

**HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING: DECEMBER MINUTES**

**December 14, 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*

**CALL TO ORDER -David Temple, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.**

Virtually **Present** by Zoom: David Temple, Suzanne Aikin, Adam Kackstetter, Joe Lanier, Susan Thomas, Gretchen Rank, Rocky Rockwell, Neva Connolly, Michael Nolan **Absent:** n/a

**INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:**  Michael Nolan, MCD Board President, was present for the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Adam Kackstetter made a motion to accept the December agenda; seconded by Susan Thomas- **Motion Passed**

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES:** Susan Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Adam Kackstetter. **Motion Passed**

**Review of November Action Items:**

* Nozzle exchange program: grant reporting is due at the end of December. Joe Lanier has been in contact with the 2021 project administrator and has contacted the landowners that participated in the 2021 program. Gretchen Rank will fill out the paperwork required for the grant report.
* Supervisor Description: The Board continued this discussion from the November meeting. Susan Thomas suggested that the supervisor description be updated, and then send the paper and Four Corners Jobs a short advertisement/description with a link to a full description posted on the HDCD website for the three Board openings. Discussion occurred on reaching out to various landowners and other opportunities to spread the word were discussed, including attending the next Cattlemen’s Association meeting and the MVIC annual meeting.
* Newsletter update: Susan Thomas is willing to assist Neva Connolly with a newsletter to go out in January to the mailing list. Potential topics discussed include winter plant/landscape care, highlight services provided by HDCD, tree species that do well in the high desert, spring “to do” list.
* Annual Meeting: this meeting of the HDCD Board served as the HDCD Annual Meeting.

**REPORTS**

* **President** – David Temple mentioned that he is excited for 2022 and would like to continue to push the seedling tree sales.
* **Vice President** – Joe Lanier has been piecing together the 2021 nozzle exchange work that had been performed over the summer of 20221, and has contacted 3 landowners that had participated in the program. He has also reached out to contact Ray Archuleta, founder of the Understanding Ag program, with the idea to host a soil health workshop in Montezuma County.
* **Acting Interim Treasurer** – Suzanne Aikin went over the 2022 budget, and mentioned that the Board should consider ordering the conservation supplies as soon as possible. Suzanne gave a brief update on investing Board funds into a CD. **Susan Thomas made a motion to invest $50,000 into a CD at 1st National Bank for one year; Adam Kackstetter seconded. Motion passed.**
* **Secretary**– Adam Kackstetter briefly discussed the nozzle exchange program, Zoom tips, and board member officer positions that may be available to new board members.
* **Members at large-** Susan Thomas briefly discussed the board supervisor description and newsletter content ideas.

**STAFF REPORTS**

* **NRCS –** Joel Lee: not in attendance
* **HDCD-** Gretchen Rank–staff report attached.
* **District Manager:**  Neva Connolly–staff report attached
* **Conservation Technician**: Rocky Rockwell–staff report attached. Rocky briefly mentioned that equipment repairs (acre-meter) and general maintenance are needed on the no-till seed drill.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* 2022 Final Budget Approval: **Adam Kackstetter made a motion to approve the 2022 Budget as presented; Suzanne Aikin seconded. Motion passed.**
* LinkedIn Account: not discussed.
* **New Agenda Format:** Neva Connolly mentioned simplifying the agenda format.
* **Is CSCB willing and able to help our board retreat with MCD:** The HDCD Board discussed moving forward with a Mancos Conservation District and High Desert Conservation District Board retreat sometime in February.
* **Update HDCD Board member position description and take ads out in local papers and a Facebook campaign to recruit new Board members:** The Board discussed at length during “Review of November Action Items.”
* **Board Member mileage and time tracking**--reminder to submit before year end and new idea for reporting: David reminded the Board that they need to send in their mileage and time tracking for 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Spend down our remaining $5,056 SWCD nozzle exchange grant this year.** Joe Lanier has returned the flow meters for calibration and is in discussion with 2021 participation landowners.
* **Status of CDA Drought Resiliency Competitive Grant application.**  Gretchen Rank mentioned that the CDA grant was not awarded to HDCD or MCD.
* **District Supervisor Certification program:** Suzanne Aikin and Joe Lanier have completed their supervisor training and have received supervisor pins from the Colorado State Conservation Board.
* **Fundraiser ideas–** HDCD would greatly benefit from a signature event to serve our community and raise awareness for the district. Can we revive/reinvent “Made in Montezuma”? The Board discussed ideas for fundraising ideas for 2022. The Board will look into merchandise for the HDCD, including hats and shirts. David Temple would like to focus on pursuing grants for the district. Suzanne Aikin suggested periodic presentations at the Montezuma County Board of Supervisors meetings.

**ADJOURN – David Temple adjourned the meeting at 6:00pm.**

| **NEXT WORKGROUP MEETING: Location: TBA** |  | **NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2022**  **by Zoom 4:00-6:00** |
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**The Public was invited to attend this meeting.**