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**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

 **October 12th, 2021 4:00-6:00 pm**

 ***Zoom Meeting:*** <https://zoom.us/j/7856459574>

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

**4:08 CALL TO ORDER - David Temple,** Acting Interim President

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

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: none**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Motion to accept by Joe, seconded by Susan - **Passed**

**APPROVAL OF September MINUTES** Motion to accept by Susan, seconded by Joe - **Passed**

**Review of August/September Action Items:**

* David and Joe will work with Gretchen to identify a list of purchases we would like to make to enhance conservation in our district so she can submit to our grantor for advanced approval to allocate our remaining nozzle exchange grant funds. - more details below in old business
* Susan will update our Board member position description and take ads out in local papers for 3 weeks to recruit new Board Members- This has not been done yet, more details below in old business.
* Susan will work on a newsletter to send out to our mailing list- January is a good time to get it out and it was decided that this will be best accomplished by the new DM and DCT’s. Susan is willing to assist.

**REPORTS**

* **Acting Interim President** – David Temple was a speaker for MLC’s Fozzie’s Farm water workshop and field day. “Jay Loschert pulled off a beautiful program for a packed house”. “The guest speakers were great”! CSCB, CO State extension, and the Ute Farm and Ranch were represented as well as enthusiastic students and professors from Fort Lewis College and the Old Fort. FLC has been experimenting with soil moisture monitors in collaboration with the Yellow Jacket research station. “It was a wonderful display of on the ground work being done to help agriculturist in the area”. David spoke about soil and water conservation and HDCD paid for lunches.

David attended MCD’s meeting last night and was pleased to meet that group and see how professionally the board was run…Cory notified David by phone that one of our constituents had rented out the seed drill and broke the drive chain. David asked Cory to call Stotz for repair and has not heard back. We need to take a look at our rental and conservation supply sales systems to develop more efficient procedures. We still need a contract for the spreader and to figure out who does repairs, and how and when we charge for gross negligence. Gretchen will work with the new DM to streamline this process.

* **Vice President** – Vacant
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin absent.
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter will help to organize the DCT hiring committee.
* **Members at large-** no report

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee’s office is in a new fiscal year and working on their 85 CRP contracts, Cindy is retiring in mid November and the office is very thin on employees right now with 50% staff doing the best they can to keep up with an extreme workload.
* **HDCD-** Gretchen Rank: Mancos employees have been helping HDCD with Conservation supply sales and rentals. The Google calendar has been implemented to organize rental scheduling. If we can hire a DM in October we will be on schedule to hold our Master Land Steward program. Gretchen presented this board a financial agreement (already approved by MCD) that if approved by HDCD, will be tied to our MOU with MCD that was approved last meeting. **Motion** to Approve financial agreement tied to approved MOU with MCD by Adam, seconded by Susan **– Passed**

**NEW BUSINESS**

* Nominate a vice president, and vote to confirm the acting interim positions: **Motion** to accept Joe Lanier as Vice President of HDCD made by Adam, seconded by Susan- **Passed**. **Motion** to accept David Temple as President of HDCD made by Adam, seconded by Joe- **Passed**. If she is willing, Suzanne will remain acting Interim treasurer until we can find someone to take her place.
* Discussion of our next board retreat and if we should ask Mancos if they would like to collaborate and attend a mutual retreat now that we are working more closely together. Action item Gretchen will reach out to CSCB to see if they would be willing to facilitate an in person retreat for our boards. This would hopefully happen as soon as possible after our new employees are hired and before irrigation comes on. Maybe March of 2022?
* Suzanne looked into CD’s for the district and has some findings to discuss. – The board trusts Suzanne’s judgment and decided that Suzanne will make the best decision about where, when, and how much district funding to enroll into a CD. A **motion** to allow Suzanne to decide how to best handle our district savings by enrolling the funds into a Certificate of Deposit with a local bank by Adam, seconded by David- **Passed**.
* 2022 draft budget review: Gretchen presented a well-received first draft of our 2022 budget. Action Item We will need to vote to approve this in our December meeting. Things are looking good and the district could have a positive bottom line in 2022 because of diligent planning and many successful grant applications. The amount that money this district will bring into our communities for conservation in 2022 is projected to be even more substantial thanks to Agriculture leadership at the State level, working with many important voices calling for and working towards soil health.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* How to spend down our remaining $5,056 SWCD nozzle exchange grant this year: Joe did some research and found that our flow meters need to be rebuilt and the manufacturer will do so for 607$ per unit. Gretchen will reach out to Laura to inquire if we can rebuild our meters with grant funding. We have 1503.32 worth of receipts that we can bill to the grant if we complete a narrative and reimbursement request before the November 15th deadline. If the documentation can be found in the NRCS office and brought to Gretchen she will help us wrap up this grant. Gretchen will need names (and addresses) of the landowners that benefited from the new nozzles and how many acre-feet of water savings.

Action Item The CDA Drought Resiliency Competitive Grant application was submitted before the deadline. CDA confirmed receipt of and is reviewing it.

* 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? This funding is unrestricted but the state is asking districts will utilize it in a way that mitigates drought and tells a nice story of how and where it helped a need in our community We will allocate this funding in 2022 to assists our constituents.
* STAR grant funding application status: In partnership with MCD, we qualified for 126,000! This grant will be assigned to our DM to oversee (DCT’s can help) and will be a countywide promotion effort that will provide cost share project dollars for soil heath projects.
* Status of **CSCB matching grant** application. Approved! We received funding for HDCD and MCD’s 2022 Master Land Steward program!
* Board Recruitment Action item Gretchen suggests a Facebook campaign to recruit new board members. To best match our needs of representing our community and the needs of the district, we are seeking Native American board members (or someone representing The Ute Mountain Ute tribe and Towaoc), young people, large-scale Ag producers with time to spare, and retirees with heart and passion. We are also seeking a treasurer, and people interested in becoming future board officers.
* 2021 SW AG seminar/annual meeting. We will hold our annual meeting in December. The NRCS workgroup meeting requirements were met through our constituent survey and our Ag seminar intentions didn’t work out this year due to COVID.
* Supervisor Certification program: Joe has completed the training. It’s all online, and he completed it in pieces over several evenings. It took about 3-4 hours to complete total, and can be found on the CSCB 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”? We need to decide before March if we want to have a fall festival. - Tabled until COVID is less of a concern

**5:55 ADJOURN – David Temple, President**

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| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: November 9th, 2021** **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |

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