



Gunnison Conservation District

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

Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 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, Kim Antonucci

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: Jackie Kragel (NRCS), Malcolm Macleod (CSFS), Dan Olson (NRCS)

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

Partner Updates

NRCS:

Dan Olson told the board that the NRCS has a whole slew of interest in new projects and that there are 20 clients on the list for projects. Some of those projects are pretty big and many are in connection with state wildlife areas associated with sage-grouse.

Jackie Kragel said the NRCS is in the process of hiring a resource conservationist and an engineer, and that her office has worked to get the vacancy announced. The engineer position will be a civil engineer, and that person will cover both Montrose and Gunnison.

Kragel said District board members and employees are encouraged to attend the August 14 watershed meeting in Cedaredge.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies:

Marcella Tarantino was absent, but Aleshia Rummel spoke on her behalf. Rummel said that the conservancy is looking into cheatgrass treatments and wet meadow restorations as potential projects for National Fish and Wildlife grants.

Colorado State Forest Service:

Malcolm Macleod said he and other CSFS employees have been strict about requiring that contractors clean equipment prior to arriving at job sites, but that they have noticed much cheatgrass across the valley. Macleod said he would like to work with the District to obtain preemergent herbicide for cheatgrass this fall.

Macleod invited District board members to a July 26 workshop on reducing human-beaver conflicts. Macleod said the workshop would involve demonstrating flow devices, also known as "beaver deceivers." Macleod invited the District to become a partner with his Masters in Environmental Management Project at Western Colorado University. This project entails the construction of a flow device in August. So far the only site that has been identified for such a device is Coldharbour Ranch seven miles east of Gunnison.

Executive Session

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to enter into an executive session. Bill Ketterhagen seconded. The board entered into executive session at 7:20 p.m.

The board entered into an executive session pursuant to Colorado Open Meetings Law § 24-6-402(4), subsections d and f, C.R.S.,

For the purposes of discussion related to personnel matters involving employees, and

For the purposes of discussion related to security arrangements.

The board moved out of executive session and back into its regular meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of June 18, 2019.

ACTION: Jan Coury moved to accept the minutes as presented. Rufus Wilderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for June.

Brooke Vasquez noted that there had been a lot of seed and herbicide sales in June.

Kim Antonucci said the financial statements showed that one of the subcontractors who did research for the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) Noxious Weed Fund cheatgrass project was paid in advance of the grant reimbursement from the CDA. Antonucci said Plateau has been ordered for the HPP cheatgrass grant project.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Vasquez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Gunnison-Dolores Watershed meeting August 14 in Cedaredge:

Kragel said there was recently a watershed planning meeting in Glenwood Springs, which was targeted at conservation districts and NRCS resource team leads. Kragel attended. In Glenwood there were roundtable discussions on how to improve watershed meetings.

Grants and Contract Status:

Rummel said that the Gunnison Conservation District is still waiting on the Gunnison County Weed Management Program to provide documentation for a match for the Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Fund grant. Once that documentation comes through the District should be able to be reimbursed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. For Aegerson's and collar-related business, Aleshia said she has been in touch with Sarah Adams about where to send collars, but she has not heard back from Adams.

Bill Ketterhagen asked Rummel about whether equipment calibration would be part of the September 13 cheatgrass workshop. Rummel replied that it would be. Rummel said that if the board approved the marketing documents for the cheatgrass workshop that she would begin publicizing the herbicide cost-share and the cheatgrass workshop immediately. Rummel said she would like landowners participating in the cost share to provide before-and-after photos. Landowners should also enter information about cheatgrass distribution on their properties on EDDMapS. The workshop will cover topics such as cheatgrass and grazing, herbicide applications, mitigation and cleaning to reduce spread, effects of recreation and how to use EDDMaps. The workshop is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 13.

Vasquez suggested that Rummel remove the requirement for 'after' photos in the eligibility form.

New Business

Colorado Parks and Wildlife riparian grant RFP:

Dan Zadra said that with the close August 9 application deadline that this grant should be considered in the future if it is recurring.

DCT recruitment:

Kragel said that it has been two months of waiting for the NRCS to put forward 50 percent of the wage, with 25 percent covered by the state and 25 percent covered by the District. The only thing that was really being waited on was 25 percent from some other source. There is an option to have a position that is pure engineering, but it would be better for it to be a DCT because that would be more flexible.

Kragel said she would follow up with Jesse Kruthaupt about Trout Unlimited covering 25 percent of the engineer's salary.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7pm at 216 N. Colorado St.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31pm

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 August 20, 2019.

By: Jan Coury
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District