

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: MARCH MINUTES**

**March 8th, 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 4:05 pm.**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom: David Temple, Suzanne Aikin, Adam Kackstetter, Joe Lanier, Susan Thomas, Gretchen Rank, Neva Connolly, Rocky Rockwell. Guest: Ingrid Ward

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  Ingrid Ward, a retired federal worker, was introduced. She was interested in learning what the Board and HDCD does, and to see if there were possible avenues for her to assist in various endeavors.

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

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:** *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded byAdam Kackstetter.* ***Motion Passed***

**FINANCIALS:** Suzanne Aikin updated the Board regarding the HDCD finances. Suzanne recommends holding off on CD investments for now, and stated that the finances are down a bit from expenditures (staff salary, DeWitt supply purchase) but that as seedling and weed barriers sales come in, the finances will recover.

**REPORTS**

* **President** – David Temple gave a brief update on the March 7th meeting with the Montezuma County Commissioner’s workshop. The Commissioners welcomed the HDCD board, and would like bimonthly updates.
* **Vice President** – Joe Lanier gave an update on Ray Archuleta’s soil health presentation. Mr. Archuleta will give a presentation on May 20 at the Lewis-Arriola Community Center, and then give a soil health workshop later in the day. The Board discussed admission fees, and settled on a $50 charge. Food will be provided. Joe, Susan, and Suzanne volunteered to form a committee to further plan the event.
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin (see Financials above).
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter mentioned that he met with Eric Whyte from the Ute Mountain Farm and Ranch, who may possibly be interested in filling an open board position.
* **Members at large-** Susan Thomas gave an update on the supervisor vacancy ad, and mentioned that KSDJ ran a psa for the vacancies. She encouraged board members to speak to colleagues and other members of the community to fill the board positions.

**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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Board Supervisor Vacancy:** The supervisor ad has been running in the Journal and is posted on the HDCD website. Susan Thomas has run a PSA through KSJD. Adam Kackstetter has reached out to members of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.
* **HDCD CD Fund Investment:** Discussed under Financials (see notes above).
* **Soil Health Program:** Neva Connolly gave an update on the status of the soil health program. Neva and Montezuma County CSU Extension Agent Emily Lockard met with the first soil health participant and filled out the project consultation forms. Neva will be scheduling field visits with the remaining six participants.
* **Master Land Steward Program:** Neva Connolly reported back on the development of the MLS program. She discussed timelines with the board, and presented an array of options. The HDCD board would like to move forward with a 3-week program in fall (2x a week). Adam and Suzanne volunteered to be on a committee to continue to move this program forward.
* **2022 Nozzle Exchange Program:** not discussed
* **Irrigation Water Management Field Workshop:** not discussed
* **Montezuma County Commissioners Meeting:** David Temple and Neva Connolly attended the March 7 County Commissioners’ workshop. David gave an update of HDCD activities. The commissioners would like a bimonthly update from HDCD.
* **HDCD Hats and Shirts:** Neva will order 25 each of two different types of hats and will work on shirt orders for Neva, Rocky, and board members that would like one for events.
* **Soil Health Speakers:** See above discussion under Vice-President updates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Quickbooks Update:** not discussed.
* **Upcoming Workshops:** Neva Connolly briefly mentioned some of the workshops she is working on with the Mancos Conservation District and Montezuma County CSU Extension, including a forest management workshop, composting workshop, and intro to irrigation workshop.
* **Conservation Supplies and Update on Prices:** Neva Connolly stated that the Dewitt order for weed barrier had significantly increased from 2021. The HDCD board would like to increase the cost of the weed barrier prices appropriately to make up the cost differences.
* **2022 Election Cancelation:** Neva Connolly gave an update on the elections process–the HDCD will not need to run an election for 2022. *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to accept the resolution to cancel the 2022 election; Susan Thomas seconded the motion.*  ***Motion passed.***

* **Exemption for Audit:** Gretchen Rank has prepared the exemption for audit, which was reviewed by the board during the meeting. *Suzanne made a motion to accept the audit exemption; Susan Thomas seconded the motion.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Riparian Restoration-Montezuma County:** Neva Connolly very briefly mentioned that Gretchen Rank had forwarded a compilation of riparian reports already prepared for the Dolores watershed. Neva will continue to gather information and pursue riparian restoration opportunities and collaboration where available.
* **Future HDCD Board Meetings:** There was brief discussion on the possibility of meeting in-person for upcoming board meetings. After various board members mentioned the convenience of virtual meetings, but still wanted to meet in-person, Adam Kackstetter suggested that the board meet in-person quarterly. Dates will be determined in a future meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 6:09 pm.**

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