

# Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

November 10, 2014 @ 1:00PM

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Loveland, CO

## ***Attendees:***

Gary Moyer, CACD President  
Don McBee, CACD Vice President  
Gary Thrash, Director  
Anthony Lobato, Director  
Scott Nocks, Director  
Brian Starkebaum, Director  
Charlie Carnahan, Director  
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist  
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member  
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director  
John Taylor, Guest

## ***Absent:***

Jim Cecil, Director  
Susan Raymond, Director

## ***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 1:09PM 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 October 2014 Minutes from last month's teleconference call. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the October Minutes and Scott Nocks provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the October 2014 Minutes passed unanimously.

## ***Legislative Update:***

Brett Moore gave a breakdown on the election results from November 4th, including briefings on the ballot initiatives, propositions, amendments, etc. Brett spoke about how any 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.

There was discussion about the possibility of doing a workshop for the Districts on the task of trying to run a mill levy to obtain additional funding. This led to more discussion on other funding ideas for the Districts in 2015. Scott Nocks mentioned how some Districts engage with and ask their County Commissioners for help with their funding and how such involvement can be highly beneficial. Also, the severance tax issue was brought up and discussed briefly, along with how county comprehensive and land use plans should involve the local Districts.

Brett then updated the Board on the Governor's twenty-one member Oil and Gas Task Force. The next O/G Task Force group meeting was scheduled for November 20th, in Loveland, not in Rifle where it was originally set for. Brett commented that CO has some of the toughest regulations on the O/G industry in the nation. Any regulatory decisions will most likely be pushed into mid-2015. It was brought up that although CACD does not currently have any existing Policy on the subject of oil and gas issues, there was a 2014 Resolution coming forth, to be discussed in the Soil and Land Resource Committee on Tuesday, November 11th.

The Board then moved into a review of all the 2014 Resolutions that would be here on the following afternoon by the five Resource Committees. A description, an explanation (if needed), and comments were made on each of the seventeen proposed Resolutions was given so that the Board had a clear understanding of each one. Some of the most discussed Resolutions were the several that dealt with going to the Legislature for additional funding for the Districts in 2015. It was stressed that if those Resolutions, all or in part, were passed by the Committee and then by the General Membership, that there would need to be research done, with important statistics gathered and reviewed, before going in front of the 2015 Legislature.

***CO State Conservation Board Updates:***

Since the CACD Board and the CO State Conservation Board had met earlier in a joint meeting, there was no additional report provided by CSCB.

***NRCS Updates:***

There were no NRCS participants at this meeting, so no updates were presented. The Board did discuss the critical situation within CO with regard to not having a permanent State Conservationist yet. There were comments about the Districts' frustration and feelings of being disconnected with NRCS in a lot of areas around the state. Gary Moyer assured the Board that once there was a permanent State Conservationist appointed, CACD and CSCB would arrange a meeting to discuss the critical state of the Districts' relationships with NRCS.

***Administrative Updates:***

Sharon Pattee provided copies of the October 2014 financial statements and asked if there were any questions on the documentation. She went through a few of the reports, commenting on certain line items, and explaining where CACD was financially positioned at this point during the year. With no further discussion, Gary Moyer asked for a motion to accept the October 2014 financial statements as submitted. Scott Nocks made the motion to accept the financial statements as presented, and Anthony Lobato provided the second. The motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Sharon then presented the Draft 2015 Budget to the Board that would be presented to the General Assembly on Thursday morning, November 13th. She went through the budget draft, by Class and by line item, making comments as to how each of the figures had been arrived at in the budgetary process. It was noted that CACD's funding was not as complex as it used to be since different funding sources had be either cut back or eliminated. After some additional discussion, Gary Moyer asked for a Motion to approve the Draft 2015 Budget to be presented to the CACD membership during the Thursday morning General Assembly meeting, on November 13th. Scott Nocks made the motion, with Brian Starkebaum providing the second. The Motion then passed unanimously.

The current status of the annual dues paying Districts was reviewed. The Board was encouraged to contact those Districts within their Watersheds that had not paid any 2014 dues to date.

Moving to the subject of the Conservator, Sharon said that she had looked into getting a figure from Print For Less on what it would cost to do only an electronic version of The Conservator. She reported that an electronic version with about 1000 hard copies printed would cost CACD about \$1500, more or less, depending upon the size of the issue. Sharon stated that after the annual meeting, she would start working on getting another issue of the CO Conservator lined up for publication.

Sharon reminded the Board that they were going to provide a meeting room on Wednesday afternoon, November 12th, for some of the District Managers to meet and try to get things sorted out with respect to the Employees Association. Several of the Board Directors stated that they hoped that the EA could move forward in a healthy and collaborative way, being affiliated with CACD.

She then moved the discussion to the subject of the 2015 Annual Meeting site options—specifically Snowmass, Beaver Creek, and Vail. She reported that the bid from the resort in Snowmass was completely out of the question. So, she would be taking a hard look at the Beaver Creek site and the Vail Marriott as soon as she had those bids to compare. Sharon suggested that the Board discuss this again, in December, when there had been sufficient time to discuss how the 2014 Annual Meeting turns out.

***President's Updates:***

Gary Moyer started the discussion with some of the last minute details of the Annual Meeting, reviewing the Resolution Process, General Assembly Meetings, the Award ceremonies, and the CACD Membership Business Meeting.

Gary again addressed the letter to CACD from Prowers CD about NRCS and stated that, as mentioned last month that the Prowers comments would be addressed with NRCS as soon as a permanent State Conservationist was in place.

Moyer then asked for a Motion from the Board on whether to raise, lower, or leave at the same amount the District annual dues for 2015. Don McBee moved to leave the annual District dues amount at \$1000 and having the individual dues remain at the \$35 amount. Scott Nocks provided the second to that Motion, and after brief discussion, a vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Due to time constraints, the 2015 BOD commitments and responsibilities topic was not broached.

***Additional Items:***

Mr. John Taylor asked if he could address the Board about a water situation down in the southwest part of the state, specifically dealing with the San Juan/Chama water diversion on the New Mexico and Colorado border. He explained briefly to the Board about needing help with respect to the Crowley Reservoir. It was suggested that he contact Debbie Hughes, Executive Director for the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts about the issue and then report back to CACD as to any progress made.

***Adjournment:***

Gary asked for adjournment, stating that the December BOD meeting would be on December 10, 2014 at 7:30AM. Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee  
CACD Executive Director