



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 9th, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm

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

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

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

**4:03 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:** Elaine Chick shared information about the Water Information program (WIP) that outlined an impressive amount of projects, accomplishments, and education opportunities that her organization is responsible for. She is a one-person show and serves many important watersheds in eastern and southern Colorado. WIP seems to be a great program to partner with and the board appreciated her time and acquaintance.

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

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

**Review of February's Action Items:**

- Greg agreed to write an article for the *Dolores Chamber Guide* and submit it by mid March, but they have not responded to his inquiries. Suzanne will reach out to see if she can get a response.
- Greg emailed to the board a proposed list of supplies to order and solicited feedback before he made the districts weed barrier order.
- Hassan arranged for public notification and invitation 3 week prior to this meeting where we will vote on Bylaw changes.
- Suzanne solicited input from the board for input into Greg's annual performance review then set a date and conducted Greg's review. Suzanne also filled the board in on the positive review conducted by her and Hassan.
- Suzanne also arranged our visit from Elaine Chick to fill us in on the Water Information Program.

**REPORTS**

- **President** – Suzanne Aikin uploaded annual report and removed Jim Farrier name from our list of Board or Directors and thanked him for his service.
- **Vice President** – David Temple is working with Susan to identify a possible future district project.
- **Treasurer** – Hassan Hourmanesh presented February's financials. He also asked Hayley to add a calendar to our website and give access to all board and staff to change the calendar. **Action item** Hassan will send the board and staff info on how we can all enter events into the new calendar.
- **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter had nothing to report
- **Members at large**- nothing to report

**4:30 STAFF REPORTS**

- **NRCS** – Joel Lee's office is down to 25% capacity, masks are required and the public is not allowed in the building. His office continues to do the best they can to move their projects forward in challenging times with layers of new complications. Joel explained what he knew about 404 permit requirements and is still having a hard time identifying solid guidance on what is considered US waters and thereby subject to a 404 permit under jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. Our watersheds are around 50-75% of normal snowpack and that will only go so far with thirsty soils.

- **DM** – Greg Vlaming shared that MVI is preparing their shareholders for half head this month. Greg send the board a report in advance of this meeting that outlined what he has been working on. **Action Item** Greg will send info to the board on House bill 21-1181 and encouraged us all to read it and send in letters of support to our state legislature; that has to do with forming a Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils (CCHS) and the STAR Program, all in benefit to healthy soils.
- Greg is also working towards the RCPP Grant
- Colorado State University Extension-Greg Felsen-new County Director
- CSU Yellow jacket research station (SWCRC) planning
- No-Till Farmer publication-Measuring and Managing Soil Carbon Webinar
- The Nature Conservancy-consultation and collaboration discussion-ongoing
- Seedling Tree Sales-17 orders so far
- A few retail sales, ordered more weed barrier and pins
- Some landowner phone calls and planning for 2021
- No-Till Seed Drill in to Stotz Equipment for maintenance.

#### 4:45 OLD BUSINESS – All Tabled

- **Greg, Suzanne, and Gretchen** will work with Hayley to see what it will take to remove the 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

#### 5:00 NEW BUSINESS

- Update from NACD before so we can decide to pay further dues. – No update; the board decided to forgo paying dues this year for financial reasons.
- Approve Bylaws Motion to accept by David, seconded by Susan- **passed**
- Board retreat debrief - **Tabled**
- Review of Annual dues paid to CACD, and NACD. Motion to pay CACD \$1200, WIP \$250, and NACD \$0 by David, seconded by Adam- **passed**
- Gretchen Rank attended our meeting to share information about our exemption from audit how we should be getting an invitation to sign electronically soon. She has been working on our journal entries; with Hassan around encryption and financials and will work continue to work with Hassan and Greg with Grants. Gretchen also shared some possibilities and listened to input from the board about our DCT positions and possibilities going forward. **New business:** The board agreed to have further discussions about our DCT program and what is the best path forward for our community and our employees.

#### 6:32 ADJOURN – Suzanne Aikin, President

NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: TBA  
Location: TBA

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

The Public was invited to attend this meeting.

