

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
July 16, 2015 @ 7:30AM via Teleconference Call
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Gary Moyer, CACD President
Don McBee, CACD Vice President
Gary Thrash, CACD Director
Brian Starkebaum, CACD Director
Elaine Kist, CACD Director
Jim Cecil, CACD Director
Anthony Lobato, CACD Director
Charlie Carnahan, CACD Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Clint Evans, NRCS State Conservationist
Cindy Lair, Program Manager CSCB
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Scott Nocks, CACD Director
Harold Unwin, CSCB President
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:32AM after establishing a quorum. Gary asked if there were any additional items that needed to be added to the morning's agenda. Sharon asked if Clint Evans could go ahead of the Legislative report, due to his tight schedule. Gary asked the group for any objections, and hearing none, Moyer agreed. He then moved forward with approval of the June 2015 BOD meeting Minutes.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Gary Moyer entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 2015 meeting. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the June 2015 meeting Minutes, and Don McBee provided the second. After no further discussion from the Board, the motion to approve the CACD Board of Director's June 2015 meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

NRCS Updates: Clint Evans, CO State Conservationist, started with reporting on the Historic Preservation Administrative issues in notifying landowners. There has been turnover within that area of NRCS and obtaining a new agreement for the program has become a challenge. He then reported that he has been trying to visit as many western slope area offices as his schedule will allow, including but not limited to: Grand Junction, Meeker, Glenwood Springs, Craig, Kremmling, and Steamboat Springs. Clint is trying to find out about office administration and relationships. He was in Simla recently and visited two ranches where grazing management plans were being implemented.

Clint then touched on the RCPP project in the Colorado River Basin, specific to salinity being reduced in the Gunnison/Dolores areas. He stressed his desire that the Conservation Districts being involved in the planning process of these projects. Gary Moyer asked Clint about the NACD working with NRCS in streamlining the planning processes for the field offices. Clint said that NRCS will forward their responses on to NACD.

Evans then touched on the NRCS Tool Box automated system to help landowners in their reporting on the implementation of their conservation projects. Clint apologized for not being able to stay on for the entire call and thanked CACD for allowing him time on the agenda.

Legislative Update:

Brett Moore, CACD's lobbyist, stated that the CO Legislature was on their summer break, so not a whole lot is going on. A copy of his last Bill Tracking Sheet is posted on the CACD website for public review. Brett briefly spoke about the Public Trust Doctrine ballot initiative and that it was still moving forward. He said that he would provide updates when he had them. The 2016 Public Trust ballot initiative process is being reviewed and the supporters are looking for an appropriate "title" for election purposes. He reiterated the hope that it won't ever make it on to the ballot.

He also touched on the new Senate Majority leader; attending CO Ag Council and CAWA meetings with Sharon; the CO Water Congress; and finally, the CO Water Plan meetings. Brain Starkebaum encouraged the public to provide input on Ag issues.

CO State Conservation Board Updates: Cindy Lair, Program Manager for the CSCB, reported on the CSCB meeting in Canon City on June 1st and 2nd, and that it was very successful and was well attended. The 2015 Direct Assistance review process was completed and the scoring and funding levels were further discussed by the CSCB. The results would be forwarded out to the Districts in a timely manner. Most all of the Districts would most likely see a decent jump in the amount of the state funding, especially in the mid-range. Cindy went on to explain that due to the problems with the DOA's new financial system, there would most likely be a delay in the delivery of those funds. She said that she would draft a letter and have CACD review it, prior to sending it out to the Districts explaining the problems with the funding situation. She related that she was disappointed with this unfortunate problem and felt very bad for the Districts.

Cindy then reminded the group that Karen Wolf was hired as the conservation specialist for the western slope and started in Grand Junction on July 7th. The next focus would be the SE/San Luis Valley specialist position, which would be closed for applications, and that the interview would be started as soon as possible. She hoped that someone would be hired by mid-August.

She finished with reporting that there may be financial cuts to the Matching Grants funding and the District Technician program for the 2016 fiscal year.

Administrative Updates: Sharon Pattee started with review of the June 2015 financial reports, earlier submitted to the Board. After a few notations, she asked if there were any questions on her documentation. Hearing none, Gary Moyer asked the Board to accept the June 2015 financials as presented. Anthony Lobato made a motion to accept the June 2015 financial statements as presented, and Don McBee provided the second. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Sharon then provided the Board the to-date report of the 2015 District dues paid, encouraging each Director to contact the Districts within their own Watersheds about getting their 2015 annual dues payments in to CACD.

Sharon then reported briefly on the 2015 Annual Meeting Program Committee's progress to date. The Committee is meeting via teleconference call approximately every two to three weeks, at this point in time, and she feels that things are progressing well.

Sharon said that all the arrangements were made and ready for the Sargent High School's FFA team to attend the National Envirothon contest at the end of the month. Also, she said that the wrap-up 2015 Camp Rocky teleconference call would take place in the next several weeks. She related that she would be travelling up to Douglas County, along with Brenda Anderson (Center CD), to tour a Douglas County Schools facility as a possible site for 2016 CO Envirothon and Camp Rocky.

Sharon finally reported that arrangements were being made for the CACD Board face-to-face meeting in Pagosa Springs, on August 17 and 18. She asked that the BOD and invited partners let her know whether they would be attending as soon as possible, so that the appropriate reservations can be made. She said that she was working with Gary Thrash and John Taylor, with the San Juan CD on a bio-fuels tour and would send out any and all information to the Board and partners, as soon as it was available.

Finally, Sharon reminded each Watershed Director to attend their Fall Watershed meetings. These Watershed meetings are very important for the CACD resolution process, in preparation for the CACD Annual Meeting. She again stressed the importance of CACD being represented at the District and Watershed level, whenever possible by those that represent them.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer reported on the NACD Summer Board meeting that he attended July 11 – 13, in Spokane, WA. He attended in the place of Shaun Sims, NACD Executive Board member, who was unable to attend. Gary's expenses will be picked up in full by NACD. Moyer reported that the major focus for the Southwest/Pacific Regions centered on filling the position of Western Issues Specialist, which serves as the staff person for both Regions and was recently vacated. There was a strong consensus from the members that make up the SW and Pacific Regions was that the position should be housed somewhere in the west, rather than in Washington DC, which is the current location. The feeling was that the states in the western part of the country will be better served by this staff person being closer in proximity and having improved availability and better face-to-face contact with the SW/Pacific Region membership. He stated that a special meeting of the in NACD Executive Board was held and the motion that the Western Issues Specialist position be located somewhere in the western part of the country was approved by NACD.

Gary brought up the Leadership line item in CACD's budget and whether or not money should be used to provide some "scholarships" to the 2015 CACD annual meeting. It was decided that this would be reviewed more thoroughly in Pagosa Springs, during the face-to-face BOD meeting on August 18, due to the time.

Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Gary asked for a motion to schedule the next CACD Board of Directors meeting on August 17 and 18, in Pagosa Springs. Don McBee made the motion, and Gary Thrash provided the second. Without further discussion the Board voted unanimously to set the next BOD teleconference call on the August 17/18 and the July 2015 BOD meeting adjourned at 9:14AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon

Sharon Pattee
CACD Executive Director