



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2020
4:00-6:00 pm
USDA SERVICE CENTER

Planting Seeds of Inspiration to Promote Conscious Stewardship of our Natural Resources

NOTICE OF A REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO (CRS 24-6-402) OF THE Colorado GOVERNMENT CODE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: The Regular Meeting of the board of supervisors of the HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT will be at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, 2018 at the USDA Service Center, 628 West 5th, Cortez, Colorado and the following items of business will be considered and acted upon:

4:00 CALL TO ORDER - Suzanne Aikin, President

Present: Suzanne Aikin, David Temple, Joanne Teetzel, Joe Lanier, Jim Farrier, Greg Vlaming, Tony Panek

Absent: Adam Kackstetter

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS - Hassan Hourmanesh

Hassan Hourmanesh attended the meeting as a potential candidate for the current Board opening. He gave a brief bio of himself and expressed his willingness and ability to assume the post of Treasurer at such time as the current Treasurer, Joanne Teetzel leaves the Board in August.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Joe Lanier, seconded by Jim Farrier Passed
APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion by Jim Farrier, seconded by Joe Lanier Passed

4:10 OFFICER REPORTS

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin - None
- **Vice President** – David Temple – Tree Sales

David reported having had contact with Kent Grant of Ft. Lewis regarding current tree orders as well as the possibility of an additional Fall sale and speaking events related to effective use of trees as windbreaks, etc. Greg Vlaming further clarified that a tree order had been placed for which we will be billed. He has been receiving orders by phone and discussion of further advertising publicity took place. The website should be up and running soon with other platforms to be explored with the new AA. It was noted that we have made little profit on the trees in the past despite the time, effort and labor involved and although prices are currently set for this year, this will be revisited prior to next year's sale. Scheduled date for sale is April 16th.

- **Secretary/Treasurer** – Joanne Teetzel – 2020 Budget/Financials

Joanne reported having received a detailed P & L statement from Janet which she found extremely helpful in reviewing our revenue and expenses. There have been some discrepancies related to reconciliations, or lack thereof, which Janet is in the process of working on to achieve accuracy. Weed barrier sales and the seed drill remain our main revenue generators while tree sales are a break even, at best, situation.

4:30 OLD BUSINESS

- District Manager/Bookkeeper Hiring – Status Report

Suzanne, Joanne and Greg met with Janet last week and due to time and financial constraints, it was agreed that Janet will only be working on the Quickbooks tasks that Gretchen has been handling for us and not attending meetings, etc. Greg assumed the DM position as of 2/1/20 and will coordinate with Janet.

- 2020 NRCS Workgroup Meeting – February 7th – 10-12 at Fozzies Debrief

Suzanne reported that the workgroup meeting, while not well attended, was quite successful and Joel seemed pleased with the interaction and feedback he received from the group. Suzanne suggested that each Board member reach out personally to 3 or 4 people in the future to increase attendance at this event.

- Board Recruitment

Hassan Hourmanesh was formally invited to join the Board to which he readily agreed. His oath will be administered at the next Board meeting and he will then participate fully in all Board proceedings, functions and votes. It was then agreed that Joanne will work with Hassan, in coordination with Janet, to begin transitioning the position of Treasurer to him in March so that he will be fully up to speed by August when she takes her leave.

- Grants – Ballentine pending

Greg reported that the Ballentine grant which is due 3/31 is being worked on. Grants with DWCD and Gates Foundation are currently being explored. Collaboration with MLC and CSCB is ongoing. A data base of grants is being created and the potential for participation in Philanthropy Days is also on the radar. All grants are being targeted for operational costs to be a major component.

- Promotional items for District – hats, etc.

Greg reported on having researched some “trucker hats” with our logo for a cost of \$ 18. a piece. It was agreed that he would order 6 to start with and go from there.

- Montezuma County/HDCD Collaboration – Greg Vlaming

Greg is looking to make a pitch to the Commissioners by this summer with quantifiable water savings results from the nozzle exchange program as well as other new and exciting programs currently in the works. While we would hope to make some favorable impression prior to their budget planning in Oct., Greg advised that they already have some discretionary agricultural money available that we may be able to tap into for the right purposes. Jim suggested that reaching out to the Commissioners on a more personal, one on one basis might also prove advantageous in leveraging the Board.

5:00 STAFF REPORTS

- NRCS – Joel Lee – Absent

In Joel’s absence, Tony reported that new EQIP rules are still pending

- DCT – Cory Schmitt - not present but reportedly doing well in his new role
- DM – Greg Vlaming

Greg updated the Board on the weed barrier order estimate for 150 rolls (25 – 3’, 25 – 4’ and 100 – 6’) and 50 boxes of pins which would come to \$8,858.75 with free shipping. There is a 100% markup on the sale of this product which is mainly purchased by landscapers. Joanne made a motion to proceed with the order and David seconded. Motion passed

5:00 NEW BUSINESS

Attendance of DCT at BOS meetings

Following brief discussion of the DCT’s role, it was agreed that it was a waste of everyone’s time to require Cory to attend our monthly Board meetings.

Ag Expo – March 19-21

Suzanne reported that she had been in contact with the Ag Exp coordinator and learned that MSTF would no longer be facilitating the CALF building exhibits and demonstrations. The FFA have taken on this task and are in the process of working out details on how everything will work. Suzanne will make contact again at the end of February to decide if it is feasible and appropriate for HDCD to set up and staff the Soil Tent again this year. Joanne and volunteers from Master Gardener’s would be able to help if needed.

SW Ag Fall Seminar/Annual Meeting

Suzanne requested that the Board begin thinking about this year’s SW Ag Fall Seminar/Annual meeting with the idea that we would again seek to have a high profile keynote speaker/speakers on a topic that would command a huge draw. Concerns over the timing of the event to attract farmers/ranchers were discussed and flexibility in this regard was encouraged. This item will continue to appear on the agenda each month with Board members encouraged to be thinking, researching and reaching out to facilitate what we would hope to be a wildly successful event.

Fozzie’s Farm Collaboration

David reported on his collaboration with MLC at Fozzie’s Farm in regards to their desire to establish both a tree nursery and orchard on the property. Fencing is one priority to achieve this as well as drip irrigation and high tunnels. He will be providing his expertise on behalf of HDCD and keep us updated.

5:35 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President

5:40 EXECUTIVE SESSION - § 24-6-401 and 24-6-402, C.R.S.

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Mar. 10, 2020

Location: TBA

USDA Service Center

4:00-6:00

The High Desert Conservation Board may convene in executive session on any of the above items in accordance with (CRS 24-6-402) Colorado Sunshine Act.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers,

large print or Braille, are requested to contact High Desert Conservation at (970) 529-8368 two (2) days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The Public is invited to attend this meeting.