



Gunnison Conservation District

216 North Colorado St, Gunnison CO 81230 • (970) 707-3047

Board Meeting Minutes August 20, 2019

Regular Meeting: 7:00 pm

US Forest Service Conference Room, 216 N. Colorado Gunnison, CO 81230

Board Members Present: Jan Coury, President; Bill Ketterhagen, Vice President; Rufus Wilderson, Treasurer, John Rozman, Supervisor; Dan Zadra, Supervisor; Brooke Vasquez, Supervisor

Board Members Absent: None

Employees Present: Aleshia Rummel, Sam Liebl

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: None

Call to Order President Jan Coury called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Partner Updates

NRCS:

With Dan Olson of the NRCS absent, Aleshia Rummel spoke on his behalf and gave updates that Rummel and Olson discussed prior to the board meeting. Rummel said the low-tech process-based riverscape restoration hosted by the NRCS on the campus of Western Colorado University in early August was a success. About 40 people attended, mostly from NRCS offices.

Rummel said there had not been very much progress on DCT engineer recruitment. Olson had made many site visits over the last month, some of which were to Lake City, around Gunnison and one to Crested Butte and one to Taylor Park. Olson has been very busy.

Colorado State Forest Service:

David Meeneghan with the CSFS nursery in Fort Collins told the board about the partnerships that the nursery has with cooperators, who are often conservation districts, in selling and distributing seedlings grown at the nursery. That relationship entails the nursery acting as a wholesaler. The nursery is looking to partner with the District rather than the Gunnison CSFS office because of changes to facilities and staffing in Gunnison.

Meeneghan said a partnership between the CSFS nursery and the district would entail the District taking orders beginning in early November and receiving a delivery in the spring. The traditional date has been either in late April or early May. The CSFS Gunnison office has had the facilities to keep seedlings alive for long periods of time after delivery, but this would not need to continue if the District took over seedling sales. Rather, the district could offer a 1-2 day window for customers to pick up their purchases.

Meeneghan said the CSFS Nursery Manager Joshua Stolz has given the OK for the District to receive the maximum discount of 25 percent to help the District launch its seedling sales program. The District would earn a profit from that 25 percent margin but would also have discretion to raise prices beyond the suggested retail prices set by CSFS. The nursery could also assist in covering the costs of some advertising.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of July 16, 2019.

ACTION: Wilderson moved to accept the minutes as presented. Zadra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for July.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Ketterhagen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Seedling Sales:

Rummel said Sam Pamcratz of the CSFS Gunnison office suggested that the Fred Field Center at the Gunnison County Fairgrounds could be used to distribute seedlings after delivery.

Meeneghan said the amount of seedlings typically delivered to Gunnison could easily fit into a room one-quarter the size of the conference room where the District board meets. Meeneghan said he would send the board the terms and conditions used for nursery partnerships in 2019 so that the board could see what the partnership would entail.

Wilderson said he would like to see the terms and conditions before making the District board makes a motion to enter into a partnership with the nursery.

Grants and Contracts Status:

Rummel said there has been no news on DCT recruitment. Liebl said that he had planned to speak with Jackie Kragel of the NRCS but that did not happen.

Gunnison-Dolores Watershed Meeting:

Wilderson, who attended the watershed meeting, said there was a hydromulch in gamble oak demonstration. Liebl said it was useful to meet fellow district managers. Wilderson said there were two

motions passed by the watershed, one pertaining to biological controls for Russian Olive, a beetle that destroys seed viability, and a motion in support of funding for soil health.

Rummel told the board that she spoke with Shavano Conservation District supervisors about speaking with CDOT to move forward the approval of conservation districts signs on the highways. Zadra said he would stop by the Gunnison CDOT office to see what could be done.

Wilderson said an idea was presented at the watershed meeting to pool the resources of the member conservation districts to make purchases beyond the \$25,000 cap on individual districts matching funds requests. Wilderson said he has volunteered to be a committee with other watershed members to discuss how this might work. Wilderson said it could be simple to put together a memorandum of understanding to make this pooling of district resources work.

Cheatgrass Workshop:

Rummel said there have been 15 registrants. Attendees need to RSVP to receive lunch. Rummel said she plans on ramping up advertising over the next two weeks to promote workshop attendance. Vasquez suggested that Liebl send out an email blast to the District's mailing list.

Cost-share herbicide program:

New Business

2020 DCT grant application:

ACTION: Wilderson motioned to approve and ratify the District's application for the 2020 District Conservation Technician Program Re-enrollment. Zadra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Accounting software purchase:

Liebl presented the pros and cons of purchasing either a license for Quickbooks Desktop or Quickbooks Online.

Vasquez said Liebl should inquire into whether doing any type of bookkeeping work on a USDA computer would be allowed.

ACTION: Wilderson moved to give the District Manager discretion over which product to purchase. Ketterhagen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Employment and compensation of consultants:

Wilderson said the District should pay Antonucci Consulting for the amount invoiced on August 1. Zadra said he agreed and that the District should not consult with Kim Antonucci on anything further.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7pm at 216 N. Colorado St.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: These minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of July 16, 2019 were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting of _____.

By: _____
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District