

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: JANUARY MINUTES**

 **January 11, 2022 4:00-6:00 pm**

 ***ZOOM MEETING:*** <https://zoom.us/j/7856459574>

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

**CALL TO ORDER -David Temple, President, called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  John Miller, CSCB Regional Field Specialist, was introduced.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Adam Kackstetter made a motion to accept the January agenda; seconded by Joe Lanier.* ***Motion Passed***

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:** *Joe Lanier made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.* ***Motion Passed***

**REPORTS**

* **President** – David Temple gave a brief update on his attendance with the Dolores Water Conservancy and the Star Plus program and potential conflicts between the two grants. The HDCD and DWC will work together to ensure that participating landowners are within one program, and areas of delineation have been discussed.
* **Vice President** – Joe Lanier has continued discussions with Ray Archuleta and bringing a soil health workshop to Montezuma County.
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin gave a brief update on the CD rates for potential investment and suggested to continue to wait till rates rise.
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter briefly discussed the idea of tabling the Board Supervisor vacancy advertising until the next meeting.
* **Members at large-** Susan Thomas: not present.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee mentioned gearing up for the upcoming EQIP cycle, the difficulties of filling positions at the NRCS, and the near-completion of the ditch project in McElmo.
* **HDCD-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached
* **Conservation Technician**: Rocky Rockwell–staff report attached.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **MCD and HDCD Retreat:** The Board tabled this item.
* **Board Supervisor Vacancy:** This item was tabled until the February Board meeting.
* **Status of the 2021 Nozzle Exchange Program:** Gretchen Rank gave an update on the grant, and has sent in the final report and paperwork. The 2021 program has been finalized and closed out. The HDCD has received a grant for 2022, and will need to develop an effective program. The Mancos Conservation District Board would like to partner and expand the nozzle exchange program countywide.
* **District Supervisor Certification Program and Training:** After several weeks of issues with the CSCB website, David Temple reported that the supervisor training page should be accessible.
* **HDCD CD Fund Investment:** Suzanne Aikin reported that rates have not changed and recommended that the Board delay investing in CDs at this time.
* **Soil Health Program:** Neva Connolly reported on the soil health program (Star Plus) and stated that several applications have been received. Neva and Rocky will be attending online soil health training with the Colorado Department of Agriculture on January 24th, and in-person training in March.

* **Fundraising Ideas:** Suzanne Aikin mentioned that she would like the Board to increase their presence at the Montezuma County Board of Supervisors meetings. The Board held discussion on this idea, and David Temple and Neva Connolly will attend the January 25 Board of Supervisors meeting to introduce the HDCD and highlight the work the district performs.
* **LinkedIn Account:** The Board discussed LinkedIn and will not pursue an account.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Newsletter:** Neva Connolly stated that she and Susan Thomas had met to go over newsletter format and topics. Neva said that with the release of the 2021 HDCD Annual Report, the newsletter can be delayed for several months.
* **Understanding Ag:** Joe Lanier has been in contact with Ray Archuleta, formerly with Understanding Ag. Joe will continue to work with Ray to bring a soil health workshop to Montezuma County.
* **Master Land Steward Program:** After a lengthy discussion on how to bring forward a Master Land Steward program during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Board will work with HDCD staff to create an online program for 2022.
* **Montezuma County Board of Supervisors Meeting Attendance:** Discussed under Fundraising Ideas.

* **HDCD Parade Participation/Community Outreach:** David Temple mentioned that he would like to see the District participate in local parades.
* **HDCD Hats and Shirts:** Neva Connolly sent the Board a brochure from a local print shop.
* **Sunshine Law:** The Board packet included a summary of the Sunshine Law and open meeting law for review.
* **Workmen’s Compensation, 2022 Election Resolution, Open Records Request Policy, Board Meeting Location and Posting Resolution:** *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to approve the resolutions and policy as presented; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Colorado Parks and Wildlife Grant Sponsorship-Hicks Hartman Draw:** Neva Connolly presented the Board with a grant application that had been forwarded by the new biologist at the NRCS office. The project would create 18-acres of riparian habitat on the north end of Hartman Draw near CR P and Road 25. The project would include fencing for grazing exclusion and the installation of over 2000 riparian plants. The Board requested staff to add $1500.00 for staff support into the grant funding request. *Adam Kackstetter made a motion for the HDCD work to assist with the CPW Grant for the Hicks/Hartman Draw; Joe Lanier seconded the motion.*  ***Motion passed.***

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* **Board Member mileage and time tracking**--Board members submitted their December mileage and time reports.

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2022** **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |
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 **The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**