

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: AUGUST MINUTES**

**November 8th, 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 -The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.**

**Present**: David Temple, Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas, Scott Watson, Joe Lanier, Susan Thomas, Neva Connolly, Brenda Funk,Gretchen Rank

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  Cindy Wallace joined the meeting at 4:30pm. Cindy mentioned that she is a retired NRCS Agronomist (20 years) and her family has been in the ranching business for 5-6 generations. She has experience working with HDCD through her former NRCS position. She expressed an interest in joining the board.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  *Susan Thomas made a motion to accept the November agenda; seconded by Scott Watson.* ***Motion Passed***

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:**  *Susan Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Scott Watson.* ***Motion Passed.*** There was not a quorum present for the October meeting.

**FINANCIALS:** Gretchen Rank reviewed the financials and noted that the HDCD statement will show a deficit of $13,000.00, which will be reimbursed by matching grants.

**REPORTS**

* **President** – No report at this time.
* **Vice President** – No report at this time
* **Treasurer** – Scott Watson has volunteered for the Treasurer position. He has been in contact with Rent-All regarding consignment of the no-till seed drill.
* **Secretary-**  Adam Kackstetter mentioned that he has concerns regarding the representation of HDCD, particularly with the STAR Plus program. He would like more of an effort to ensure that HDCD is as well represented in program administration as Mancos CD. Adam also mentioned that he would like to see a UMUT representative on the board, as a dedicated position in our full service area. The bylaws may have to be updated.
* **Member at large-**  Susan Thomas-no update at this time.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** no update.
* **Executive Director-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached.
* **Conservation Technician**: Brenda Funk–staff report attached. Brenda mentioned that she has been in contact with the Dove Creek High School FFA program, and has asked them to provide a student to help with repairs and maintenance on the seed drill. Brenda inquired about the health insurance incentive that was part of the DCT job description. During the ensuing discussion, the Board formed an insurance committee to review what it would take to assist with or provide the DCT position with health insurance. Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas, and Scott Watson volunteered to be on the insurance committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Draft 2023 Budget (Discussion):** Gretchen Rank reviewed the draft 2023 budget. She noted that in contract services from 2021 to 2023 there will be a drop in expenses due the the hiring of a district manager (the contract administrator had been performing many of the district manager positions while HDCD was in between managers). Gretchen offered to review the budget proposal line-by-line with new Treasurer, Scott Watson. A final version of the budget will be presented to the board for approval during the December meeting.
* **CACD Camp Rocky Incident:** In the board packet, Neva Connolly included a Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) response letter sent out in regard to the operation of 2022 Camp Rocky. The board discussed the issue and were of the opinion that CACD has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure its board and actions represent everyone, and not involve politically and discriminatorily motivated agendas and actions. *Adam Kackstetter made a motion to send a respectful letter stating that HDCD respects the rights of all individuals; seconded by Scott Watson. Motion passed*.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **FAMLI**: The board will review the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program (through the State of Colorado) next month (December).
* **Seedling Sales:** Seedlings Sales opened for the district in late October. Neva reported approximately $1,200 in sales.
* **Ray Archuleta Workshops**: Neva gave a brief summary of the soil health workshops with Ray Archuleta that were held on October 4 and 5th at the CSU Research Station in Pleasant View. Participants feedback was that the program was beneficial. Joe Lanier was able to host tours of two of his properties showcasing the benefits of grazing and cover crops. Food expenditures and Mr. Archuleta’s fees will be covered by grants and participant fees.
* **Program Update:** Neva gave a brief update on the Master Land Steward. As of the meeting date, the MLS program had 3 out of 6 classes. Seven properties (about 10 people) were registered for the class. Speakers from the NRCS, Montezuma CSU-Extension, County Noxious Weed Program, Ft. Lewis College, and more have given presentations or are scheduled to speak on various topics of interest (pasture and irrigation management, soil health, farm finances, noxious weed management, etc.).

Neva gave an update on the nozzle exchange program and mentioned that 3 landowners applied for new nozzles. Neva noted that the program would likely have been more effective if she had opened the program at the beginning of irrigation season, rather than near the end of the season. She also noted that despite new nozzles, the flow meter used on “before and after” readings did not show a marked change in readings. David Temple stated that the nozzle exchange is still beneficial, providing a more even irrigation and applying water more efficiently. Participants did verbally express that the new nozzles applied water in a more even pattern (broken and worn nozzles caused yellowing grass areas, and overwatering of other areas).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* Adam Kackstetter reminded the board of the obligation of HDCD and MCD to attend each other’s board meetings. He would like to resume the practice of one board member attending the MCD board meeting, and vice-versa.
* **Board Member mileage and time tracking**--Board members submitted their October time and mileage.

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 5:51 pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: December 13th, 2022, 4;00pm**  **ZOOM:** <https://zoom.us/j/7856459574> |
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**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**