

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: AUGUST MINUTES**

**September 13th, 2022 4:00-6:00 pm**

***628 W. 5th Street***

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

**CALL TO ORDER -The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.**

**Present**: David Temple, Suzanne Aikin, Adam Kackstetter, Susan Thomas (via phone), Scott Watson, Joel Lee, Neva Connolly

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  There were no guests present.

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

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

**FINANCIALS:** Suzanne Aikin reviewed the financials and noted that the HDCD had received the direct assistance payment from the State. Scott mentioned that he would like to review the financials with Gretchen Rank for a better understanding of how the district runs, and that he would consider replacing Suzanne as Treasurer (Suzanne would like to step down from the Treasurer position).

**REPORTS**

* **President** – David Temple reported that he is working with Montezuma Weed District and Bonnie Loving in phreatophyte removal. As part of that effort, David participated in a tree give-away at the Montezuma County Fairgrounds for those participating in the removal program.
* **Vice President** – Joe Lanier was unable to attend the meeting.
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin reviewed the financials. Suzanne mentioned that the District has not held its annual meeting for 2022, and recommended the Board set the October meeting as the annual meeting. *Suzanne Aikin made a motion to set the annual meeting for October 11th to coincide with the District’s regular meeting from 4pm-6pm; seconded by Susan Thomas.* ***Motion passed.***
* **Secretary-**Adam Kackstetter mentioned that he would like to continue to try to recruit a Ute Mountain Ute Tribe member, and requested the Board to consider creating a board position specifically for a UMUT member. The Board discussed the options–if creating a new Board member position, the bylaws would need to be updated.
* **Members at large-** Scott Watson mentioned that he would contact Target Rental and Rent All to discuss the option of housing the seed drill and taking care of the rental process. The seed drill maintenance has been an ongoing issue. Susan Thomas checked in via a phone connection.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee gave an update on NRCS operations. Joel mentioned that it is the end of the federal fiscal year and he is closing out the year end and CRP contracts.
* **Executive Director-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached
* **Conservation Technician**: n/a

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Oath of Office:** Scott Watson signed the oath of office and officially joined the High Desert CD Board of Supervisors.
* **DCT Hiring Process:** The district manager gave an update on the DCT hiring process. To date, one person has accepted an interview for the DCT position.
* **CEBT Health Insurance Proposal:** The district manager mentioned that she had reached out to a special district insurance pool for a quote on health insurance rates for a single employee (DCT position in mind). The Board briefly reviewed the proposal. Insurance expenses were not written into the 2022 or 2023 DCT grant, but could be pursued for 2024. No decisions were made.
* **FAMLI**: The Board discussed the Colorado FAMLI act and discussed cost to employee and employer and opt out options. The Board deferred any decisions until further discussion in October.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Seedling Sales:** The district manager updated the Board on her efforts to find a seedling nursery to supply the district fall sales. Neva mentioned that New Mexico is growing seedlings for reforestation efforts only. The Utah State Forestry Nursery is no longer in operation. David Temple will meet with Neva to go over some nursery selections that he has used in the past.
* Update on Programs: Not discussed (weather/rain ended meeting early)
* Demonstration/Drought Grant 2022-Soil Health Workshops: Not discussed due to early adjournment.
* Shirts and Hats Discussion: Not discussed due to early adjournment.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

* **Board Member mileage and time tracking**--Board members will need to submit their mileage and time numbers to the district manager during October’s meeting.

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 5:38 pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: November 8th, 2022**  **In Person at the NRCS office (outside) 4:00-6:00** |
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**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**