

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: MAY MINUTES**

**June 14th, 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 4:00 pm.**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom: David Temple, Adam Kackstetter, Joe Lanier, Neva Connolly, Suzanne Aikin, Gretchen Rank. Susan Thomas was excused from attendance.

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  Scott Watson introduced himself; he is interested in regenerative agriculture and has an interest in the vacant board position. Rachel Theler, Southwest Regional Representative for NACD, gave a presentation on the benefits of National Association of Conservation Districts membership.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to accept the May agenda with revisions; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.* ***Motion Passed***

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

**FINANCIALS:** Financials were briefly reviewed. Gretchen Rank explained that two of the funding grants that the district is operating on are based on reimbursement after expenditure, and that the HDCD budget will balance once the grants are reimbursed.

**REPORTS**

* **President** – no update
* **Vice President** – no update
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – no update
* **Secretary-**  no update
* **Members at large-** no update

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** no update
* **Executive Director-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached
* **Conservation Technician**: Rocky Rockwell–staff report attached.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Vacant Supervisor Positions-Letter of Interest from Scott Watson:** Scott Watson introduced himself and expressed his interest in serving on the board. Board members generally agreed that a potential supervisor should attend 3 meetings before full commitment. Neva mentioned that another letter of interest was received from Alan Rolston, who was unable to attend the meeting.
* **NACD 2022 Membership (Action):** Rachel Theler, the Southwest Regional Representative for the NACD, gave a presentation on the National Association of Conservation Districts, its purpose and goals, and benefits of membership. *Adam Kackstetter made a motion to join the NACD membership at the $100.00 level; seconded by Suzanne Aikin.* ***Motion passed*.**
* **NRCS-Civil Rights Partner Responsibilities (Action):** Neva Connolly had sent an email prior to the June meeting with the partner responsibilities and numerous Federal civil rights documents. Neva will send the document out via email for each board member signature.
* **CSCB 2023 Matching Grants Application (Discussion):** The Colorado State Conservation Board 2023 matching grant application is due in July. Neva Connolly and Gretchen Rank have been in discussion regarding the grant application and will move forward with applying for the full $25,000 to support the master land steward program, nozzle exchange, and various land management/stewardship workshops.
* **CSCD 2023 DCT Grant Application (Discussion):** Rocky Rockwell will be applying for a NRCS position this summer. The DCT position will need to be filled–Gretchen Rank mentioned that the prior DCT Indeed advertisement was far more successful than the Four Corners and Journal job postings. The board will wait to post the job until they receive Rocky’s resignation. The district will be reapplying for the DCT grant in August.
* **Neva Connolly-Performance Review Pay Increase (Action):** *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to support the 4-percent increase (shared with the Mancos Conservation District) in Neva Connolly’s salary; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Annual Meeting (Discussion):** The board briefly discussed the annual meeting. A date will be set at a later meeting.
* **Bank Signatory (Action):** The board reviewed the attached resolution and will sign electronically.
* **MOU w/ Montezuma Land Conservancy (Action):** The board discussed the attached MOU and decided that they would like to continue an informal partnership with the Montezuma Land Conservancy.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Updates on Programs- (Discussion):** Neva Connolly gave a brief update on the soil health program.
* **Demonstration Grant 2022- (Discussion):** The board discussed the demonstration grant funding and the drought money available from the CDA. *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to move forward with setting up a two-day soil health workshop with Ray Archuleta, using the $15,000 from drought relief and incorporating part of the $10,000 from the demonstration grant; seconded by Adam Kackstetter.*  ***Motion passed.***
* **Drought Spending $15,000 from CDA (Discussion):** See above.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: July 12th, 2022**  **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |
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**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**