



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8th, 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:

4:04 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: none

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES Motion to accept by Suzanne, seconded by Joe - **passed**

Review of April/May's Action Items:

- 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. - Tabled
- Ryan Taylor agreed to look into funding for a big name speaker to help with our SW-Ag seminar and get back to us- Tabled
- Greg will update the District inventory – No report

REPORTS

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin had a meeting with Greg, Gretchen, and Hassan to discuss matching grant possibilities. Our Matching Grant proposal is due July 16. Further discussion will happen by Zoom on June, 15th from 4-5pm following a proposal presented by Gretchen. All board members are invited to join this meeting.
- **Vice President** – David Temple has reached out to our county weed department and has yet to connect about our offer to assist with invasive tree removal.
- **Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh presented our revenues and expenses. **Action Item** He also asked board members to submit their volunteer time, so he can keep track it to use as match.
- **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter -No report
- **Members at large**- No report

STAFF REPORTS

- **NRCS** – Joel Lee emailed and presented the key points of NRCS's Civil rights Policy and **Action Item** As a partner of NRCS each board member of this district will need to sign that we understand NRCS's Civil Rights policy. We are invited to make an appointment to see Joel in the office, or he is willing to seek us out in the community for signatures. In the interest of parity and to best serve the needs of our community, it is important that our board is inclusive of women and minorities and representative of our county demographic. Joel recommends we are doing well, but should consider recruiting younger board members and Native Americans to even better represent of our community. Joel's office has been hard at work obligating contracts, CRP, and doing a WME, which will allow non –land owners (like MVI) to apply for conservation dollars in our community. Joel would appreciate this districts help in getting out the word that NRCS will be providing Conservation plans before submitting for funding. Funds are available for the District to help get the word out. Montezuma has recently declared disaster due to severe drought.

- **DM – Greg Vlaming**
 - Montezuma County Compost Project Update-Nutrient analysis received, making sales possible. Entire inventory for 2021 was sold out within 10 days. No PR or story, until capacity is expanded.
 - Dolores Water Conservancy District-Farmers Advisory Committee Update-Growers are buying/aggregating water for specific fields and a short season. Allocation has not changed from 1-2". Hustling on Nozzle Exchange up there now in short season.
 - Soil Health Bills SB21-235 & HB21-1181, ACRE 3-House Hearings Update-waiting for Full Senate Hearing, indications are very positive. Legislature ends soon so final word imminent
 - Nozzle Exchange Program Update-working through the few FSA growers that signed up this year, then will work with large-scale MVIC irrigator in July.
 - Met with Colorado Dept. of Ag (CDA) staff, Paul Kehmeier and Sam Anderson.
 - Met with CDA staff Paul Kehmeier and new State Soil Specialist, Ryan Taylor. Took them on a tour of the area, meeting with local partners (SW Seed Farm, CSU-SWCRC, MLC Fozzies Farm) and looking at local irrigation projects, farms, fields etc.
 - Seed drill (and manure spreader) rentals are down remarkably from years past, as a result of the drought. Sales seem less robust than normal too.
 - Client contacts for the last month was 46 consultations/meetings, down from 67 the prior month (mostly because of DWCD-FAC meeting in April). Resource concerns for these contacts was/is soil and water conservation related to plant growth.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Recruitment** - All need to be thinking about filling Jim's seat and possibly others. **Action Item** Susan will update our Board member job description and take ads out in local papers for 3 weeks to recruit new Board Members.
- Motion to ask Suzanne to sign the updated **three way agreement** between HDCC, CSCB and NRCS on behalf of HDCC by Adam, seconded by Susan - **passed**
- Discuss where we would like our **CSCB matching grant** dollars could go. Due by August. This Board Meeting described above on 15th, and a vote is due in next board meeting.
- Discussions about our **DCT program** and what is the best path forward for our community and our employees. – We need a concrete plan about what to do with the DCT's time before we can move forward
- **Supervisor Certification program** – Tabled, and will slide to old business
- Requirements for the **DM Monthly report**- Tabled due to Greg's internet giving out suddenly
- **2021 BLOCKBUSTER SW AG seminar/annual meeting**. NRCS work group meeting obligation was completed thanks to the Survey that Gretchen built and send out to our mailing list. - Tabled

OLD BUSINESS

- Greg, Suzanne, and Gretchen will work with Hayley to see what it will take to remove the **old website**. Gretchen has found someone who can likely help with this.
- Introduce ourselves to our County Commissioners – **Tabled due to COVID-19**
- **Fundraiser ideas**– HDCC would greatly benefit from a signature event to serve our community and raise awareness for the district. Can we re-Invent "Made in Montezuma"? - Tabled

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

6:05 **EXECUTIVE SESSION - § 24-6-401 and 24-6-402, C.R.S.**

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA
Location: TBA

NEXT MEETING: July 13th, 2021
by Zoom 4:00-6:00

