

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: FEBRUARY MINUTES**

**February 15th, 2022 4:00-6:00 pm**

***ZOOM MEETING:*** <https://zoom.us/j/7856459574>

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

**CALL TO ORDER -David Temple, President, called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom: David Temple, Suzanne Aikin, Adam Kackstetter, Joe Lanier, Neva Connolly, Joel Lee, Rocky Rockwell, Fred E. Brooks

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  Fred Brooks, representing the Mancos Conservation District Board, was introduced.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to accept the January agenda; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.* ***Motion Passed***

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:** *Adam Kackstetter made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Joe Lanier.* ***Motion Passed***

**REPORTS**

* **President** – David Temple gave a brief update on the USDA Survey about forest use. David mentioned that the HDCD should find ways to promote forest benefits, such as woodland buffers, riparian areas, shelter belts, etc. **David directed Neva Connolly to work with existing agencies and organizations to develop and coordinate a riparian restoration program for the HDCD area.**
* **Vice President** – no update
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin gave a brief update on the CD rates for potential investment and suggested to continue to wait till rates rise.
* **Secretary**– no update.
* **Members at large-** Susan Thomas gave an update on the supervisor vacancy ad. There has been no response. The board suggested a PSA on KSJD, and personal outreach at MVI and SWCD. Adam will reach out to contacts in Towaoc.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee gave an update on a new Soil Conservationist starting in March, and mentioned the NRCS is starting another round of CRS signups.
* **Executive Director-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached
* **Conservation Technician**: Rocky Rockwell–staff report attached.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Board Supervisor Vacancy:** The supervisor ad has been running in the Journal and is posted on the HDCD website. The Board discussed outreach at KSJD and at MVI and SWCD meetings.
* **HDCD CD Fund Investment:** Suzanne Aikin discussed during her update, and advised the Board to continue to hold off on investing at this time.
* **Fundraiser Ideas:** no update
* **Soil Health Program:** Neva gave an update on the status of the soil health program. The Mancos Conservation District Board approved the seven applicants interested in the program. Neva and Rocky have been attending soil health training. CSU Extension Agent Emily Lockhard will be working with the program during initial soil consultations.
* **Master Land Steward Program:** Neva Connolly reported that she recently met with CSU Extension Agents Emily Lockhard and Greg Felsen to discuss coordination on the MLS. Both are excited to help participate and develop the program for online viewing.
* **2022 Nozzle Exchange Program:** Neva discussed with the Board that the HDCD has received a grant to continue this program in 2022, and that details of the program need to be developed soon.
* **Irrigation Water Management Field Workshop:** The Board discussed timing of this program, held by NRCS with HDCD support. Joel Lee mentioned that the workshop needs to happen after water is turned on, and that the NRCS schedule precludes a workshop from happening anytime before June.
* **Montezuma County Commissioners Meeting:** David and Neva will attend the March 2, 2022 County meeting.
* **HDCD Hats and Shirts:** Neva will send out the quote from David Scates.
* **Soil Health Speakers:** Joe Lanier has been in discussion with Ray Archuleta to bring him into the community. The Board discussed holding an Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Mr. Archuleta and directed Neva to begin the planning process.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **WIP Invoice:** The Water Information Program invited HDCD to continue its support of the WIP programming and events. *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to continue to support WIP and pay the invoice of $250 for 2022, Susan Thomas seconded.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Leadership Training for N. Connolly:** Neva presented the Board with a memo requesting $750 to support her participation in a leadership training program hosted by the Colorado Conservation District Employee Association. Suzanne and Susan supported Neva’s participation in the program for 2023, but would like to see Neva establish and grow into her district manager position during 2022. *Adam Kackstetter made a motion to fund $750 to support Neva Connolly’s participation in the 2022 CCDEA Leadership Program, with the caveat that Neva would keep up with her current duties with HDCD; David Temple seconded.* ***Motion passed.***
* **2022 Election Documents Self-Nomination Forms:** Suzanne, Adam, and Joe are up for re-election in 2022. Self nomination forms are due, however, as there are open supervisor seats and no opposition; the election will most likely be canceled for 2022.
* **Seed Drill Bid for Acre Meter:** Rocky Rockwell gave an update on the acre meter repair. He is researching the potential issues and will get a repair quote if necessary.

* **Exemption for Audit:** Gretchen Rank has prepared the exemption for audit, which has been reviewed by Suzanne. *Susan Thomas made a motion to approve a resolution that states the HDCD Board has reviewed and approved the exemption; Adam Kackstetter seconded.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Irrigation Water Management:** Discussed earlier in the meeting. David mentioned his concern regarding the piping of irrigation projects and the subsequent dewatering and death of existing, mature trees. He would like to see future discussion of this in the Irrigation Water Management workshops.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* **Board Member mileage and time tracking**--Board members submitted their January mileage and time reports.
* **Bills**

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: March 8, 2022**  **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |
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**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**