



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING Minutes

July 14th, 2020 4:00-6:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81037810414](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81037810414)

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: Perspective board member, Susan Thomas, Gretchen Rank
Virtually Present by Zoom meeting: Suzanne Aikin, David Temple, Hassan Hourmanesh Joanne Teetzel, Adam Kackstetter, Greg Vlaming, Joel Lee. Absent: Jim Farrier, Joe Ianier

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, Motion to accept by David, seconded by Joanne - passed
APPROVAL OF June MINUTES, Motion to accept by David, seconded by Hassan - passed

OFFICER REPORTS

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin reports that the bank signatories have been changed as discussed in last meeting
- **Vice President** – David Temple
- **Secretary/Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh

Hassan has recommended that we enroll a portion of our savings into two separate CD's at two different banks to get the best rates. Hassan recommends (of the 210k net we have in the bank), we enroll 100k onto a 12month at 4corners Community Bank at a rate of .75%, and we enroll 30k in a 6month with Dolores State bank, at a rate of .3%. **Motion to accept Hassan's proposal made by David, seconded by Joanne – passed.** We discussed the profitability of our weed barrier and tree sales programs and how we can do better next year by getting a flyer out earlier and adjusting the prices so that we can make a little profit to help pay wages and other costs related to our efforts. **Motion to approve quarterly financials made by Joanne, seconded by Adam - passed**

STAFF REPORTS

NRCS – Joel Lee. The NRCS office has been approved for phase 1 of a USDA Covid re-opening plan, which allows employees to come back to work on a limited basis, but does not allow "customers" into the building. If all goes well, they will enter phase 2 next week which will allow customers into the building by appointment only. Joel's districts have recently on-boarded 5 new employees and he and his staff are working hard to get them all up to speed. Joel expects a busy year ahead with the projected possibility of bringing up to 4 million into the county for conservation efforts such as Sideroll to Pivot conversions, High Tunnels, Forestry/Thinning, and Dry land seeding.

DM – Greg Vlaming Greg reports the Ballentine Grant (due 6/30/20) was submitted on time and we should hear back in 6-8 weeks. Ken Curtis has offered some direct funding (6k) from DWCD to assist the district in our mission. The Basin Round Table is up coming and Greg is working on a project to pitch at that meeting. Greg has assisted 5 producers with the Nozzle Exchange Program to affect 6 side rolls so far, which will save an impressive 20 acre feet of water per season. He hopes to help another 10 producers on the list this year before the money runs out.

OLD BUSINESS

DCT application (Action Item) Gretchen has prepared our DCT application and it is due by August 19th. Gretchen will submit the application that (if approved) will see Cory begin his new term as DCT on January 1st 2021. HDCD pays 25 percent of DCT's wages and is allowed 20% of his time for District business, the other 80% has to be related to Farm bill activities which include Engineering, Conservation planning and design, CSP/EQIP/CPA like programs, some outreach, and technical assistance. Our DCT is not allowed to organize or conduct meetings. **Motion to approve the DCT application as submitted by David, seconded by Adam – passed.**

CSCB matching Grant application: 5k HDCD nozzle exchange, 20k MSTFP. (Action Item) HDCD has been awarding funding to MCD for pass through support of the Montezuma School To Farm Project that has now become its own 501c3. Gretchen pointed out that HDCD has an opportunity to support MSTFP directly now that they are a their own non profit. Gretchen has prepared our CSCB Grant application and is prepared to submit it tomorrow. **Motion to approve the submission of the CSCB application by Adam, seconded by David – passed.**

Website Gretchen and her employee Haley have procured MontezumaCountyCovervationDistrict.org for a homepage for both HDCD and MCD, and HighDesertConservationDistrict.org for HDCD. The websites go live tomorrow. Haley transferred information from our old website and our Board Bio page will need updating. The board should take a look to identify for ourselves what needs to be changed or updated. Haley is willing to contract with HDCD for website work at 20 p.h which is reasonable for someone of her skill level according to Gretchen. Haley would work remotely. **Motion to approve hiring Haley as a website contractor under the supervision of Greg by Adam, seconded by Hassan – passed.**

5:00 NEW BUSINESS

(New Action Item) Gretchen points out that our 2021 Draft budget is due to be voted on by our October meeting.

(new action Item) Gretchen explained that the conservation district's use Facebook as one of the two required public places that we post monthly meeting notices to, and it is also is a good place to post one of our two annually required promotional articles about our DCT. She noticed that we have not had any activity in a while and would be willing to keep the public informed about us on Facebook if we get her a password. **Motion to give control of our District Facebook Page to Gretchen by Adam, seconded by David – passed.**

5:50 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA
Location: TBA

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 11, 2020
USDA Service Center 4:00-6:00