***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

 ***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

***October 5, 2016 at 7:30AM via Teleconference***

***CACD Teleconference Number: (712) 432-0180 passcode 810871#***

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

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

Les Owen, DOA Conservation Services Director

Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager

Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

***Absent:***

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Bob Warner, NACD CO Board Member

Harold Unwin, CSCB President

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:32AM after establishing a quorum. McBee called for any additions to the agenda by the Board. Gary Thrash asked if the CWCB and Travis Custer issue could be revisited, discussion ensued. There was a concern that CACD’s endorsement of Travis Custer to the CWCB, without further understanding of Travis’s background and on whether this would possibly set a precedent for CACD in the endorsement arena. Also, there was concern about making sure that all of the applicants, in this case for the current CWCB purpose, would be given the same opportunity for CACD’s endorsement. It was decided that more information and background was needed from Travis, as well as any other potential applicant. Gary Thrash stated that he would address these concerns with Travis Custer and then report back to the CACD Board of Directors.

There were no other additions to the agenda at this time.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the September 2016 BOD minutes from last month’s teleconference call. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the September 2016 minutes and Mike Cleary provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the September 2016 BOD minutes passed unanimously.

***NRCS Updates:***

Clint Evans said that the Area 1 Conservationist had finally been hired. NRCS Soil Resource Scientist from Area 1, Francine Lheritier, would be starting as the Area Con around mid-October. Evans reported that the Area 1 boundary would remain the same as it has been, at least for now, covering the entire western slope and that Francine would be based out of Grand Junction—not in Alamosa, as was Mike Collins.

Clint stated that he was busy with staff performance reviews, and had also travelled down to the southwest corner of the state for some salinity work group meetings. NRCS was in the process of reviewing and evaluating the State Technical Committee recommendations and they would be incorporated into a report that would be provided at the annual meeting. He said that there would be letters going out to the sixty or so conservation districts that had participated in local work group meetings around the state. These letters were to state why the conservation districts listed priorities were or were not funded for the upcoming 2017 EQIP year. Clint mentioned that there were payment caps on pivot sprinklers and certain irrigation practice upgrades—most looking to be around $30K to $35K for the eastern slope/front range, with slight adjustments.

Evans encouraged CACD to provide a proposal for a working agreement between NRCS and CACD, outlining certain deliverables, to him as soon as practical. Don McBee stated that this was a topic for a CACD Executive Committee teleconference in the near future.

In closing, Clint said that he was looking forward to addressing the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting attendees, in Loveland, next month. He said that his speech would probably focus on the 2016 disbursement of EQIP monies.

He stated that he was planning on contributing about $5000 toward the annual conference, as he did last year.

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

Les Owen, the CDA’s newly hired Director of the Conservation Services Division and Federal Lands Specialist, introduced himself to the CACD Board. Owen gave a little bit of background information on himself and also communicated what he envisioned his role to be in Colorado’s conservation efforts and for his Department in general. Gary Thrash, CACD’s Director from the San Juan River Watershed, asked Les about the BLM and local ditch company’s rights of way. Gary Moyer asked commented about the wild horse issues that were plaguing the western slope, especially in northwestern Colorado.

Cindy Lair then addressed the group, reporting that the CSCB had had a successful meeting in Steamboat Springs last month, which was well attended by her Board and a few other folks from CACD and the local Conservation Districts. During this meeting, her Board approved the applications for the educational mini-grants for 2016 and discussed at length the fragile funding of the 2017 severance tax monies. Her biggest concern, expressed to her Board, was the funding for the District’s DCT programs. This program funding would remain the highest priority, even at the sake of the 2017 Matching Grant program funds. She stated that she was planning a meeting with the CO Department of Natural Resources for the joint CACD/CSCB Board meeting in Loveland next month. She would be asking Bill Levine, Budget Director for the DNR, to attend the Board meeting on Monday morning, November 14th, to explain how the severance tax money was collected, allocated, and disbursed.

Cindy then moved on to the subject of the agreement that was being finalized between the CDA Conservation Services Division and the CO Department of Public Health and Environment, to address water quality concerns and issues in the Lower Arkansas River Valley, including revisiting and revising the current watershed plan that is in place for that area. There is a concern that Kansas could potentially bring issue about the amount of selenium that is being pushed across the state line.

***CACD Legislative Updates:***

Brett Moore, CACD’s lobbyist, reported that with elections right around the corner there were several key seats in the legislature to watch. He provided an informational review of certain statewide key races and the few ballot Initiatives that would be on the November ballot. Moore also again commented on the likely Severance Tax reduction picture for 2016 and 2017.

Moore also gave a brief report on the last legislative Interim Water meeting that took place on September 20, saying that the committee would lose about one half of its current members. He stated that 2017 Legislative Session would start on January 11, 2017, and that the next CO Ag Council meeting was the day after CACD’s annual meeting on November 17th.

 He also reminded the group of supporting the Raise The Bar movement that was to make it more difficult to amend the CO state constitution which would bring in rural Colorado’s voice on key issues, instead of most signature criteria being met through urban areas. Gary Moyer asked Brett to compare the Bennett vs. Glenn race, with Brett responding that most likely Bennett would retain the Senate seat.

Brett ended with stating that he was looking forward to next month’s 2016 Annual Meeting, and would have the suggestions for CACD’s Legislator of the Year information out to the Legislative Committee within a week or so.

***CACD Administrative Updates:***

Sharon reminded that Board that they were sent copies of the September 2016 financial statements, via email, prior to the October teleconference. She briefly reviewed the reports and then asked for any comments or questions. There were no particular questions, so she asked for approval of the September 2016 Financial Statements as presented. Charlie Carnahan made a motion to accept the financial statements as presented, and Gary Moyer provided the second. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously accepting the September 2016 financial statements by the Board. Sharon gave a report of the 2016 District dues payments received to date.

Sharon then provided brief updates on the 2016 Annual Meeting and the 2017 NACD Annual Meeting. She reminded the Board about CACD’s Live Auction event and that if any of the Board members wanted to take more of an active role in the event that it would be greatly appreciated. Don McBee said that he had contacted a couple of businesses in his area for auction item donations, and that he would help with the event. Gary Moyer asked if there were any updates to the 2017 NACD CACD hosted tour on Wednesday, February 1st. He said that he thought that John Stulp and Chris Treese would be excellent tour speakers, one on each bus, going up to Berthoud Pass and then switching on the way back to Denver. Sharon reported on the status of the NACD Breakout Session proposals submitted from Colorado, stating that 3 of the 4 that were submitted were accepted. She concluded with asking for any questions from the Board.

***NACD Updates:***

Gary Moyer briefly reported on the NACD Southwest/Pacific Regional meeting in September, held in Sacramento and attended by him, Sharon, and Bob Warner. He said that it was a well -attended meeting and that at least one CO Resolution was approved by the Southwest region, to be carried on to the National Meeting in Denver, in January 2017. Moyer then spoke to the progress being made on the 2017 NACD Annual Meeting to be held January 28 through February 2, at the Sheraton Downtown Denver. He reported on some of the preliminary details on the 2017 AM agenda and invited speakers. He reminded the group about Colorado’s hosted bus tour, set for Wednesday, February 1st, up to Berthoud Pass. He strongly encouraged full CACD Board participation in every aspect of the national meeting and said that there were probably 2017 NACD meeting scholarships available to first time attendees.

Moyer concluded with information about Colorado having a seat on the NACD Natural Resource Committee, which has being discussing their greenhouse gas and carbon reduction policy.

***CACD President’s Updates:***

Don McBee addressed the subject of the CACD Long Range Planning Committee’s progress and that he wanted to further discuss the priorities at the Annual Meeting next month in Loveland. He asked that each Director list what they viewed as the top three most important items that were on the listing provided by Rusty Collins and given to the Board for review, after the August CACD Board face-to-face meeting in Loveland. He also asked that an Executive Committee teleconference be scheduled before the end of October 2016 to discuss the CACD/NRCS MOU agreement. Sharon said that she would send out a poll on possible dates for said teleconference call and follow up accordingly, via email.

***Adjournment:***

Don McBee adjourned the October 2016 CACD Board of Directors teleconference meeting at 9:14AM, and said that the next CACD Board teleconference call would be Thursday, November 17, in Loveland, after the CACD Annual Meeting. Sharon would be sending out further meeting details over the next few weeks.

Respectfully Submitted,

 *Sharon*

Sharon Pattee

CACD Executive Director