

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016 at 7:30AM via Teleconference
(712) 432-0180, passcode 810871#

Attendees:

Don McBee, CACD President
Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President
Gary Moyer, Director
Gary Thrash, Director, NACD Alternate Board Member
Elaine Kist, Director
Charlie Carnahan, Director
Scott Jones, Director
Brian Starkebaum, Director
Jim Cecil, Director
Bob Warner, NACD Board Member
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Guests:

Cindy Lair, CO State Conservation Board Program Manager

Absent:

Mike Cleary, Director
Clint Evans, CO State Conservationist

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:34am after establishing a quorum. McBee called for any additions to the agenda by the Board, and hearing none, moved on with the agenda.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the February 2016 BOD minutes from last month's meeting. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the February 2016 minutes and Gary Moyer provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the February 2016 BOD minutes passed unanimously.

NRCS:

Clint Evans was not available to participate in the March 2016 teleconference. Don McBee stated that he would be meeting with Clint on March 11, along with Sharon, Cindy Lair and Harold Unwin in Lamar, to discuss CACD, CSCB and NRCS collaboration and its partnership.

Legislative Update:

Brett Moore, CACD lobbyist, reported that during the March 2016 Legislative Committee teleconference call approximately 18 bills were discussed. The Committee outlined CACD's position of either support or monitor, by going through the Capitol Watch Tracking Sheet on each of the bills. This lengthy report is updated and available monthly on the CACD website for anyone to review.

Brett stated that the South Platte Water Storage bill (HB16-1256) passed unanimously earlier in the week. The State Water Law vs. Federal Agencies (HB16-1109) was still in play, along with the Destructive Rodents bill (HB16-1010). There was a question asked if the Black Footed Ferret would be considered a “destructive rodent”? It was discussed and determined that it would not. Brett reported that the budget was holding steady, with the severance tax matching grants funds will likely drop for 2017 and the DCT funding that comes from the general fund will hold steady until 2017 anyway. Brett mentioned that the video testimony around the state seemed to be working well. The locations available were held at four college campuses, throughout Colorado.

Anthony Lobato mentioned that he received a telephone call/survey from some entity regarding the Sage Grouse, but that he couldn't remember who had authored and conducted it.

Moore reminded the group that the CO Ag Day at the Capitol was set for March 16th. Also, he reminded the Board that CO Ag Council meets every other week, during the legislative session, at the Capitol. Brett and Sharon Pattee both attend, from 7:30AM to 9:00AM twice per month. It was briefly discussed about getting District Supervisors to the Capitol during the legislative session. Gary Moyer mentioned that the state of Idaho had a successful program in this regard.

CO State Conservation Board Updates:

Cindy Lair, DOA Program Manager for the CO State Conservation Board, again reported to the Board about how engaged Commissioner Brown is in CO agriculture and the importance of the state's Conservation Districts. She said that his plan of the Conservation Services Division reorganization was moving forward and that the Division Leader's position was open for about another week. This position will focus on how ranchers/farmers deal with any and all Public Land use issues. Gary Moyer asked if this position might be housed on the western slope where the majority of CO's public lands exist. Cindy said that she wasn't sure that that would be feasible.

Cindy also mentioned the ongoing communications with the CO Department of Public Health and Environment, with regard to the Lower Arkansas River valley's issues with water quality, specifically with the concern of non-point source run-off. This was mainly of concern from John Martin Reservoir to the Kansas state line. The study is looking to rewrite the area's Watershed Plan, improve best management practices, and engage local landowners through the Conservation Districts. She mentioned that Sharon had been privy to some of this continuing dialogue and hoped that CACD would see the opportunity in supervising some of the education and public outreach as this program develops. A coordinator would most likely be housed in Prowers County, in either Lamar or Las Animas.

Cindy concluded with reminding the group of the importance of the Local Work Group sessions, and urged the CACD Directors to engage in these meetings whenever possible. She said that her staff would be facilitating a lot of these meetings, and that a “calendar” was available on the CSCB L.A.N.D.S. website for the Districts to put in there dates and times of these LWG sessions.

Administrative Updates:

Don McBee wanted to start with discussion on the District funding request letter that went out to approximately 8 CD's around the state. It was suggested by Gary Moyer that there should be some kind of follow up communication with these Districts, offering CACD representation during the Districts' next meeting, where the letter would be discussed. Sharon Pattee said that she would draft an email in this regard and send it out to the Executive Committee for approval. Upon that approval, she would then send the email out to those Districts that received the letter requesting additional financial support and would update the EC accordingly.

Sharon Pattee provided copies of the February 2016 financial statements and provided some verbal disclosure and review of the miscellaneous reports. She asked for any questions and after some discussion, Don McBee

asked for a motion to accept the February 2016 financial statements as presented. Gary Moyer made the motion to accept the financial statements as presented, and Jim Cecil provided the second. The motion was then passed unanimously by the Board. Sharon reviewed the 2016 District dues payments received to date, again stating that more of the Districts have sent in their dues payments earlier this year than in the past.

Carried over from the February 2016 teleconference, Sharon moved the discussion to Brett Moore's contract as CACD's lobbyist and Amy Gossman's 2016 Camp Rocky contract. She had sent a copy of both contracts out to the Board for review and said that Brett had made some slight non-specific changes to his, but otherwise was ready to execute his with CACD. She again reminded the Board that, per their direction, she had reduced Amy Gossman's contracted amount by \$1000.00 for 2016. She did include a statement that, upon CACD Board approval, a bonus of \$1000.00 could be given at the end of camp in July IF the camp numbers were up from last year and the money was available to provide such. The motion was made by Gary Thrash and seconded by Charlie Carnahan, that Sharon could execute both Brett's and Amy's contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharon reported that she had received the Lifetime Membership plaques to be given to those that had made that donation to CACD, and that she would be either mailing those out or hand delivering them to the contributors in the next few weeks.

Lastly, Sharon asked the Board on some direction with regard to her travel. There was some discussion that followed, keeping in mind that current state of CACD budget in general and whether her attendance was necessary at District and Watershed level meetings. Sharon stated strongly that she thinks that is very important for her to attend all of the Watershed meetings that her schedule will allow, and some District meetings when invited. A few of the Board Director's didn't agree, so she asked how the Board wanted her to "prioritize" her time and travel. There was some further discussion that resulted in various opinions.

President's Updates:

President, Don McBee asked if anyone had any additional ideas for CACD funding options. Sharon said that if each Director would provide her with contact names that she would follow up with the CACD request for funding letter.

Adjournment:

Don McBee asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gary Moyer so moved with Anthony Lobato providing the second. The motion to have the next CACD Board of Directors meeting passed and would be via teleconference on April 13, 2016, at 7:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon

Sharon Pattee
CACD Executive Director