



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 13th, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm

ZOOM MEETING: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87908769869](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869)

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

4:02 CALL TO ORDER - Suzanne Aiken, President

Virtually Present by Zoom meeting: Suzanne Aikin, David Temple, Hassan Hourmanesh, Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas, Joe Lanier, Greg Vlaming, Joel Lee **Absent:** none

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: Ryan Taylor joined us to fill us in on the new proposed STAR (Saving Tomorrow's Ag resources) program. He let us know that they will have at least 2 million in funding for soil health projects throughout the State. The program is in its beginning stages and looks to be able to benefit producers as well as conservation districts that facilitate the program. The program is based on NRCS's 5 soil health principals. 1) Soil armor, 2) Reduce disturbance 3) Plant diversity, 4) Continual living root 5) Integration of livestock

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Motion to accept by Hassan, seconded by David - **passed**

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES Motion to accept by David, seconded by Hassan- **passed**

Review of March's Action Items:

- Hassan sent the board and staff info on how we can all enter events into the new calendar.
- Greg sent info on House bill 21-1181 and all but one board member has sent in letters of support to our state legislators, the remaining board member will send in his letter of support soon. The bill has to do with Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils (CCHS) and the STAR Program, all in benefit to healthy soils.

REPORTS

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin reminded us that our matching grant application is due in July and besides the nozzle exchange program and our continued support of the Montezuma School to Farm project we should discuss where else our matching grant dollars could go to benefit our community. Gretchen prepared a nice survey for MCD's constituents that has already proved to be effective and will be a substitute for our NRCS workgroup meeting requirement. Gretchen will rebrand the survey to send to our constituents as well.
- **Vice President** – David Temple has recently had conversations with our new county extension agent to discuss future partnerships.
- **Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh presented our monthly financials, which has us in the red by 10,668 so far this year. This year has a budget forecast of a \$20,000 deficit.
- **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter had nothing to report
- **Members at large- Susan Thomas** will get our newsletter going and plans to write about the correct use of weed barrier and will work with Greg to create some awareness around our other programs such as our nozzle exchange, manure spreader, seed drill, and how our constituents can show their support of HB 21-1181. **Joe Lanier** is willing to help bring in a big name speaker to our county (such as Ray Archuleta) to help spread the good word of soil conservation.

STAFF REPORTS

- **NRCS** – Joel Lee's office is in the process of obligating new contracts and hopes to have EOIP done by the end of May as they continuing to suffer losses from staff turnover. Without knowing all the details Joel thinks the STAR soil health program might be a good program for our dry land acreage that would be willing to convert from bare land annual cropping to pasture and livestock operations. **(Action item)**, Joel agreed to look into possible NRCS funding for soil health education and outreach the district can use to help in our Soil Health initiatives.
- **DM** – Greg Vlaming
 - CCHS/CEWL meetings, Zoom calls, State Legislature testimony (March 22) and Planning as HB21-1181 moves through the process. Letters of support sent.
 - DWCD Farmers Advisory Meeting, March 22. Pitched 2021 Nozzle Exchange program
 - San Juan Basin Roundtable Meeting, March 25
 - Montezuma County Weed Dept. Meeting, March 23
 - Montezuma County Commissioners Board of Health Presentation on Soil Health, April 6. Next meeting is April 14, 2021
 - CSFS Trees Delivery/Sales, April 8 we had 20 orders and delivery was better this year.
 - No-Till Seed Drill Maintenance completed as rentals start
 - Some Sales of Weed Barrier, (delivery of more supplies this week) sales are about to ramp up.
 - Farm visits beginning to pick up as things dry up

4:45 OLD BUSINESS Tabled

- **Greg, Suzanne, and Gretchen** will work with Hayley to remove our old website.
- **David** agreed to look into the Invasive Weed application to see if we could provide a valuable service to our neighbors by partnering with the county weed department.
- Grants/Funding
- Introduce ourselves to our County Commissioners – **Tabled due to COVID-19**
- Fundraiser ideas– HDCCD would greatly benefit from a signature event to serve our community and raise awareness for the district. Can we re-Invent “Made in Montezuma”?
- The board could work on our Elevator speech to clearly and concisely explain our complicated relationship with our community
- Board retreat debrief

5:00 NEW BUSINESS Tabled

- Discussions about our DCT program and what is the best path forward for our community and our employees.
- Supervisor Certification program
- Requirements for the DM Monthly report
- 2021 SW AG seminar/annual meeting/NRCS work group meeting plans

5:55 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA

NEXT MEETING: May 11th, 2021

Location: TBA

by Zoom

4:00-6:00

The Public was invited to attend this meeting.