



247 N CLAY STREET
WRAY, CO 80758
970-332-3107 EXT. 9002
www.ycconservation.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2024

Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Sonya Shaw, Jeff Wingfield, and Chester Zwiirn
Supervisors Absent: none
Ex officio Members: Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU
Staff Present: Shirley Deason and Tanya Fell (telephone)
Guests Present: Darrell Smith, Carissa Whittington, CSCB Northeast Regional Field Specialist, and Vanessa McCracken, CDA Northeast Soil Health Specialist

Before the meeting, Supervisors attended the Colorado Department of Agriculture Public Forum held at 4th and Main Downtown Grille.

Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU gave a brief presentation before the meeting began about the Bonny Project and also spoke about Camp Rocky.

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 7:04 p.m. at the 4th and Main Downtown Grille in Wray.

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

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was made on a motion by Supervisor Shaw. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Wingfield moved to approve the April 9, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

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

- April payroll
- Shirley Deason - mileage
- Tanya Fell - mileage
- Jay Goode – blueberry refund
- Julie Kinner – hackberry refund
- NB Farms – refund 2023 overpayment
- Burlington Conservation District
- Bessey Nursery
- North Dakota Forest Service
- Big Sioux Nursery
- Crestwood Growers, Inc.

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. 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:** A meeting has been scheduled for May 16th between the cooperator, Travis Taylor, extension agent for CSU and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to work out when grazing can begin at the Bonny project.
- **NFWF Grant:** \$300,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County. The Yuma County Conservation District has been informed that the grant has been approved. The YCCD needs to complete paperwork for the grant request.
- **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.
- **RCP – Rejuvra:** Grant has been reopened for applications with the conservation district's partners to help with revising and submitting the application. A conference call has been scheduled for May 17th to discuss the revised grant application.
- **Colorado Soil Health Program:** The conservation staff has been working at getting soil test kits to producers and helping producers with answering a questionnaire concerning installation of soil moisture/temperature sensors.

Supervisor Wingfield submitted his resignation. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to accept the resignation of Supervisor Wingfield and appoint Darrell Smith to complete Supervisor Wingfield's term effective May 15, 2024. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wingfield to appoint Supervisor Shaw as Secretary/Treasurer to complete Supervisor Wingfield's term of office. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to update the signature cards at First Pioneer National Bank and Wray State Bank removing Supervisor Wingfield as a signatory and adding new Supervisor Darrell Smith. Signatories on the accounts will be: Margaret Lenz, President; Ron Richards, Vice-President; Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer; Chester Zwirn; and Darrell Smith. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

Tree Sales

- District Manager Fell gave an update on the tree sales. There are only a few trees remaining to be sold.
- The Colorado Special Districts Liability Pool has deleted the insurance coverage for the stock fluctuation.

The Wray, Idalia, and Liberty FFA chapters were a huge help during the annual tree sales and distribution. Each chapter will have their hours documented to Earth Team. The Wray FFA chapter provided 106.5 hours of assistance, the Idalia FFA chapter provided 26 hours of assistance and the Liberty FFA chapter provided 2.5 hours of assistance. The YCCD would like to make contributions to each chapter based on the hours of assistance provided. Supervisor Richards made a motion to send \$1400.00 to the Wray FFA chapter, \$350.00 to the Idalia FFA chapter, and \$50.00 to Liberty FFA chapter. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to purchase \$100.00 gift certificates from 4th and Main Downtown Grille for Gillian Fell and Randy Deason for the assistance they provided with tree sales. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

After a brief break for a meal, guests Carissa Whittington, CSCB Northeast Regional Field Specialist, and Vanessa McCracken, CDA Northeast Soil Health Specialist introduced themselves and spoke about their jobs.

Farming Evolutions, summer field days, and a date for the next watershed meeting were discussed by the board. Chad Kramer with the Haxtun Conservation District has been in contact with President Lenz about continuing the Farming Evolutions event for 2025. The Haxtun Conservation District would possibly like to change to a one-day format featuring more local speakers, which would serve as a leadup to field days. The Yuma County Conservation District may be interested in continuing co-sponsoring the event but would need a Memorandum of Agreement signed between both conservation districts before committing to the co-sponsorship. Also, the Yuma County Conservation District would need to see the final financials from the 2024 event. President Lenz plans to attend the next Haxtun Conservation District meeting to obtain more information. The Yuma County Conservation District is hosting the next Republican River Watershed Association meeting which will include a field day at the Bonny site. The date for the meeting will be August 28, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed the past due bill of the Washington County Conservation District. A copy of the past due statement is to be emailed to each Supervisor with a Certified Letter sent to the District Manager that payment is due by June 12, 2024, or we will come get the phone and pursue further legal action.

Applications for the Raymond Peters Memorial Conservation Scholarship were reviewed. Only one application from Kaitlyn Meisner was received, which was deemed a very strong application. A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to fund the scholarship for Kaitlyn Meisner. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

There were no applications for the District Technician position. Posting for the position will re-open until filled.

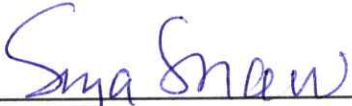
Due to the resignation of the District Technician, the board acknowledges that Office Assistant Deason is working more than the agreed upon hours.

There were no items to be brought before executive sessions.

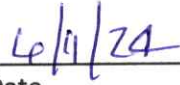
President Lenz adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for June 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer



Date