



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

October 13th, 2020 4:00-6:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84600801415](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84600801415)

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

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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, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the USDA Service Center, 628 West 5th, Cortez, Colorado and the following items of business will be considered and acted upon:

**4:01 CALL TO ORDER - David Temple, Vice President**  
**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: none**

Virtually Present by Zoom meeting:, David Temple, Hassan Hourmanesh Susan Thomas, Jim Farrier, Adam Kackstetter, Greg Vlaming, Joel Lee **Absent:** Suzanne Aikin, Joe Lanier,

**APPROVAL OF October AGENDA** Motion to accept by Hassan, seconded by Jim- passed  
**APPROVAL OF September MINUTES** Motion to accept by Hassan, seconded by Jim- passed

**Review of September's Action Items:**

- Organize Google drive/ensure everyone has access to be able to share documents. - **Tabled**
- New Board member Orientation Binders: David gave his Binder to Susan to review. Susan will share it with Hassan, or Jim when she is ready. The binder is from 2016 and can stand to be updated. The group agreed to **New Board Retreat agenda item** discuss the binder contents at the next board retreat. **\*Action item:** schedule 2020's board retreat. Hassan has a CSCB manual that has a lot of great information for board members as well. **\*Action item** Hassan will share an online link with his fellow board members so that all will have a digital version of the CSCB manual.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

- **Vice President** – David Temple mentioned that he has been working with Greg on Tree sales.
- **Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh made a nice slideshow clearly showing September 2020's reconciliation key points, which included HDCD's total assets at 227k, and a succinct year to date profit and loss. When pressed about the large payroll expenditure, Hassan showed the board that we had three payroll cycles in September explaining the large sum. As requested, Hassan will send out the financials ahead of the meetings so the board will have a chance to review. There is no official payroll committee, but Hassan welcomed anyone who is interested, to join his meetings with Gretchen on the first week of each month when she shares the reconciliation package. Hassan has been working with Gretchen to get up to speed on our rules and regulations and has been talking with Alyssa at CSCB regarding updating our bylaws. CSCB did a study recently of all Colorado Conservation Districts Bylaws and **\*Action item** Hassan will inquire further to see what we can learn, and if Alyssa can provide further insight.
- **Secretary** – Adam Kackstetter - nothing to report

**STAFF REPORTS**

- **NRCS** – Joel Lee: The NRCS office has been very busy and just turned over a new fiscal year. The office has distributed 3.4 million in EQIP funding despite the challenges of Covid and hiring 8 new staff in 2020. His office only has 3-4 senior staff to help train their 8 new members, and the team is falling significantly behind. They have not been able to be as attentive to new requests as they want to be. His office has also been doing emergency grazing plans on CRP. Joel is in charge of making a grazing loss assessment in the county (for FSA), and would like input about grazing in the county this year. Joel is also doing performance reviews and employee development plans for

his employees, while his office is still meeting with customers outdoors. His office is limited to 10 people at any one time, and masks are required while indoors except while at your cubicle/office. Joel will be working on a plan to meet landowners safely when winter sets in, because outside will often not be a good option. NRCS is operation in year 3 of a 5-7 year Farm Bill cycle. The office phone computer has been acting up and he is suspecting his office is not receiving all the calls and messages that come in to his office.

- **DM** – Greg Vlaming asked the board **New Board retreat Agenda item** to think about how we will reemerge after Covid-19 and he sees marketing as an issue to address. The Nozzle exchange program is done for the year and over 4k was spent to upgrade nozzles in the Full service area, and a little within MVI. DWCD has a board meeting last week where Greg requested another 5k next year in continued support for the nozzle exchange program. Greg will also visit the upcoming San Juan Basin Roundtable meeting to ask for support of our Soil Health Project. Greg asked Joel to consider allowing our DCT Cory Schmitt to receive map training to support the districts Carbon Farm Planning efforts. Joel replied that he is struggling with training inexperienced engineers already and expresses that the specific map training may not be very helpful, or the best use of Cory's training time. Joel offered to have another NRCS employee help Greg with his specific project needs to which Greg replied with a preference for it to be Cory so as to promote education, skills and communication within HDCD. It was pointed out that "what to do with Cory's HDCD time (20%)" belongs as a **New Agenda Item** bearing further discussion next meeting.  
**\*Action item** Greg will meet with David to discuss Tree pricing in 2021 and they will inform the board what they decided to do at the next meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **Grants/Funding –Agenda item** Hassan would like some help deciding what grants to pursue in 2021
- **2021 budget** – Hassan requested that we **New Board retreat Agenda item** have a high level meeting about which grants we want to pursue in 2021 based on which projects we want to fund, and what we want to do with our staff and resources. **\*Action Item** Hassan will work with Greg and Gretchen to get us a short list of our Grant options.
- **Website Updates and Board Bio's** Hassan asked the board **\*Action item** to check out the website and look for additional changes to the website that will help us get our message across and that everything is there, that should be.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Rural SW publication – **Tabled**
- Introduce ourselves to our County Commissioners - **Tabled**
- Fundraiser ideas -**Tabled**
- **Russian Olive eradication:** Bonnie Loving from the County weed department reached out to Greg along with one of her board members Steve Miles, to talk about a potential partnership with HDCD and NRCS. Susan brought up the idea to work with Bonnie to create a plan to mention our potential partnership when we introduce ourselves to our County Commissioners. Susan also reminded us that there is a SWCD water cooler webinar tomorrow, and the San Juan watershed meeting at 9am on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> where we are all a(s a board) encouraged to attend.

**ADJOURN** – David Temple, Vice President

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - § 24-6-401 and 24-6-402, C.R.S.

**NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA**  
Location: TBA

**NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2020**  
by Zoom 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.