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**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING Minutes**

**August 10th, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm**

***Zoom Meeting:*** [***https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869***](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869?pwd=OW8xUENLT2ZJYktGMVVoRUdMZTRPUT09)

*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:

**4:05 CALL TO ORDER - Suzanne Aiken, President**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom meeting: Suzanne Aikin, David Temple, Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas, Joe Lanier, Gretchen Rank, **Absent:** Joel Lee

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:** Gabe Eggers attended our meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF July MINUTES** Motion to accept by David, seconded by Susan - **passed**

**Review of June/July Action Items:**

* All board members are encouraged to revisit Hassan’s June 8th email with attachment and submit your volunteer hour for the financial benefit of the district. With Hassan’s recent resignation, Members will keep track of their hours and submit to Gretchen on an annual basis.
* As a partner of NRCS each board member of this district will need to sign that we understand NRCS’s Civil Rights policy. All board members who have not yet signed are encouraged to make arrangements with Joel to do so. Susan will do this soon.
* Hassan will send Susan a CSCB supervisor training presentation to help create a PD for our DCT.

Suzanne sent a PD to Gretchen and Joel. The district needs to check with Joel to see if this will be more of an Engineering or conservation planning position. Gretchen suggested adding a couple of sentences about HDCD that details our mission statement, project goals, and what we want to see done with our 20%. She recommended posting to 4 corners jobs online. Susan would also like to post to the newspapers. Action item Joel is on vacation and when he gets back we will ask him to look at our PD to see if he has any suggestions. Motion to advertise our DCT’s starting wages at 40k with up to 4k of annual health insurance coverage by David, seconded by Susan - **passed**

* Susan will update our Board member position description and take ads out in local papers for 3 weeks to recruit new Board Members. David suggested that each board member try to recruit one person in their tenure as board members. The board will think about people who might be a good fit for our district and which areas of expertise we specifically need help with. Gretchen reminded us that we are looking for a Treasurer right now and we likely should not look for long.
* Hassan will solve our dropbox issue and develop protocols to hold cash transactions for weed barrier and conservation supplies. Hassan resigned his position recently but forwarded a call to Suzanne yesterday for supply sales. Cory helped out and we will move fast to hire a new DCT to alleviate the need for staffing.
* Suzanne will pick up the bills that have been accumulating at our office and get them to Gretchen with authorization to be paid.
* Susan will work on a fall newsletter to send out to our mailing list
* A committee of Gretchen, Joel, David, Hassan and Susan will update the position description for the DCT and identify exactly where we intend to invest our 20% of the their time.

**REPORTS**

* **President** – Suzanne Aikin changed signatures at Dolores state bank to David and Susan and removed Hassan. Motion to close the bank account at Four corners community bank and deposit the balance in our savings at Dolores state bank by Adam, seconded by David - **passed**
* **Vice President** – David Temple has been in communication with Jay at MLC. We have been partnering in water conservation and we are moving forward with commitments we made with MLC.
* **Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh recently resigned his post and did not attend this meeting
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter  **- no report**
* **Members at large-**

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee did not attend this meeting
* Gretchen RANK needs some input rom us to move forward with the hiring processes for our DCT and new DM. She will work with Action item Susan to develop the DCT position description, wages and benefits. Part of our new partnership agreement between the districts will involve a member from each district (Mancos and HDCD) attending each other’s monthly meetings Action item Adam will attend Mancos’s September meeting., David will attend October, Suzanne November, and Joe December.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Status of **CSCB matching grant** application.
* Employee partnership model with Mancos and status of MOU. A Motion was made to work in closer partnership with Mancos to establish an MOU, and to hire a full time District Manager who would share time between districts and be supervised by Gretchen made by David, seconded by Adam - **passed** Action item Adam will help Gretchen further develop the MOU between districts as well as the position description and hiring of the new DM.
* Would we like to apply for STAR grant funding? Due by August 31st. Motion to apply in partnership with Mancos by Adam, seconded by David - **passed**
* How to spend down our remaining $5,056 SWCD nozzle exchange grant this year as obligated. Action item When Joel gets back we will ask him who owns the flow meters we use to implement our nozzle exchange program. We will have to confirm with the grantor but we are under the impression that we can use this money on nozzles that need exchanging, flow meters, soil moisture monitors or anything in that realm to enhance conservation. David would like us to look into weather stations and possibly automatic controllers, portable battery operated weather stations. We might consider these items for the senate bill allocation of 15k as well. Action item, Gretchen will forward our grant application to David and Joe to see if they can come up with a list of purchases we would like to make to enhance conservation in our district so Gretchen can take it back to our grantor for advanced approval to allocate our remaining grant funds.
* Senate Bill 21-234 created a one-time payment ($15,000) to all conservation districts to build capacity and help landowners with drought resilience. How would HDCD like to use this funding?

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Board Recruitment**
* 2021 SW AG seminar/annual meeting.
* Supervisor Certification program
* Suzanne, and Gretchen worked with Hayley to remove the **old website.**
* **Fundraiser ideas**– HDCD would greatly benefit from a signature event to serve our community and raise awareness for the district. Can we re-Invent “Made in Montezuma”?

**6:00 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President**

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| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA**  **Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: September 14th, 2021**  **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |

**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**