

**Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022, via Zoom**

Attendees:

Jim Cecil, CACD President - Republican River Watershed
Tyler Neely, CACD Vice President - Rio Grande River Watershed
Scott Jones, CACD Director - Colorado River Watershed
Mike Cleary, CACD Secretary/Treasurer - Gunnison Dolores Watershed
George Fosha, CACD Director - Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Nick Charchalis, CACD Director – North-Platte/White-Yampa River Watershed
Charlie Carnahan, CACD Director - Upper South Platte Watershed
Bob Warner, CACD Alternate Director - CO NACD Representative - NCF Trustee
Brett Moore, CACD Legislative Liaison
Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Dale Parker, CACD Interim Director - Lower South Platte Watershed
Gary Thrash, CACD Director - San Juan Basin - CO NACD Alternate Representative

Guests:

Kate Greenberg, Commissioner of Agriculture
Randy Randall, NRCS-Programs Update
Les Owen, CDA
Cindy Lair, CSCB

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by **President Jim Cecil** at 7:32 AM after establishing a quorum.

Commissioner of Ag, Kate Greenberg:

Follow-up Announcement from Commissioner Greenberg: Good morning, everybody. Thank you for having me on this morning. Good to be with you all and I was going to say I'm sorry I'm not there in person, but it looks like it's all virtual anyway. I'm out in Eastern Washington right now for the Western States meeting so I appreciate the chance to jump on. I wanted to be sure and take some time I guess in person with you all in real time just to talk about my concerns over recent events and how I'm going to be moving forward with our relationship with CACD.

I have had the conversation with Jim that I have had concerns about where CACD sort of has aligned itself in terms of its core values and how it has decided to move forward. Now I want to say first of all I'm glad Camp Rocky was able to happen last week. I look forward to hearing about that. I got some reports that things were going well. I hope that was the case overall. But two main issues that I want to present to the board that have been of concern to me and leading me to have thoughts about how CDA supports CACD. So, first of all, the most-acute event was the presentation by ED Bobbi Ketels and a Board Representative of the CACD Board to the CSCB Board during their June board meeting.

There were comments that were reported to me through multiple sources that are deeply concerning. I sent that to you in a letter that Cindy forwarded to you all, it was last week, just stating my concerns with those comments as I understood them and making truly clear that CDA is an organization that supports anybody, and everybody engaged in agriculture. I think we got to a place with Camp Rocky where we were aligned in that regards, but the comments were deeply concerning about whether or not our values are actually aligned in the deeper way between our organizations. And looking into it a bit more, you know there's not another non-governmental organization that I'm aware of where CDA subsidizes their programming with our staff time. Of

course, we're sponsors and will give grants of course obviously to districts and other entities but there is nobody else we give support for stand-up programming with our staff time.

Looking at those two together, it has led me to reflect on what should be our relationship with CACD. My staff, in the last many weeks, myself included, has had to work on issues that really should not be ours to deal with. I feel like at this moment, our relationship with CACD, and to the extent that we are providing staff pro bono to support CACD programming is no longer a net benefit and that's from just a business perspective for managing my staff time and what we do at the department that is the primary lens through which I'm looking at this.

I need to make sure, that we are spending our time and staff resources wisely. Now I say that it does not mean that we are changing our support of our Conservation Districts, but I will no longer be having my staff support CACD programming at least for the foreseeable future. We'll work on a plan for what that looks like as I don't want to just pull the rug out, because I know you rely on us, but I think you know from my vantage point CACD has got to figure out a plan to be able to run its own programming. We of course, I mentioned, will continue to support the Conservation Districts.

I presume and I hope we will continue to work with CACD like we work with any partner where we have shared goals. There's plenty of those, dozens of examples, of what that looks like across other organizations. But at this point I think, you know, what I've seen in the last few weeks, the amount of time I've seen my staff spend on issues that are really not theirs to deal with and the amount of time we spend throughout the year to help CACD implement its programming, at this point it's just too much for my team. It's not where I think we should be spending our time.

We've done, especially by the folks here on the phone, just an incredible amount of work to support our conservation districts. Getting millions of dollars, getting recovery money, standing up for a soil health program, reauthorizing the grant program. We will not quit with any of that, and I know CACD will remain committed to that. So that's where I see our partnership moving forward is in a shared advocacy but not in subsidized time by my staff. So, I want to make sure and have that conversation with you all. As I mentioned I've got some time for comments or questions and happy to have a dialogue here with the Board.

President Jim Cecil thanked Kate and asked if anyone has any questions or comments. **Director Mike Cleary** stated that he has a comment. He said, Well first off, I am immensely proud of the board. I think it is the best board I've ever been on, and I've been on many. But some of you know in this Camp Rocky situation, we should be judged by our actions and not by perceived interpretations. I've been on most of those calls of what was said, in particular we had an obstacle that shut us down temporarily. In executive session we voted unanimously on what would be required for Camp Rocky. It took us a while to get our requirements lined up and we proceeded and ran with Camp Rocky. So, I think the board should be commended for finding an obstacle, finding a solution, and delivering Camp Rocky to our campers. And we should be judged on what we do and how we do it. Now the path that we took may differ from the path another organization might have taken, but we delivered and that's all you can ask of the board. That is all I have to say. Thanks Mike.

Jim asked if there were any other questions or comments. Jim added that the one thing that concerns me is you discussion of core values. I'm probably speaking for the Board, if I'm incorrect you guys correct me, but our core value is conservation on the ground, our landowners that we represent and what we work for and as Mike said we might have had some different way of approaching some things, but we still were trying to serve our constituents, be that as it may, in a certain way. Our record, I believe, indicates our values and that is to conserve our environments and provide a good living for this state and the people that we interact with. We might have some political differences rather than core value differences. We may need to delve into that a little deeper. We do appreciate all the work the staff has done, not for us, but remember, our programs are for the conservation districts. This is for the people that are out there, especially in this case, the kids that were involved in the Camp. The Camp goes back a long ways with a long history. If we need to step back away for a little bit, we appreciate help you have provided to us. We've got good working relationships and as I talked with Bobbi,

the totally new staff that basically Cindy has to work with now. What's that turnover been in the last four or five years? Cindy stated that it has been tremendous, but she does not know what Jim's point is. Jim stated that CACD has partnered to get that staff in place. We're talking about core values; we're talking about what we put out from our standpoint to get CDA in a functioning position. If I'm not wrong, we've been involved in the last four hires. Cindy stated that this is correct, and she really appreciates his help. Jim added that this goes back to core values, which is what we're here for. And we're here to support the Department of Ag and we think we've done a pretty good job of it. We can't change what CDA chooses to do Kate, we understand that it's your department to run. We appreciate all the help we have had. We just hope that you can continue to look at the product on the ground and we'll continue to do anything we can to help you continue to do that.

Kate thanked everyone for having her on the call and they will continue to work on what we are all here to do for the agriculture and conservation fronts. **Jim** added that CACD will have its face-to-face meeting in about a month and hope to continue the discussion when we're all together. So, I'll do last call for comments and I guess you guys will be on for the camp Rocky update to see how Camp went. So, it was a very successful Camp. Jim again thanked the commissioner.

NRCS Update:

Randy Randall provided the NRCS update. The first item that I would go through and look to share is that Clint, as we went through and forecasted it, has gotten extended out of their national headquarters a little bit longer. The path right now for him is to go through and look to return perhaps at the tail end of August but probably sometime in September. But even when he returns back to the state, he'll be going through and helping to provide support to national headquarters. In the interim we'll probably end up having another acting come in the month of August. The reason that we will have another acting come in the month of August is so I can help to go through and get a lot of these budgeting items and some of these other CRP workload items, which I'll go through and speak to in just a bit, from a number of personal items that are going on, some hiring stuff that we have going on. Clint needs me more in that VP roll to go through and help manage and land the state smoothly with the end of the year coming. I'll be here in just that month of August as the person's coming on. My understanding is the person is probably from Idaho. I don't know if they're actually going to be here or if they will be doing remote support for us. Clint will probably work more in the background so I can get some things done. There is good news that I can share with you is that over in Area 3, Tim Macklin's position, the area conservationist that was in the Southeast portion of Colorado, we have made a selection for an area conservationist over there and I'm pleased to announce that it's Derek Clemmons. I know it's a great thing for conservation here in Colorado and for us. Derek started out his career in Byers Colorado as a soil conservationist about the same time I did and had the chance to go to work under Sammy Molinaro in Trinidad. He has been acting area conservationist over there in La Junta multiple times over multiple years and so I couldn't be more excited to go to have Derek joining the team. I think it will be value-added to all of our efforts.

It's been super tight this whole year on the budget, just nip and tuck. Up until about a week ago when we got a bit of good news from our national headquarters. We look to go through and get in any day now, upwards of about a million dollars into the state. The good news bad news with that is lot of that support is to go through and help us with the CRP workload that we got slammed with that has a due date of September 9th.

Within the budgeting side, we look to go through and round out agreements and make the agreements whole. Regarding the ones we were only able to partially fund, one of the keystone efforts will be to go through and shore up the technician agreement within the state. The initial funding was only going to go through and kick the can about 3 months down the road. We are going to look at putting maximum funding in that agreement so it will be six to seven months of funding, which will be about \$600k of what is anticipated to be received. This will take us into that Feb or March timeframe and give a chance to go through and focus in on our FY23 funding and what it's going to be. We hope to extend the agreements out as we have in the past. The other item in the planning is to put additional funds into is the Technical Services Provider pot. The reason for that is the engineering left and the implementation efforts that are left, we need to find a way to help our producers go through and get practices installed that have otherwise been delayed. We are also speaking to the travel side of

things. Knowing the majority of the CRP work is going to be occurring on the eastern side of the state, they want to tie into some of the Western Slope resources as they are available without pulling away from any of the engineering staff.

They will have some of the Western Slope staff go to the eastern side and help with the CRP. This will require travel, and a maximum for working hours. This will authorize overtime and comp time. If we are successful with getting a lift on the CPS, very specifically, we have 3.1 million acres across the nation that were accepted. Of that 3.1 million acres, we have over thirteen hundred tracks in Colorado that were identified, amounting to over six hundred and forty-seven thousand acres. The next closest state to us has sign-ups with 200 and something thousand acres behind us. So, it's going to be a lift for the field, and I need to recognize that for the folks.

With all that said our plan of action and trying to treat those CRP acres is that we're going to work from the smallest amount of CRP sign-ups to the largest amount of CRP sign-ups within those counties. The strategy being there are counties like Washington County and Baca County who have a huge workload, and it will be easier for us to request waivers for three or four counties versus 15. So that's our strategy that we have to deal with on the CRP sign-up. When our folks get done with this effort, I plan to recognize them for their efforts. I would like to be able to give them some level of recognition via award or time off. Something to go through and thank them for this tremendous lift that they're going to be challenged with. As we all know everyone's exhausted or hammered from the covid fatigue and everything else going on. As Jim mentioned earlier, we've been riding them hard for a very long time. We've got to look to take care of them.

I think with those efforts, as I mentioned, making some adjustments in the budget and our award staffing TSP side of the house I'm able to go through those agreements. I appreciate Cindy, Les and the Commissioner being understanding when we had to hold off rolling out some of our additional soils' positions. All those things were to shore up the existing staff. Things that we've done are working and have worked, so that's my plan. A lot of times folks go through and say we have a plan, but I wanted to paint the picture for you also, so you know specifically what our hopes and angle were on trying to complete this task. Any questions on the budgeting plan and CRP workload sits in front of us?

President Jim Cecil asked Randy if it's mostly new CRP or the grasslands CRP that's affecting them. Randy replied that its mostly the grasslands that they are seeing, which is good when you consider everything that we're going through and dealing with. I think it was Charlie that mentioned how bone-dry it is out there and how we're going to have a number of challenges like that coming up. I did want to share that we have been having a few folks calling in regard to some CRP concerns and things like that but I want to share that we've been working very closely with FSA to ensure that the communications are remaining consistent across lines, be it going through and looking at the tillage concerns as far as missed contract management across the County.

Interpretations remain the same and with that said, Gene Backhaus is touch point on that. He will be critical in regard to ensuring that communications between him as our touchpoint and Ivy Gene from FSA remain consistent. My ask of the Board is if you do hear of anything please reach out to either Gene or myself to give us a heads up so we can get ahead of some of these concerns and avoid some of these folks getting wound up a bit. I would appreciate your assistance in that consideration.

We have had our staff meetings, you have brought up items and we want to be responsive to those concerns that have come up, so please keep doing that. That will ensure that we can be as responsible as we can to help address those things. So, thanks for that consideration.

As you know we have NACD that's going on right now and our chief is over there in Puerto Rico. The reason I bring that up, is I thought it was an extremely timely point what the chief went through and shared with us that I will be sharing with our leadership staff and then as well with the statewide update, that I have with all employees tomorrow. I will go through the state of the state. That said, what the chief brought up is that our partnerships are built upon relationship, and that it just seems like it's an aha moment but it's really not. I don't

care if it's us talking here or me with the with wife, or just the other friends that I have, is that you know all these things are built on partnerships and relationships. I've been a partner with you all for going on thirty years and I value that partnership. I value that relationship. You know, my interactions with you all over the years, good or bad, you know we are still friends. One of my colonels years ago shared with me, "Randall don't ever let one instance define an existence." I tried to keep that mantra as I've gone through life down through business. I say that I'm sorry that we hit where we did with Camp Rocky. I was on leave that week and I came back to find out what had transpired. It's gravely unfortunate and I'm sorry that we have to have this conversation or that we're having this conversation. But again, we will take this as a learning point and will move forward. With that said of course there's those other fallout pieces that go through and come back to us on the NRCS USDA side where they'll go through and be touching base with us. I'm sure there will be some other items specific to our folks that we will have to go take a look at to ensure that equity, and discrimination things are addressed on our side of the house. We get training like that and it'll just be some additional training that we'll have to go circle back to make sure the folks had a refresher. So those are the pieces I'll be going through and will update you at our next call. But again, I just want to share with you that we're here. We will work through things. We'll go through and of course always forge our paths forward. I am always available for conversation.

Cindy Lair asked about the CRP grasslands, and the waivers in the high impact areas with a lot of tracts, like Baca and Washington counties waivers; is that an extension past the deadline for September 16th? Randy said that is exactly right. I appreciate that clarification and part of that is they want to go through and see us knock out as much as we can. National headquarters heard our pleas through Astor Boozer and through Clint. Everyone has been supportive and we are in communication, and we do go through CRP updates with FSA staff and NRCS staff so Jim, like you're saying, to ensure that consistent message and not that it as that Bob heard through Frank that Pete said this. That is too confusing.

I will close with this and ask for the board's help. I've been hit up on a couple items where one of the NRCS employees may not have been acting in a professional manner as they should. We're addressing that now, but that's never acceptable and if the board ever gets wind of one of our employees going through and not acting in a professional manner or being aggressive in any manner, please send us the message. Because there's always been that perception out there that you can't get rid of a federal employee. That is not true. I can't share with you when we get rid of a federal employee because of employee relations requirements but we do take the requisite administrative actions when folks are not abiding by the rules. So just please keep us informed on that.

The other one I would share with you now beyond just the employee issue items, I have a question come in with regards to some of the lease stuff that we have going on where a District owned building may not be getting their payments in a timely manner. If you are usually used to seeing a payment show up on the 5th and it is on the 15th and you haven't seen it, please reach out to me so we can work to get that payment made before the fact instead of after the fact. That would help us out a lot. Those are my updates that I have. Hopefully, I had a mix of good news, and just some updates, but just want you to know that we're here with you and we will go through, and we will work through this as well. So, with that Jim if there are any questions.

Cindy Lair; Randy I just wanted to say that sounds like you're going to be trying to get some staff from other parts of the state to help with some of those contracts and plans that go with the CRP grasslands and I think it's appropriate to acknowledge the hard work people are going to be putting in and if we in this partnership can help with making those acknowledgements of extra service and going above and beyond for the landowners that we're serving please keep us in mind because it might be an even bigger impact if it comes from the partnership to acknowledge the hard work they're putting in, so we can talk about ways that might happen.

Randy: Cindy thank you so much for that offering. I will be taking you up on that. **Cindy:** and again, if we have the ability to help through the farm bill the DCT program to help get a couple of people over there may be some retired NRCS that we can help with for a temporary amount of time. Les and I have been discussing that a lot, about ways that we might be able to make it happen from our end with existing funding that we have, please keep that in mind. We're willing to figure out ways to help you utilize that DCT program to make sure that we're

servicing the needs of landowners on the ground with some of those grazing plans and things like that. Randy, thank you so much appreciate it.

Legislative Update – Brett Moore:

Thanks everybody, good morning. Not a whole lot to report other than obviously I plan to participate in the face-to-face meeting and in all the events coming up. I did want to put a note there that we had originally discussed having, I need to run the numbers, but we discussed, given her great support over the last couple years, awarding Senator Donovan as our legislator of the year. She is in her final year. She's term-limited and she actually, well I guess it depends on where we end up having our face-to-face meeting, but Leadville is actually in her district, and we chatted with her about potentially having her receiving the award. I'll stand by and wait to hear what the final discussion is on all that. I'm not sure CB's in her District or not but it's certainly close, so we can still send that invite.

In the summer, also chaired by Senator Donovan, there is a Water Resource Review Committee, which is now the Water Resource and Review Committee plus AG issues. The schedule for that is the August 4th they will be in Denver at the Denver Water facility. August 24th they will be meeting in Steamboat Springs in conjunction with Water Congress and September 22nd they'll be back at the State Capital. Basically, the way those meetings work, you'll see them come in and discuss a bunch of ideas the first meeting, the 2nd meeting they'll vote to have bill concepts concerning water and ag issues drafted and then at the 3rd meeting, they'll vote as a committee to see what moves forward on that.

Representative McCormick from Longmont is the Chair of that Committee, Senator Donovan is the vice chair, Senator Bridges from Arapahoe County is on the committee, Representative Mark Catlin from Delta County or the Delta Montrose area, Senator Lewis from Boulder, Representative McKeen, House Minority Leader from Loveland, Representative Barbara McLaughlin from Durango, Representative Dillon Roberts from Eagle County, Senator Cleve Simpson from the valley and Senator Sonnenberg. So again, the first meeting on August 4th is a tour of the Denver Water headquarters. Discussion will include aging infrastructure, and economic resilience in agriculture, in packs of transmission diversions the Colorado Big Thompson Project, Non-tributary Water Resources public comment and request for draft committee legislation. We'll certainly be monitoring that to see what bills come out. Please let me know what other questions you might have for me.

Jim: Brett, who on that committee is term-limited off besides Sonnenberg and Donovan. **Brett:** I believe those are the only two. That's probably just due to their incredible activity in that the world through the course their legislative careers. The rest of them will be coming back I believe. **Jim:** Any questions for Brett? Okay, thank you.

CSCB Update - Cindy Lair:

Cindy: The good news is that we have hired Kayla Ladki to be a Regional Specialist in the Northeast region. She started on June 20th and thanks to Jim for helping us select the best person from the group that we interviewed. Appreciated your time on that Jim. She is from a Centennial Farm family and her grandfather was on the Platte Valley Conservation District and so there is some good history there and her family with farming in Weld County and she has just gone out of the chute so fast and is doing a great job already. I'm confident she is going to service us well and she's also going to be doing some outreach work in our agreement with NRCS. So, she's working closely with Petra and Cindy Einspahr who just recently moved over to work as the Outreach Coordinator for Colorado NRCS.

So, a reminder I want to let you know that we have our next State Conservation Board meeting. It's going to be in person in Middle Park and it's going to be on September 14th and 15th. And along with that we will have the Soil Health Advisory Committee. The way we're planning it is to do all of these meetings, at least the 4 per year. All will have lunch and the State Conservation Board will be finished with their meeting. They can stay if they want to hear the rest of the SHAC meeting for the afternoon, or they can get on their way and head home. But after that lunch we will have the SHAC meeting. We don't have funding to provide for their lodging and per

diem and travel expenses like we do with the State Conservation Board. So, we're going to continue to offer virtual meetings for the SHAC. If they want to come in person, we invite them and hope they will be interested in it. We'll have a little bit of money in the budget for SHAC that can pay for some lunches as well as some mileage but that's the extent of what we can afford at this point. And we are still getting details on the most affordable place to be staying during that time of the year. It might be Tabernash or something like that maybe Granby or even Grand Lake probably not Winter Park where it's a little rich for what budget we have.

I also wanted to give some updates on the soil health program. We are having a good summer. We've gotten a lot of work done and we have a lot of the field forms that have been submitted. We are trying to turn those around as quick as we can, give the star ratings, and give the field signs and things like that to the district's to hand out. We also have more funding available for the equipment grants and so it looks like some of the districts that are participating in this program might have an opportunity to submit for more funding for equipment grants to either use for their district or make available to their landowners that are participating in the STAR program. We are excited about an event we have coming up on August 13th which is a Saturday and that's going to be in Monte Vista and a tour associated with a conference in Monte Vista it's free and we just ask that people register for that. We are going to be sending out more and more invitations for people to come to that. I'm pretty excited because Jimmy Emmons from Oklahoma is going to be the keynote speaker for that meeting and he's been a soil health champion and also a leader in NACD, Conservation District leader in Oklahoma and he's just outstanding to listen to him talk so I think he'll be a great addition to this meeting coming up August 13th and that concludes my comments. If you have any questions for me, please let me know.

Thanks again George for getting us Maggie Hannah. She is going to do great. We are so excited to have her representing Upper Ark and she's just a bright star. Very fortunate to have her representing your Watershed and a lot of that is thanks to you so thanks for the extra effort there. **Director George Fosha:** One quick question. I know Nikki's trying to put together a session on the consolidation issue. Is that still on the schedule. **Cindy:** Yes. Were you part of the doodle pole? **George:** No, I was not. If somebody on the CACD would like to be on that committee we would be interested in having you participate in the discussion. You know, what George is talking about is the proposal made to the Conservation Board.

Right now, we have two districts consolidate then the Board had decided many years ago to give those districts 3 years of double direct assistance after they have consolidated. The proposal came from the Rio Grande Watershed to consider making that permanent direct double assistance. The previous Board, we've had a lot of turnover on the Board, met and they had a small committee to look at it more closely. They decided they didn't want to go forward with that proposal and accept it. But this new board that we are working with now has said hey we would like to continue that discussion and so they are continuing their discussion and looking at the pros and cons and as staff, we're putting together a list of bullet points to show these are the pros and these are the cons of going forward with something like that.

Maybe even giving a few scenarios of how it could be operated if different scenarios that the board might choose to consider moving forward with or not. But it is to help expedite that discussion. We'd love to have somebody, if I remember correctly, George and Bob, I know you were interested in it too and we'd welcome the participation of a couple of CACD members to be able to build on that conversation to make a good recommendation for the State Board to move forward with. **George:** I did have a brief conversation with Garth yesterday on some different issues, but he was very involved in the consolidation process for the two districts there in Larimer County. He described to me just the tremendous amount of work that goes into putting something up for an election like that, advertising, publicizing and everything. He told me the net result of that was they had; he said 21 votes. **Cindy:** It is a lot of work and interestingly it's more work for our staff than it is for the district's staff. But we have a pretty good way of helping the districts understand where their part comes in and we show all the things that we do to help with that election. It is a lot of work and a heavy load. The turnout for those elections is usually pretty small and it doesn't really matter how many people vote as long as you get up enough of a turnout that it's easy to call the election and say that the consolidation passed.

George: I will stay in touch with Nikki on that. I'm almost leaning toward the process of sharing district managers. That type of an approach because it sounds like the consolidation thing even people are in favor of that. Even though it's a big project so thank you. **Jim:** So, did you volunteer to be on that committee then George or not. **George:** Yes, I've responded to Nikki and said I would help out with that. **Jim:** Any other questions for Cindy? Thank you, Cindy. **Director Scott Jones:** Cindy, I just wanted to let you know that there is also a hotel in Kremmling for that upcoming meeting. If there is anything I can do to help, or anything please let me know thanks.

CDA Update – Les Owen

Good morning, everyone. Just a few things I wanted to bring up. As always, there is a lot going on but there's some kind of new ones on the wolf front. Actually, tomorrow they should publish the notice of intent Federal Register that they're beginning the scoping process for the 10J Rule. I think it'll be open for 30-day comment period for scoping comments. So, it's important that everybody weighs in at that point to get to kind of get standing in the issue and get signed up for it. There are going to be I think they're doing 3 public meetings on August 2nd they're going to be in Gunnison the third and Silverthorn on the fourth in Craig. Bobbi, I'll send you an email that's got the information.

There was a press release that came out for released it today came out for fish and wildlife service letting folks know. It should be in the Federal Register tomorrow. So that starts the NEPA process for this 10J Rule they are trying to get in place for the wolves. Concurrently the sag and twig, the sag we only have two more meetings actually on the calendar at which point in that's July and August. After that there is not any scheduled. The CPW staff will be working on actually writing the draft wolf plan for Colorado and once they have something drafted, they will hold the working groups back together. Then you know the last time I heard them talk about the schedule they're expecting you know October or Novemberish time frame to release that draft State Wolf Management Plan for public comments. So, at the same time as the federal process looking at a 10J rule which is about wolf management as well. So, it's their separate processes but they're very related.

Another kind of new one that came up yesterday in the Federal Register was, BLM is going to be doing a big game conservation management plan for the entire State. What this basically is wildlife corridors including that into all of the resource management plans in the state. They are doing an EIS for this as well. They published an NOI, so the scoping started on that. It closes September 2nd. Largely this is geared at, or at least from the description in the Federal Register notice, this is largely geared at restrictions on oil and gas development making sure that it doesn't impede big game migration corridors. That being said, it's all uses are on the table. So, it's something that we'll definitely need to keep an eye on.

There are still several plans the GMUG plan is still pending out there. We got a note from the Forester just yesterday, and they are wanting to have a conversation with us as cooperating agencies on some issues. The BLM grazing regulations have been kind of floundering also for the past couple years. I talked with someone from BLM yesterday and they said that that's fixing to come back to the surface and definitely be something that we need to keep an eye on and see where we're at.

Director Scott Jones: I heard they're having a meeting over here in Edwards on Friday and there was an article in our local newspaper of saying that they're planning on 250 wolves in the state of Colorado and there's some group that's basically trying to jump that number up to 750. Are those real numbers? It seems like overkill for the Elk population of wild game.

Les Owen: Couldn't agree more. The technical work group put together a set of numbers that would move from State listed to State threatened which is I believe it is fifty wolves for successive years to move to threaten and then 150 wolves for two successive years or 200 Wolves at any time to delist wolves in the state basically. That's not a population target it's a minimum so if there's 200 wolves on the ground forget about, you say they're not listed Federally, they're saying with 200 wolves on the ground they would no longer listed in the state. They would be a non-game species. That is not a population goal that is a minimum to achieve that. CPW, has not

come out saying we would like this many wolves. They've been very careful to say we're not going to do that. What you caught wind of is this (held up picture). This is a Colorado wolf restoration plan. The primary author is Wild Earth Guardians. 750 to 1500 is the number they want. They are hammering on CPW at this point for even considering that lethal control would be allowed as their currently considering it'.

This is inclusive of introducing Mexican gray wolves down in the southwest part of the State. But I believe the numbers with 750 to 1,500 was the actual numbers that they were proposing, and they will be presenting this plan to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to do with what they will. I hadn't heard about that meeting that you're talking about. Who is hosting that meeting? **Scott:** I am not completely sure. It is in Edwards Colorado Mountain College on Friday. Those numbers are not the amount of conflict that it would create, with that many wolves in a state that's as populated as Colorado would be unfathomable. Then where's the number going to be for the delisting. But that makes sense that this group would get together and try to do that.

There is this report. I will send it to you Bobbi. I will put it on that email. there is like 12 to 14 groups that are involved. Center for Biological Diversity, Wildlife Guardian, Sierra Club of Colorado, Colorado Voters for Animals... I mean these are the proponents of the proposition that passed this. That is not what CPW is currently looking at or considering. We don't know what they're going to end up with in their plan, but they've never even come close to releasing or even considering releasing that many wolves right away. They are only allowed to release so many in western Colorado. The ballot initiative did not specify a number. The end goal is a self-sustaining population, and the wolf proponents say, well in order to have a self-sustaining population you need 150 packs and anywhere from 600 to 1500.

Director Mike Cleary asked: I know this relates to the Western Slope, so what's with the federal government's plan if wolves wind up in National Parks over on the east side? **Les:** Nobody's really even discussed it. I think they will drift up there sooner than later. I am just curious if they plan on shooting them if they threatened tourists. The sheer level of recreation that happens in Rocky Mountain National Park will put wolves and people in the most tightly confined spaces as anywhere in the world. Any more questions for Les? Thank you, sir.

NACD Update – Bob Warner:

Bob: I will just recap what Gary has already sent to us. Envirothon will be starting shortly in Oxford, Ohio July 23rd and 24th and next year it's going to be in the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia. There is a program you're probably aware of, the Next Generation Leadership Institute which is a partnership between the National Conservation Foundation and NACD. That's a good program if anybody that has an interest in going through that leadership program. It is an excellent program.

Our regional meeting is coming up in Maui at the Royal Lahaina Resort. It's September 7th through the 9th and I think the first day will be meetings and then the next day will be a tour and then the last day will be meetings. In the past they've usually toured on the last day, but a lot of people left early. So, they've got meetings on both the first day and on the third day. Probably a system to try to keep people on site for the full meeting. Next year on February 11th through the 15th will be the annual meeting in New Orleans. It will be our 77th. You'll have this in writing on your email, so all this information is available to you from Gary and your email. So that is all I have thanks. **Jim:** Thank you Bob. Any questions or comments on what Bob talked about or what Gary sent to us? Nobody has any comments.

Jim: Cindy did you say you had to leave at 9 is that what did I hear from you? **Cindy:** Yes, I do. I do need to leave at 9. There was one other thing that I forgot to bring up, it might be good to figure out on the filming of finishing the filming for our partnership video. Might be good to figure out how or how we're going to do that. Tyler had offered to do some filming that he'd make his farm available near Del Norte which kind of helps on Christy's schedule. She said she has some health issues that she's dealing with right now and also over committed herself on her calendar this summer. She reached out to me to see if I can help her finalize some of the final filming sessions and what we need to do so she can get that taken care.

I mentioned to her that it would be good for her to go ahead and bill for the whole project even though it's not complete. Her track record is so good for getting things done and on time and I think there was a challenge with NRCS, and their agreement and I know Petra wanted to make sure she was billed and paid on time for the end of the agreement. Petra said that as long as she can get in and make sure she pays you guys, it might take a little bit more time to get the final product out just given the circumstances that are contractor is under with health problems and trying to schedule all the people that need to be filmed in that sort of thing. So anyway, just a question is, I know Jim had said something about the Buena Vista area. I don't have any ranchers that I've worked with through the districts up there. But to try to make something like that work it might be just as easy to work with Tyler on that since Del Norte's pretty close or a lot closer to work. Christy lives in Pagosa Springs. But I can let you guys decide how you want to do that. I'm just here to help facilitate and keep it moving.

Jim: I think Tyler kind of offered to use his Ranch and I'll talk to Bobbi, and we'll figure something out. I'm sure there is someone up in that area that Tyler knows. **Tyler:** We can. I'll even be your stunt double. **Jim:** Cindy, we can be extended past the 17th, is that correct? **Cindy:** Yes, we have to get NRCS billed for it. **Jim:** So, who's responsible for that? **Cindy:** I don't handle the money end of it, and I think, Bobbi did Christie send you a final invoice? **Bobbi:** No. **Cindy:** She said she was going to.

President Jim Cecil called the CACD Business Meeting to order. **Roll Call:** Mike, Charlie, George, Bob, Tyler, Scott, and Nick. **Jim:** I will entertain a motion to table the minutes and the financials. Charlie moves, Tyler seconds the motion. **Motion Passes.**

Jim: The Eagle County proposal to CACD. Does everybody have what they need on that or any update on that? **Scott:** No, we are just looking to doing a little fundraising so that's kind of the route that we decided to do in our County. It would put some money in CACD's pocket and also for our district. **Jim:** At this time, I am entertaining a motion to approve that proposal. **George** moves to accept to allow CACD to accept donations as a tax write-off and then that money would be turned over to Eagle County. Mike, I second the motion. Any opposed say no. **Motion carries.** Thank you, gentleman.

CACD Programs-Bobbi Ketels:

Face-to-Face Meeting: We need to make a final decision if we want to stay in Buena Vista or Leadville. I have been working with the program manager in the Upper Ark so our actual board meeting to be from 9 a.m. to noon with our partners and our legislator and then I'm working on bringing in a catered lunch. I will be working on that as soon as we decide where we're going to stay, I'm having a hard time finding a large enough to place that can accommodate. Tyler did text me an idea last night so I'm going to check into that today or tomorrow. I talk to you the program manager who said that there would be more accommodation for us if we wanted to stay in Buena Vista and have our meeting in Buena Vista. He's actually coming from Salida so he could meet us there. On the 17th from 9 to noon is the actual board meeting any partners that come to have lunch with us and then from 1 to 5 would be the CACD work session, and then we will hold off on the tour until the morning of the 18th.

We can start the tour and we can go from 9 to 1 and then do lunch with the program manager or we can start and go from 8 to noon and do lunch with the program manager and then. That would be on the south side of Leadville. Buena Vista is pretty close, and you will be going right through there. He said he could pull into the parking lot of the hotel, and everyone could carpool and follow him. I don't know exactly what the tour points will be yet. He said there would be quite a few. He said a good four hours for the tour. That would meet our obligation for that grant. And I just need a vote. Some of you voted via email and I just need a formal because I did not get enough for a quorum. And then I can have all that information out to everyone the beginning of next week or middle of next week.

George: I think it's a good idea to get the reservations in Buena Vista. There are more choices there. Sounds like it would work better with meeting with the Upper Ark field rep. So, I would move that we get accommodations in Buena Vista. Scott moves to 2nd the motion. **Motion carries.** Buena Vista it is.

Bobbi: Tyler and I have been discussing Envirothon. We will go in our working session at our face-to-face. Is that good with you Tyler? Tyle: Yes, maybe we will actually have a little more to discuss by then as well.

Camp Rocky went very well. We had 30 students including three Junior leaders. We contracted supervisors from RMMC which worked out very well and they actually participated during the day. Noah did a great job at sending out updates and pictures to parents through the parent portal that he created. Noah and I are working on taking all of that information and condensing it to a news release that will send out to the districts and the partners. We will have that done soon. That is all I have on Camp Rocky.

Annual Meeting: I numbered what my suggestions were for a venue choice, so I just need a vote. **Bobbi:** My first choice is Colorado Spring Marriott. They have the best room rate of \$115. In comparison to the other ones I chose, they had decent priced meals. Location is centralized which will help out the employee's association with finishing their obligations for their year-long training that was funded by CSCB. Minimum food and beverage are \$10,000 standard for all. The meal prices over all the best and in consideration of everything that is going on this year that would be the closest in the quickest for me to pull together. The location is good for shopping and restaurants for that type of thing. They just completed renovations. I think it is very important that we get to the West Slope but I'm thinking it would be better to plan for that next year and do some fundraising to help offset meals costs for our attendees and that would give us extra time to work on additional sponsorships. So, I reviewed 13-14 proposals and got crime rates for them all. With that I would ask the board to give me a final vote out of my 4 on the short list. **Jim:** Everybody understand that? George moves to have the annual meeting at Colorado Springs Marriott. Tyler seconds the motion. **Jim:** Anyone opposed to going to the Springs say no. None heard that **motion carries.** Thank you, George, and Tyler. **Bobbi:** Second thing that I would ask is a vote for the permission to go ahead and work with Crested Butte starting this year for next year. Mike Cleary makes that motion. Charlie Carnahan seconds the motion to start negotiations with Crested Butte for the 2023 convention. **Jim:** Any discussion? None. Any opposed say no. Hearing none, **motion carried.**

Bobbi will start working on finding assistance for the Annual Meeting. I already have one person lined up to help that will extremely be helpful with which we can contract. I'll have to see if I can think of some districts that would be willing to help. The biggest issue that I'm going to have is the live typing during the during a business meeting. I sent you all the proposed schedule for cutting the meeting down. The whole purpose was to cut down on funds. So, we will have our five resource committee meetings the week before Thanksgiving at night. I have not decided which night or which ones to combine. And I wouldn't do that until I see how many resolutions are going to come through. Right now, I know of only one. I have help for that, so I am not concerned about that.

Do not worry about this we will be simply fine. The next thing I need to do is get on the speakership and the break outs. I have some ideas that I will share in email. I think this year might be a really good year to maybe let the districts, or maybe even the watersheds, plan for a speaker Q&A session. The only people we have on the Annual Meeting Committee would be me and Tyler. We can keep handling it like this and then just getting your guy's input through email and our monthly meetings will be alright.

On the demonstration projects, we did receive our last approval from Randy, so now we filled all of the seven. I am working on a contract, a legal contract, which I have never done before in this type of situation working with federal government. Our new 5-year Education Outreach approval was received by NRCS for the \$30,000. I'm assuming they're still willing to let us use some of that for Camp Rocky. We will find out soon. The rest would go towards the annual meeting. I did not hear Randy say anything about any back fill like he talked about last month. They were going to look at some of that once they hit October.

So, at this point we'll just wait and see. I did put in there that we would open it up to 10 districts to apply for a \$500 education outreach one shot grant. I have two interested already. We were doing a limited amount on that

at \$4,000. That is quite a decrease but that's what we have to work with. For closing out the grant that expired on May 25th, all districts have turned in all of their paperwork to me. I am working through that.

That is about it. I think I have covered everything. Do you guys have any questions? The quarter financial review which you guys vote on; we'll do that at our face to face. We'll do our minutes and financials during our board meeting time. So, we'll have 1 to 5 for a working session. And I know for the tour part of it we will have some of the folks from Lake County Conservation District joining us as well as one of the Water Conservancy districts.

Jim: Any questions for Bobbi? I would suggest that everyone reach out to your CSCB counterpart and give them a little nudge about what our core values are and what our shared mission is. CACD is the legislative end of the districts. And the legislative end of the districts has secured quite a bit of funding with Brett's help in the last 10 years for the districts. So, the help that they give us probably has come back tenfold would be my guess. So, you might visit with your counterparts on the CSCB Board and it just kind of gently discuss the situation that we were faced with and the route that we took. If anyone else has any comments, I would be happy to listen to them now.

Mike: I've given a lot of thought to what went on, and I'm not sure it doesn't have as much or more to do with suing the Governor over the bill that allows access to private producer land and this is cover. It is always easy to throw the discrimination card. It is not so easy to say, oh you disagree with us politically. And that Right to Farm visitation is probably, I think, the core value because they can't complain about what we complain about, since I was at that second meeting, that was a historical review. Bobbi in all honesty it was a little over-the-top and all you did was quote newspaper headlines. So, you were just saying this is worst case scenario. This can happen in many scenarios and if we continue with Camp Rocky this can happen as well. It was not condemning anyone. It was just pointing out headlines.

I think the fact that the board followed through and had Camp rocky, we had an obstacle we resolved it and we went ahead with it just like we said we would. Interestingly enough it was the federal government that backed out due to liability issues, which was resolved. With the state, I think this is probably a combination of maybe the wolves, that farm visitation lawsuit, and like I say, Camp Rocky at the end of the day, we followed through. And when you talk about threats to the organization if they want to follow through with a complaint from the NRCS we have to have it in writing, request depositions from all the people that were on that planning committee, and they'll find out that it's hearsay and not an interpretation.

CACD Minutes and Financials: Tabled until the August meeting due to time constraints

The next Board meeting will be September 2022, fact-to-face in Buena Vista.

Meeting Adjourned by President Jim Cecil at 9:46 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Ketels
CACD Executive Director