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**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 14th, 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*

**4:06 CALL TO ORDER - David Temple, Acting Interim President**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: none**

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

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

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

* Susan worked with Joel and Gretchen to get input about our **DCT Position** **description.** All parties agree where we generally intend to invest our 20% of the DCT’s time. Susan advertised the position with the Journal and Suzanne worked with Hayley to get it posted on our website. We are already receiving applications.
* Adam attended **Mancos Conservation District September meeting** in person; with Suzanne, Susan, and Joe there by Zoom. Adam was pleased to meet those in attendance and appreciated their hospitality and how well there meeting was run and organized with good input from members and staff.
* Adam and Suzanne provided input to Gretchen in **developing an MOU** between districts, and a new shared District Manager job description. Those drafts were submitted to MCD for review to which they made several Improvements to and approved.
* Joe clarified with Greg that the District owns two **flow meters** we use to implement our nozzle exchange program. Greg said that one of those flow meters is with a landowner on road S and will facilitate its return.
* Gretchen forwarded our grant application to David and Joe **Action item** 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 Gretchen can take it back to our grantor for advanced approval to allocate our remaining Nozzle exchange grant funds.
* Susan will update our Board member position description and **take ads out in local papers** for 3 weeks to recruit new Board Members. -**Tabled**
* Gretchen solved our **drop box issue** and developed protocols with Cory to hold cash transactions for weed barrier and conservation supplies. We now have a good new system to receive, secure and record payments. Gretchen and Cory are using a Google calendar to organize drill and spreader rentals. The district phone line is ringing through to Gretchen cell phone and we have rental reservations for November and December.
* Suzanne picked up the **bills that have been accumulating** at our office and got them to Gretchen with authorization to be paid.
* Susan will work on a newsletter to send out to our mailing list- **Tabled**

**REPORTS**

* **Acting Interim President** – David Temple stopped by the NRCS office to fix the seed drill and grease the zerks, David will meet with Gretchen tomorrow at 4pm to get her a computer and get the rundown on how we can support her efforts to obligate our Nozzle exchange program grant funds. Joe suggested Moisture meters would provide a conservation benefit to our local producers. **Agenda item** David proposed we consider doing a board retreat soon (winter 2021/spring of 2022) and ask Mancos if they would like to collaborate and attend a mutual retreat now that we are working more closely together.
* **Vice President** – Vacant
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin suggested we plan ahead for our Annual Meeting by designating our December meeting as such. We will need to post this in November to ensure the pubic knows of their special invitation. Motion to make our December meeting an annual meeting by Suzanne, seconded by Joe- **Passed.** She also reminded us of the 1hour watershed meeting on 9/22 at 10am by Zoom. **Agenda item** Suzanne looked into CD’s for the district and has some findings to discuss.
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter had no report
* **Members at large-** no report

**4:30 STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee’s office is working on 110 approved CRP contracts between Cortez and Dove creek while compiling fiscal year project reporting. DCT hiring will have to wait until after October 1st.
* **HDCD-** Gretchen Rank pointed out that this board should develop a hiring committee of two board members and Joel to hire our new DCT. We will also need a hiring committee for our shared DM composed of both districts. Gretchen will post the DCT position on Indeed.com and has been sending responses to all candidates that apply. Gretchen agreed to also organize qualified resumes and correspondence in a Google folder and grant access to the hiring committee members.

**4:45 NEW BUSINESS**

* CDA Drought Resiliency Competitive Grant is now accepting applications. Deadline is 9-30-21: Gretchen suggested we submit a grant proposal to support our district outreach through a drought concern survey, assistance with our Master Land Steward program and possibly other drought resiliency projects. A motion to approve Gretchen submitting a CDA grant that will be approved by Joe made by Adam, seconded by Suzanne- **Passed**
* Employee partnership model with Mancos and status of MOU: A motion to approve the MOU as amended by MCD and presented by Gretchen by Adam, seconded by Suzanne- **Passed** a motion to approve the Shared DM job description as amended by MCD and presented by Gretchen by Suzanne, seconded by Joe- **Passed**
* STAR grant funding application status: Gretchen submitted our grant last week ahead of deadline and we should hear back in October.
* How to spend down our remaining $5,056 SWCD nozzle exchange grant this year: Topic addressed in action items above and the Interim President report.
* 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? -**Tabled** we have time to think about how to best use these funds to support conservation in our district.

**5:15 OLD BUSINESS**

* Status of **CSCB matching grant** application. CSCB is meeting Thursday to finalize the results but it looks like we ranked 13th of 30 applications and are likely to be awarded the grant.
* **Board Recruitment** - **Tabled**
* 2021 SW AG seminar/annual meeting. -**Tabled**
* Supervisor Certification program -**Tabled**
* **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”? -**Tabled**

**5:53 ADJOURN – David temple, Interim President**

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| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: October 12th, 2021**  **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |

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