



Center Conservation District

Center, CO 81125
January 17, 2024
Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm. Members and staff present were Brian Neufeld, Danny Neufeld, Sherry Haugen, Lynne Thompson, and Mattea Freel. Guests present were Larry Brown, Ron Riggenschach, and Hannah Thill.

Sherry moved to approve the October minutes. Danny seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reports

Danny moved to approve the financial report. Sherry seconded the motion and the motion carried. Sherry moved to approve ratifying the bills. Danny seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ron gave the NRCS District Conservationist report, which included updates on EQIP funding and the Act Now process which excludes irrigation projects. The Conservationist Stewardship Program will be pushed this year. Aquifer Recovery Funding via the Colorado Open Lands and NRCS is available starting this week and closes February 12th for groundwater easements, easement vegetation plans for limited water, and surface water to pivot infrastructure updates. The snowpack as of 1/17/24 is 72% of the average for the Rio Grande Basin.

There was not a CSFS report.

Larry reported on CSU Extension about the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference on February 6-8. A new 4-H Youth Agent started in November, a new Ag Production Systems agent will begin in March, and a second part-time office assistant position may become open.

Hannah reported on RGWCEI activities including dates for the Youth Conservation Camp during the first two full weeks of June, an upcoming Envirothon field trip on January 30th at the 4UR Ranch, and booth engagement ideas for the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference.

Mattea gave the District Manager report on the following topics: the CDA Noxious Weed Grant was submitted on 12/13, the CTC Grant was submitted on 1/13, and work has begun on the Saguache County Tax Grant for education projects and the BLM Plant Conservation & Restoration grant. The Long-Range plan was submitted to DOLA in December. The CCD will share a booth with the Watershed at the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference with the Local Work Group Meeting being after the Conference on the 8th.

Unfinished Business

Brian did not have an update on the search for the fifth board member. Scouting will happen at the Ag Conference as well as reaching out to STAR+ members. Shawn Beiriger will be contacted with the possibility.

The Annual Report was reviewed. Sherry moved to approve the Annual Report. Danny seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Options for the STAR+ Equipment Grant were discussed possibly using funds from the Joint Account to match, such as an air no-till drill.

New Business

Donating to the SLV Science Fair was discussed at \$300. Sherry moved to approve the donation. Danny seconded and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on February 15th at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.