***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

 ***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

***September 12, 2016 at 7:30AM via Teleconference***

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Bob Warner, NACD CO Board Member

Charlie Carnahan, Director

Brian Starkebaum, Director

Gary Thrash, Director and NACD Alternate Board Member

Mike Cleary, Director

Gary Moyer, Director

Scott Jones, Director

Jim Cecil, Director

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Clint Evans, CO NRCS State Conservationist

Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager

Harold Unwin, CSCB President

Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:33AM after establishing a quorum. McBee called for any additions to the agenda by the Board and two additional items were placed on the agenda by Anthony Lobato and Mike Cleary.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the August 2016 BOD minutes from last month’s face-to-face meeting in Loveland. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the August 2016 minutes and Gary Thrash provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the August 2016 BOD minutes passed unanimously.

***Legislative Update:***

CACD’s lobbyist, Brett Moore stated that he would be attending the 2016 State Fair Ag Commissioner’s Luncheon in Pueblo, on September 26th, along with the Legislative BBQ that evening. He also gave a brief report on the few Ballot Initiatives that were to show up in November, to include the minimum wage initiative and how that could affect some Ag producers. Moore also reviewed the Severance Tax reduction picture for 2016 and 2017. Brett then addressed the recent Resolution from El Paso County CD about having the CACD Executive Director do the lobbying for CACD. He stated some gains that he had made over the past five years as CACD’s lobbyist. Sharon Pattee mentioned that the particular Resolution failed at the Upper Arkansas River Watershed meeting that was held on September 2nd. Moore also mentioned that the last legislative Interim Water meeting was scheduled for September 20, and that the 2017 Legislative Session would start on January 11, 2017.

Finally, Moore reiterated the importance of CACD’s association with the Raise The Bar group and how their fight on making it more difficult to amend the CO state constitution was so important to rural Colorado. Gary Moyer agreed. Brett concluded with how important it was for CACD to stay engaged with the CO Ag Council.

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

Harold Unwin, CSCB President, started off this report by stating that the CSCB Fall 2016 quarterly face-to-face meeting would be held in Steamboat Springs, September 7 and 8, and invited any of the CACD Board members to attend. Gary Moyer said that he was planning on coming to the meeting on at least one of the days. Sharon would be attending both days. Unwin then moved to the subject of the current Severance Tax dilemma. He pointed out that for FY2017 things looked grim, and the situation didn’t look a whole lot better for 2018. He stated that the DCT funding was an absolute priority for the CSCB and of course, NRCS.

Harold then spoke about Les Owen, the newest team leader for the Conservation Services Division of the CO Department of Ag. The conversation moved to Owen being introduced formally at the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting in Loveland, by Ag Commissioner Don Brown, as the keynote speaker on November 15th. Harold said that the CSCB would try to offer a few scholarships to attend the NACD meeting in late January, where Colorado is to me the host state for the national annual meeting.

Cindy Lair then addressed the group, speaking to the 2017 Matching Grants funding and 2017 Severance Taxes. She suggested that at the previously discussed Breakout Session formats, during the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting in November, that an emphasis be placed on the Severance Tax issue. Cindy suggested that Bob Kendall and/or Bill Levine, for the CO Department of Natural Resources, be contacted to do the Breakout Session discussion on how the Severance Tax works, the Tier II funding spot, and awareness on obligations and expenditures thereof.

She mentioned that Les Owen, her new boss and Department Head, was eager to work with the Conservation Districts of Colorado, on any and all federal land issues, miscellaneous District/landowner problems, paperwork, etc. Gary Moyer asked that, in the near future, a meeting might be had with Les and the CACD President, ED, and any other Board member that was interested and available to attend such a meeting. Cindy thought that that was a good idea, somewhere in the not too distant future. Brett Moore, CACD’s Lobbyist, would be invited to attend such a meeting, also. It was suggested that, at a minimum, Owen be included on CACD’s next conference call, in October.

Cindy then moved onto to the other new staffing changes and re-introduced Barb and Nancy, the newest members of her office staff team, and their duties at the CO DOA. She then asked Mike Cleary to further identify the issue that he had addressed earlier about the ROW’s and the BLM and BOR. This issue was discussed a little bit further among those still on the call.

***NRCS:***

Clint Evans reported to the Board with updates to his staffing changes, newest hires, and how the NRCS fiscal year ends September 30. He said that the 2016 was at a record high for EQIP contracts in Colorado, approximately fifth in the nation. Evans mentioned a Legislative briefing that might come up in October sometime with Ag Secretary Vilsack.

Evans continued to express concern about the DCT funding for 2017, and if there was any way that NRCS could testify to the value of this program, at the start of the 2017 Legislative Session.

Clint then brought up the meeting he had had with Sharon Pattee, about working on some kind of an agreement between NRCS and CACD, with certain deliverables. He wasn’t sure if the CACD Board had had a chance to discuss the idea, but encouraged them to do so. He stated that although the first year would only be at around $12,500.00, that he would look at increasing this amount depending upon the success of the first year’s agreement. He had specific ideas in mind, which had not necessarily matched up with what Sharon had suggested, i.e. leadership training, capacity building, and trainings on the clear relationship and roles of the Districts and NRCS. Mike Cleary asked if this could be accomplished at the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting.

Clint reminded the group that the next NRCS State Technical meeting will be September 14, at the DOA in Broomfield. This was scheduled during the NACD Southwest/Pacific Region meeting (September 13 – 16, in Sacramento, CA) so Sharon Pattee wouldn’t be able to attend. Don McBee said that he should be able to call in, at a minimum, for this meeting.

***Administrative Updates:***

The August 2016 financial statements were sent out to the Board for review prior to the teleconference call by Sharon Pattee. After a very brief review of the reports, she then asked for any questions. Upon hearing none, she asked for approval of the August 2016 Financial Statements as presented. Jim Cecil made a motion to accept the financial statements as presented, and Anthony Lobato provided the second. The motion was passed unanimously to accept the August 2016 financial statements by the Board. Sharon then reported briefly on the 2016 District dues payments received to date.

She then gave brief updates on the 2016 Annual Meeting and the 2017 NACD Annual Meeting planning progress. Sharon concluded with asking the Board if there were any questions on items that she had not formally discussed. Hearing none, she concluded her reporting.

***NACD:***

Gary Moyer addressed the CACD Board starting with information on the upcoming NACD Regional meeting for the Southwest and Pacific, to be held September 13 through 16. He stated that he would be attending, as the NACD Executive Board member (which NACD pays for his travel), and also that Bob Warner would be attending, along with Sharon Pattee. He stated that, as a Region, the Southwest members would be carrying a 2017 Resolution regarding water quantity issues and the EPA. Moyer provided some detail as to what he anticipated the Resolution would entail. He then said that the NACD Executive Board was in the process of reviewing the 2017 NACD Policy Book, stating that there had been recent discussion on the EB being able to “massage” existing Policy.

Moyer then spoke about the upcoming 2017 NACD Annual Meeting, hosted by Colorado, and to be held in Denver, January 28 through February 2. He provided some preliminary details on the meetings draft agenda and said that Don Brown had been invited, along with Cory Gardner, Governor Hickenlooper, and even Peyton Manning, all as potential keynote speakers. He briefly spoke about the CO hosted “tour” on Wednesday, February 1st, up to Berthoud Pass, to inform the attendees about CO water law, the trans-mountain diversions, and the Pine Beetle infestation. This tour would be limited to the first 100 people to sign-up.

At this time, there was further discussion on the issue that Mike Cleary had raised with regard to the water rights-of-way and the BLM and BOR. There was mention about perpetual easements for ditches/ditch companies, and Moyer tried to clarify if this was just a CO water issue or a national problem. Cleary said that he would update the Board accordingly on the October 2016 CACD Board teleconference call.

***President’s Updates:***

At this time, Don McBee asked for a roll call of the CACD Board Directors.

McBee then addressed the issue of an invoice from Rusty Collins for the facilitation of the August 2016 face-to-face meeting in Loveland. It had been understood that his service, through CSU Extension, was to be at no charge, by McBee, Anthony Lobato, and Sharon Pattee, from earlier conversations with Collins. After further discussion, it was decided to ask Collins to apply the $350 billing to a CACD Lifetime Membership award. A motion was made by Gary Moyer and seconded by Anthony Lobato to follow through with this plan of action. The motion passed unanimously by the Board, and Anthony Lobato said that he would contact Rusty and explain this reasoning and ask for approval, and then report back to the CACD Board.

McBee then addressed the issue of certain documentation being available just to the CACD Board—things like the CACD Director’s Terms of Office, the Executive Director’s job description, etc. Gary Thrash suggested having a Google One Drive account for this reason. He said that he could easily set this up and then school the Board on how to use it.

In conclusion, Don asked that another Long Range Planning Committee teleconference be scheduled before the end of September, to further discuss the reports that Rusty Collins had provided last month in Loveland. Sharon said that she would send out a poll on possible dates for said conference call and follow up accordingly.

***Adjournment:***

Don McBee adjourned the September 2016 CACD Board of Directors teleconference meeting at 9:03AM, and said that the next CACD Board teleconference call would be Wednesday, October 5th, at 7:30AM. Sharon would be sending out the meeting details in the next few weeks.

Respectfully Submitted,

 *Sharon*

Sharon Pattee

CACD Executive Director