

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
December 9, 2014 @ 7:30AM via Teleconference
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Gary Moyer, CACD President
Don McBee, CACD Vice President
Anthony Lobato, Director
Scott Nocks, Director
Brian Starkebaum, Director
Charlie Carnahan, Director
Jim Cecil, Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member
Cindy Lair, CSCB
Harold Unwin, CSCB
Larry Sweeney, CSCB
Susan Raymond, Director
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Gary Thrash, Director
NRCS Representation

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:33AM after establishing a quorum. Moyer called for any additions to the agenda by the Board, and hearing none, moved on with the agenda.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Gary Moyer entertained a motion to approve the November 2014 Minutes from last month's BOD meeting held in Loveland, at CACD's 2014 Annual Meeting. Anthony Lobato made the motion to approve the November 2014 Minutes and Scott Nocks provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD meeting Minutes for November 2014 passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Brett Moore stated that the CO Department of Ag made the decision to leave the location of the CO State Fair in Pueblo. There was no additional money given to the 2015 State Fair event. Brett reported that he had contacted Representative Bob Rankin to help with CACD's request for additional District funding in 2015. Rankin agreed to help in any way he can. Per the Resolution addressing the need for increased funding for the state's Conservation Districts, passed at the 2014 Annual Meeting, CACD has the direction from the Districts to go to the Legislature with a request for an increase in the amount of Direct Assistance and Matching Grant funding. There was a question on whether to present a stand-alone Bill or make an adjustment to the Long Bill. Brett reiterated to the Board how any funding legislation in 2015 will need to be moderate in nature, in order to have any chance of being successful given the changes in the Senate.

Moore reminded the Board that CO DOA Commissioner, John Salazar, would be retiring as of January 6, 2015. The CO Ag Council, which CACD is a voting member of, is staying involved with the CO Water Plan, along with the CWCB. Both Brett and CACD's Executive Director, Sharon Pattee, has been attending several of these meetings to date. The CWP draft is due to the Governor in early December and will serve as a guide for CO, not

so much as binding legislation. Other topics Moore brought to the group for discussion included updates on the Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force, the Pesticide Applicators Act, and the upcoming 2015 Legislative session. Moore reported that the O/G Task Force met in Rifle recently and that the meeting was not very productive. There is quite a bit of disagreement within the Task Force.

NRCS Updates:

There was no one on the call from NRCS. Moyer brought up the lack of information coming out the CO State NRCS office with respect to the appointment of a permanent State Conservationist. Gary had asked Astor Boozer, Western Region Conservationist, when we could expect an announcement from NRCS on the hiring of a State Con for Colorado. Boozer stated that we would hopefully have one in place by the first of the 2015 year.

CO State Conservation Board Updates:

Cindy Lair, Larry Sweeney, and Harold Unwin were all present on the call. Harold will replace Larry Sweeney as CSCB's Board President in January. Cindy reported that Wayne East took a job in the Wildlife Division, so his position is open. Cindy will offer this position to Robin Reilley and then re-open the Conservation Specialist's job for the Southeast Region/San Luis Valley. The CSCB will not meet face-to-face in January with CACD, but will have their next meeting as a teleconference on January 22nd.

Cindy Lair reported that she is looking forward to the upcoming 2015 year working with the Districts in Colorado. She is anxious to collectively meet with CACD and the new NRCS State Conservationist to start rebuilding the relationship between NRCS, CSCB and CACD. Gary Moyer agreed and committed to setting up that meeting as soon as there is a permanent State Con announced.

Larry Sweeney commented on the recent non-compliance on Matching Grant monies by a few Conservation Districts that were awarded in 2014. These few Districts expressed a reluctance to provide CSCB with necessary project information, which is a compliance factor when accepting the MG funding. Larry thank expressed his gratitude for service as President with the CSCB.

Administrative Updates:

CACD's Executive Director, Sharon Pattee had provided electronic copies of the November 2014 financial statements and asked if there were any questions on the documentation. She went through the documentation briefly, explaining where CACD was financially positioned at this point in time in FY2014. Without any significant discussion, Gary Moyer asked for a motion to accept the November 2014 financial statements as submitted. Charlie Carnahan made a motion to accept the 11/14 financial statements as presented, with Scott Nocks providing the second. The motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Pattee reviewed the current status of the 2014 annual dues payment by the Districts. She encouraged the BOD to reach out to those Districts within their respective Watersheds for any end of the year payments, although she realistically felt that there wouldn't be any further dues payments made for the 2014 calendar year.

Sharon mentioned that there needed to be a financial audit of the Upper Arkansas River Restoration project for the 2012 fiscal year. She wasn't sure why it had not been done previously, but assured the Board that she would follow up with US Fish and Wildlife on what needed to be done at this point in time.

Sharon stated that she would be putting the Winter 2015 publication of the CO Conservator out hopefully by the end of December, and has made the request to the CD's and our partners for articles for the issue. The would be a mostly electronic version of The Conservator, but that she would have 1000 to 1500 hard copies available for any District or partner that requested them. Also, she said that she will make hard copy mailings to the 2014

Annual Meeting Sponsors. She anticipated the cost of this edition to be around \$1500, quite a bit less than the normal \$5000 amount per issue.

Sharon reported that she had collected information and pricing with respect to the 2015 Annual Meeting site location, that being over on the western slope. The two hotels that were being looked at were the Vail Marriott and the Hyatt at Beaver Creek. She will have more information soon in order for the BOD to make the final decision on the location at the next meeting, in January.

A brief report was provided on the results of the Annual Meeting surveys, the CO Envirothon program, and 2015 Camp Rocky planning. She mentioned that Brett Moore's annual contract would need to be executed in January at the National Western Stock Show face-to-face meeting. Sharon will be getting out information to the Board on the Stock Show details as soon as possible.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer asked the Board for comment about having a face-to-face meeting at the Stock Show, stating that its main purpose was to meet with the new Legislative folks and honor the Farmer and Rancher Conservationists of the Year. The majority of the Board felt that this was a good time to achieve those goals and attend the Stock Show as a group, with most of the BOD saying that they would participate.

Moyer then brought up the NACD Annual Meeting would be held in New Orleans, January 31, 2015 through February 4th. He would of course need to attend, along Bob Warner, CACD's NACD Alternate. Bob would pay his own way for the conference. Gary reported that there were no "scholarships" being offered by NACD this year as in the past. Moyer said that he felt that it was important for Sharon to attend as ED for CACD. Don McBee and Scott Nocks agreed. Gary asked if there were any other interested Board members that wanted to attend, with only Brian Starkebaum expressing his interest, but only IF CACD had the money to send three people. This request died for lack of discussion. The Board then voted on sending Gary and Sharon to the 2015 NACD Annual Meeting, along with Bob Warner, with the motion being made by Don McBee and the second provided by Anthony Lobato. The motion passed unanimously.

Due to time constraints, the 2015 BOD commitments and responsibilities topic was again not discussed, but Moyer suggested that it be an agenda item to be discussed at the BOD face-to-face meeting on Thursday, January 22nd, in Denver.

Adjournment:

Gary asked for any additional items from the Board and hearing none, asked for a motion to adjourn. Scott Nocks made the motion to adjourn with Charlie Carnahan providing the second. Without further discussion, the Board voted to adjourn the December 2014 meeting at 9:32AM. The next BOD meeting will be in Denver on Thursday, January 22, 2015, in conjunction with the NWSS events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee
CACD Executive Director