240 acres with the possibility of additional acres depending on grazing conditions during May until September. Grazing capacity would be 50 cow/calf pairs

and 2 bulls. Flash grazing will begin on Area 2 with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife spraying for weeds on Area 1. In September, Area 1 will be flashed grazed. Flash grazing these areas at different times will help determine whether it is more beneficial to flash graze in the Spring versus in the Fall. District Manager Fell is checking whether grants would be available for virtual fencing.

- NFWF Grant: \$300,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County was submitted. A fourth revision has recently been submitted.
- Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant: The district applied for a \$75,000 grant in February 2024. The conservation district has not received any information on the status of the grant.
- RCPP – Rejuvra: Grant has been reopened for applications with the conservation district’s partners to help with revising and submitting the application.

Supervisor Wingfield informed the board that Dallas Welp is not interested in being a member of the board. However, Darrell Smith has indicated an interest in serving on the board. Supervisor Wingfield is to invite Darrell Smith to the next meeting so he can see what serving on the board entails.

Until a replacement board member is found for Supervisor Wingfield, Supervisor Zwirn has indicated that he will continue to serve on the board.

#### Tree Sales

- District Manager Fell gave an update on the progress of tree sales.
- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Office Assistant Deason emailed and called the Colorado Special Districts Liability Pool to add the inventory to the policy. There has been no response as of today. Once the stock is depleted, the Colorado Special District and Liability Pool will be notified to remove coverage of the tree inventory. This allows the conservation district to cover the seasonal exposure without over-paying to cover the seasonal stock fluctuation.
- Supervisor Zwirn made a motion to pay \$20.00 each to the six kids helping to unload trees and provide gift certificates (District Manager Fell is to use her discretion in determining the amount) to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife families for their help. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.
- Earth Team Volunteer forms have been sent to the local FFA teachers for FFA members helping with tree sales to submit.

The board discussed the local drought conditions and requested that District Manager Fell place an article in the newspaper encouraging residents to water their trees.

The Colorado Soil Health Program (formerly known as STAR+) has seven producers enrolled.

Highway signs “Entering YCCD” were discussed. Landowner approval would be needed to place the signs on their property. Locations discussed for signs were Highway 385 North/South, Highway 34 East/West, Highway 36 East/West and Highway 59 South. The conservation district needs to contact adjoining conservation districts to see if they would share the cost of the signs.

Supervisors discussed Farming Evolutions. Possible changes suggested are to have more local speakers and make it a one-day event. At the next meeting, the board is to decide whether it wants to continue to sponsor this event.

Dollie Gonzalez RTL with NRCS discussed the NRCS – Unfunded Cooperative Agreement. The agreement needs to be completed and signed by the next meeting.

Supervisor Zwirn gave a report about speaking with the commissioners on Living Snow Fences. At this time, there is no money in their budget to help with this project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The board discussed the Mark Ramseier trees purchased in 2023 that he claimed had a poor survival rate. Since the trees sold in 2023 were not picked up in a timely manner, Supervisor Shaw moved to sell 2024 trees purchased by him at cost. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

The Notice of Filing Application for Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Permit for Construction Materials Limited Impact (110) Operation - Notice to the Board of Supervisors of the Local Conservation District was reviewed by the board concerning the Ritchey Pit Reclamation project. This was a gravel pit that had been illegally dug and they are now doing restoration to repair the damage.

It was approved for Office Assistant Deason to attend CSCB Training in Broomfield.

NRCS has asked the conservation district to remove the two unused desks. The Supervisors requested the district staff to take care of disposing of the desks as the value of the desks was minimal.

The projector the conservation district currently owns has been in use for several years and is technologically outdated. A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to purchase a new projector. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Wingfield and carried unanimously.

Dollie Gonzalez, RTL for NRCS, gave the NRCS report discussing hiring levels and budget restrictions in hiring.

District Technician Rogers submitted his two weeks' notice on April 8, 2024. A motion was made by Supervisor Wingfield to accept the resignation, pay District Technician Rogers for 15 days' pay for April 2024, and advise him that he did not need to complete his final two weeks. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

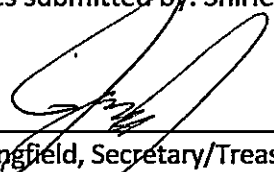
Due to the resignation of District Technician Rogers, the executive session for the employee review of the Performance Improvement Plan was dispensed with.


District Manager Fell is to advertise for the District Technician job opening.

President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for May 14, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant

  
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Jeff Wingfield, Secretary/Treasurer

  
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Date