



Center Conservation District

Center, CO 81125
March 19, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm. Members and staff present were Brian Neufeld, Shawn Beiriger, Lynne Thompson, Sherry Haugen, Danny Neufeld, and Mattea Freel. Guests included Hannah Thill, Ron Riggensbach, Max Muller, and Larry Brown.

Lynne moved to approve the February minutes. Sherry seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Reports

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

The NRCS District Conservationist Report included no updates – still working on EQIP and RCPP contracts. The snowpack was 70%.

The Forest Service Report included the Saguache Spruce Stewardship Project is continuing and still has funding, finishing up the Poncha Pass Project, and the seedling sale is still open.

The CSU Agent Report included the Annie's Project with 17 participants, the Enterprise Budget and Analysis Workshop with reports available within the next week, the Coffee Break Ag Social in Saguache at the Oasis, one intern has been secured for the revegetation project, workshops for small acreage homesteads are coming up in May, the OLI program has ongoing programs with Temple Grandin presenting on the 24th at 10 am, possibly using the ASU Mini-Pivot Project for the revegetation project, and a group from NMSU will be in the Valley on alternative cropping methods March 31-April 1.

The RGWCEI Report included the state Envirothon competition with two teams from Center, ideas for sponsoring future Envirothon teams, and ongoing registration for Conservation Camp with the Sprouts group filling quickly. Sherry mentioned Annie Overlin would like to do a range workshop for high school students, possibly Envirothon or FFA Range Judging.

The District Manager Report included grant updates (received CWCB grant, CSCB supplemental matching grant, Colorado Sheep & Wool Board, Colorado Wool Growers Association), updates on the Wool Pellet Project, continuing the exemption from audit process, cancelation of elections, working on upcoming projects such as the Agrivoltaics Workshop and Weed Management Workshop, updates on the ASU Mini-Pivot Project, and Science Fair.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

The CSU Agrivoltaics Workshop was discussed. The CSCB is offering \$5,000 per participating District to help host events related to agrivoltaics/solar and ag.

Sherry moved to approve funding from the CSCB and the presented budget for the Agrivoltaics Workshop. Shawn seconded and the motion carried.

The board workshopped ideas for the Weed Management Workshop, which will be funded by the CSCB Matching Grant. Ideas included puncturevine management and/or henbane possibly in the Town of Center sometime in May.



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Danny discussed an idea for the mini-pivot of using a greenhouse and a few acres of the mini-pivot to grow windbreak shrubs and use wool pellets to enhance tree growth and reduce water usage. Hannah brought up partnering with Monte Vista schools and using their greenhouse for student learning.

The next meeting will be held on April 23rd at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.