



Gunnison Conservation District

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

Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019

Regular Meeting: 7:00 pm

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

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

Board Members Absent: Jan Coury, President

Employees Present: Aleshia Rummel, Kim Antonucci

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: Dan Olson (NRCS), Marcella Tarantino (BCR), Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Eric McPhail (CSU Extension Office)

Call to Order Vice President Bill Ketterhagen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Partner Updates

NRCS Update:

Dan Olson discussed the engineering situation for the Gunnison office as Engineer David Drury is transferring out of the Montrose Office. This will result in more of a backlog in addition to engineering projects that are already underway. However, Dan is pursuing discussions to add an in-house engineering technician, perhaps a second DCT position with the NRCS and/or a similar position that could be shared with other partners. Discussion ensued with Jesse Kruthaupt, who said that grant opportunities are available with the Colorado Water Conservancy Board. Details about how the position could be funded and where the position would be based (NRCS office or UGRWCD office) will be determined, depending on the funding. Ideally, the position would focus on irrigation plans and watershed restoration planning that is ongoing in the basin. There also remains the question on how the position will be advertised. Both Dan and Jesse will continue to evaluate opportunities and process.

Jesse Kruthaupt (TU, UGRWCD): Jesse explained that he was not reporting on behalf of (UGRWCD), but that he wanted to discuss the progress on the CSCB Matching grant that is currently underway. He stated that he did receive a \$14,000 match from the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District for the grant. The original focus of that grant was the Gooseberry

Ditch on the Allen parcel, but that project will not be pursued. To note, Bruce Allen has left the valley for family reasons, and Curtis Allen will be the point of contact for the Allen Ranch. The new project that will be pursued is the Potato Bohm Ditch in the Ohio Creek drainage. There are five users on that ditch and Jesse hopes to receive some funding from each of the users to ensure there is a survey of the ditch, as well as in-channel work.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Update:

Marcella Tarantino reminded everyone that plenty of fence markers are still available. She also said that there are stock tank ladders available. Marcella reported that the Sagegrouse lek counts began on April 1, 2019 and that snow is blocking many of the access points.

Colorado State University Extension Office: Eric McPhail reported that he has been working in Huerforno County touring mitigation/funding sites and evaluating conservation efforts for holding water in the drainages. Eric also mentioned that he visited a 35,000-acre cattle ranch in Hawaii which is located on an active volcano. He reported on the different challenges that the volcano presents, such as acid rain, high fluorine levels that affect magnesium levels in cows, and the need to replace barbed wire fences every three years.

Regarding 4H, Eric reported that the kids have their animals and the program has increased from last year. The kids are now participating in training.

Eric also reported that he attended the meeting about County-wide wildfire planning. He said that his involvement will be helpful particularly for ditch burning implications. He mentioned that there are a lot of stakeholders involved in this effort, including homeowners' associations and local public land agencies.

State Forest Service Update:

Marcella Tarantino reported on behalf of Mike Tarantino, who is at a regional meeting. There are still 8-9 boxes of cottonwoods and willows remaining to be distributed; and seedling trees can be ordered until mid-April. The pheromone packets will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. Eric mentioned the successfulness of the pheromone packets at the Gunnison City Park in Almont where the Boy Scouts did a project.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of March 7 and the special meeting of March 26, 2019. A change was requested to enter the correct time of adjournment for the special meeting.

ACTION: Dan Zadra moved to accept the minutes with the change as noted. Brooke Vasquez seconded. Rufus abstained from voting on the March 7 meeting, and Brooke and John abstained from voting on the March 26 meeting. Otherwise the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for March 2019, the first quarter of 2019 and the Profit & Loss Comparison for the five-year period 2014-2018.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the financials as presented. Dan Zadra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

NACD & CACD Dues: The Board discussed the amount of dues that should be paid to NACD and CACD.

ACTION: Rufus moved to pay the same amount of dues that were paid in 2018. Brooke Vasquez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Virtual Collaring Project.

Aleshia reported nothing new on the progress of the Virtual Fencing project. She had not heard from Charlton in several weeks, despite several efforts.

Aleshia did report that the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant will be announced soon and she was hoping that the District could apply for funding to continue virtual fence testing and implementation.

Brooke reported that the US Forest Service was interested in funding the Virtual Fencing project in conjunction with bringing in a graduate student from CSU. There is also funding available from the Gunnison Valley Community Foundation that could be pursued with respect to capacity.

It was mentioned that staff discuss the virtual fencing project in detail with Curtis Allen since Bruce is now gone. Brooke volunteered to be with Aleshia when she spoke with Curtis.

The Board asked Aleshia to discuss the grant and funding opportunities from the USFS and the CIGS with Agersens; and asked if Aleshia could find out when Agersens will be coming to pick up the collars and/or host more training.

Grant and Contract Updates.

Staff reported that the Colorado Department of Agriculture finalized the \$5,000 grant for cheatgrass education and treatment, which is a multi-agency grant among Western, the County Weed District and the GCD.

The CSCB Matching Grant on the Potato Bohm ditch has not yet funded since the project will not start until later in the summer. Jesse Kruthaupt mentioned that they will complete the project prior to the grant deadline in 2019.

Staff applied for two Mini-Grants from the Upper Gunnison Conservation District to help with a station at the Water Festival, and to help fund the purchase of trees for the Bioengineering workshop. Staff also discussed obtaining a Mini Grant to purchase sand for the Water Trailer.

An HPP grant is also being pursued to implement a cost-share program for landowners to purchase the herbicide Plateau to treat cheatgrass. Aleshia said that she planned to present the application at the HPP meeting next week. Discussion ensued about a workshop to help landowners understand cheatgrass, the use of herbicides, and calibration techniques.

New Business

Signage at District Border.

Aleshia was contacted by the Shavano Conservation District who is planning to purchase a boundary signs on Highway 50. The Shavano District would like the permission of the Board to put the boundary of the Gunnison District on the back side of the sign. They were not requesting funding, but only the authorization to print the back side of the sign with GCD's information.

ACTION: Rufus moved to allow the Shavano Conservation District to place Gunnison Conservation District's information on the back side of a new boundary sign. Bill Ketterhagen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Staffing

Kim Antonucci asked if she could speak with the Board privately to discuss staffing issues. The Board decided to hold an Executive Session with Kim present immediately following the regular session.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7pm at USFS Conference Center.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting called to order at 8:45pm. The Board discussed the position of the District Manager and the requirements necessary to fully execute the duties required. Kim gave informal notice of leaving the position allowing the Board to seek applicants unofficially. No action was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: These minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of the Board of Supervisors of April 10, 2019 were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting of _____, 2019.

By: _____
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District