



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 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, 2020 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, Joe Lanier, Adam Kackstetter (via phone)
Hassan Hourmanesh

Absent: Jim Farrier and Joanne Teetzel

4:05 Cancellation of Election Motion by David Temple and seconded by Joe Lanier to cancel Board election for lack of candidates – motion passed

Exemption from Audit – Motion by David Temple and seconded by Joe Lanier to file for exemption from Audit – motion passed

4:10 Swearing in of newly appointed Board Member – Hassan Hourmanesh

Hassan Hourmanesh took and signed the oath of office as administered by Suzanne Aikin, Board President Welcome Hassan!

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion to accept by David seconded by Joe - passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion to accept by David seconded by Joe - passed

4:15 OFFICER REPORTS

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin – Suzanne presented the financials in Joanne’s absence and explained that Hassan will be working with Joanne and Janet Ruper (Admin. Asst) on the upcoming quarterly financials to be presented at the April meeting as the start of his transition to the Treasurer’s position.
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- **Vice President** – David Temple – Tree Sales Deadline for tree orders March 23rd, April 14th will be the pick up day at the office with David volunteering his assistance to Greg.
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- **Secretary/Treasurer** – Joanne Teetzel – Absent

4:30 STAFF REPORTS

NRCS – Joel Lee – Joel reported that many of current program details are still up in the air with details slow in coming. Deadline for EQIP programs is April 10th. He will be presenting the rain simulator at the Ag. Expo on March 19th. He reported 84% of snowpack for the Basin as of yesterday. He will be receiving many new staff in positions

of Soil and Range Conservationists enabling the office to reach out to a larger audience. He requested that the District consolidate their space into one cubicle to accommodate the increased NRCS staff. He reported that Cory Schmitt, the District's DCT has been working out extremely well and is pleased with his performance.

Joel reported on the DWARF Collaborative which is geared towards watershed protection and forest health. He encouraged the District to explore opportunities within this program to expand services, increase the District's public exposure and perhaps serve as leverage for potential grant funding.

DM – Greg Vlaming – Greg reported that he has been networking with partners (MLC, DWCD and Research Center at Yellow Jacket), which are proving to be productive in collaborative efforts on not only District programs but potential grant opportunities. He reported that his attendance at the Soil Health Conference in Delta on Feb. 20 was extremely worthwhile in terms of ideas and networking. He attended the Yellow Jacket Advisory Committee meeting today which was likewise beneficial.

4:45 OLD BUSINESS

Ag Expo – March 19-21st –

Suzanne reported that she had reached out to the Ag expo coordinators and was told that the FFA group would be handling the Children's Learning Facility this year and that our information and offer of the Soil Tent had been extended. Having received no response from FFA on this, it will be tabled for this year.

Grants – ongoing agenda item

Greg reported that the Ballentine grant, due March 31st, is currently being worked on and he is seeking \$3K to included some operations funding. The Gates Foundation grant which is being worked on with MLC is now shooting for the Fall deadline.

SW Ag Fall Seminar/Annual Meeting – ongoing agenda item

Reminder to be thinking about the possibilities.

Website – Greg reported that the NRCS IT Tech has been able to retrieve the Domain name and he forwarded this information to Haley at MCD who has been working on this for us. He will reach out tomorrow to see where this now stands. Once up and running, Greg will seek instruction on how to maintain the site.

5:00 NEW BUSINESS

Soil Health Project/Equipment Purchase – Greg Vlaming (Action Item)

Greg proposed that the District begin a demonstration trial this year in 5 locations which have been offered by enthusiastic participants:

Irrigated alfalfa – CSU Yellow Jacket

Irrigated annual crops – CSU Yellow Jacket

Irrigated grass – grazed – Fozzie's Farm

Dryland pasture – grazed – Chuck McAfee's farm

Irrigated grass – ungrazed – Rocking V Farm & Orchard (Greg's farm)

He would do full spectrum soil tests on each plot for baseline levels – total cost \$625.
He would spread ¼” of compost on each 35 x 65’ plot – total cost \$250.
He would purchase a manure spreader for the project and eventual rental unit - \$5,500.

In addition to providing valuable education on soil health to increase productivity, he views this as an opportunity to collect data to be used on future grant applications. He is seeking \$3K from Ballentine for this project and will utilize \$4K offer from DWCD for some costs, both of which will include something towards his salary. The current CACD matching grant of \$2,500. Will also be a source of funding.

He is optimistic and has been encouraged by locals that the manure spreader will be a worthwhile piece of rental equipment for the District to offer, and, best case scenario is that it would pay for itself over time.

After enthusiastic discussion and further input –
Motion was made by David Temple to proceed on the Soil Health project as outlined above, to include purchase of the manure spreader.
Motion seconded by Hassan Hourmanesh
Motion Passed

5:30 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President

5:35 EXECUTIVE SESSION - § 24-6-401 and 24-6-402, C.R.S.

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 14, 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.