***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

 ***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

***April 12, 2017, at 7:30 AM via Teleconference***

***CACD Teleconference Number: (563) 999-1100 passcode 862021#***

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Gary Thrash, San Juan Basin Watershed Director/CO Representative Alternate to NACD

Mike Cleary, Gunnison/Dolores River Watershed Director

Scott Jones, Colorado River Watershed Director

Jim Cecil, Republican River Watershed Director

Gary Moyer, North Platte/White/Yampa River Watershed Director

Bob Warner, CO Representative to NACD

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director

***Absent:***

Charlie Carnahan, Upper South Platte Watershed Director

Clint Evans, CO NRCS State Conservationist

Harold Unwin, CSCB President

Lower South Platte River Watershed Director (Vacant)

Upper Arkansas River Watershed Director (Vacant)

***Guests:***

Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager

Les Owen, DOA Conservation Services Director

Randy Randall, CO NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Operations

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:30 AM after establishing a quorum. McBee then called for any additions to the agenda. Gary Moyer asked for an earlier spot on the agenda as he needed to exit the call by 8 am. With no further requests to add the board moved on with the agenda.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the March 2017 Minutes from the last meeting. Director, Gary Thrash made the motion to approve the March 2017 Minutes and Director Scott Jones provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD’s March 2017 meeting’s Minutes was passed unanimously.

***NACD Updates:***

Director Gary Moyer gave an update on the NACD March Fly-In. 150 people attended. The primary focus was to lobby for the farm bill as it relates to the private land owner. There were

eight meetings in all. Western Congressional Caucus roundtable is next week. Gary expressed his concern to have a director available to testify and the importance of representation in this issue. Since there were no board members available to attend, Gary and Brett agreed to have a discussion on a narrative to present. Don asked Gary about the status of the bank account for the raffle. Gary stated we should move forward with filing the report and closing the account.

Bobbi Ketels brought up the Auxiliary Quilt Raffle Tickets presented to CACD to help sell. They are asking each state/Territory to sell 60 tickets. The district employees association is usually very helpful in selling. Annual NACD membership forms are to be filled out and send a copy to each of the listed offices. Dues are $50.00 per state. Annual dues and ticket money are due 12/31/17. Profits from ticket sales & monies from the Country Store @ the NACD conference provide funds needed for the NACD Auxiliary to conduct the picture and poster contest.

***Legislative Update:***

Brett Moore: During the March 8 CACD Board meeting call Brett provided an update on the second month of the legislative session and a review of the following legislative activities.

Based on the CACD policy book, dictated by the District and Watershed Resolution process, the Legislative Committee has decided to take a support position on five bills:

[SB17-050](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_050_signed.pdf) - Consolidate Forest Risk and Health Grant Programs

[HB17-1030](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_1030_signed.pdf) - Update 1921 Irrigation District Law

[HB17-1033](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_1033_01.pdf) - CO Water Conservation Board Grants Loans Dredge South Platte Basin Reservoirs

[HB17-1124](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_1124_01.pdf) - Local Government Liable Fracking Ban Oil and Gas Moratorium

A key piece of legislation we work on each year as an Association, [SB17-254](http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017A/bills/2017A_254_rer.pdf), and the 2017-18 Long Appropriations Bill was introduced in the final days of March.  All funding levels remained at 2016-2017 levels and will be the numbers discussed for the 2017-2018 budget as it moves through the legislative process.

***CSCB Update:***

Cindy Lair: Cindy brought up that the previous report on severance tax money was not clearly stated. There is $432 left in the account. $450K per year – each year no matter how much is in reserve. Tier 2 entity – Oil and gas issues; down to very last amount for next fiscal year, $432K. Board may choose to have miniature matching grants (educational grants). Executive Board elected to do it again. $5-$7K Bureau of Reclamation; CO River Basin Control. NCS to change agreement. NRCS will get funding and give to conservation board. Trying to streamline and implement salinity program. Lake Mead, Lake Powell; Decreased money in basin states. May not have a program to offer. In need of a better way to implement the program. EQIP dollars for salinity; Salinity workgroups and meetings – good value for landowners. Basin states program.

State Conservation Board: Elected Leadership - scholarships for the meeting, allowing (6) people to come from the state, (7) including Bob Warner. Need to build leadership program. Cindy also gave an update on the state Conservation District training held in Broomfield, where 18-20 people attended. The overall consensus was positive with good feedback.

Cindy is assisting with an exchange student intern from Paris coming to Colorado. She needs a host family in the Lower Ark Valley. He is 22 years old and a farm kid East of Paris. He will be staying with Cindy, coming to Lower Ark Valley, then San Louis Valley and to Delta area. Cindy asked anyone able to help or had ideas for host families to get in touch with her.

Les Owen: Governors Agenda – Rio Grande National Forest – 15-20 year management. Will forward to be able to share with membership. BLM 2.0 rule; Congressional review act in trash signed by President Trump. BLM interested party list; Amount of appeals, grazing permit renewals, one group appealing everyone they can. Equal Act to Justice groups – Domestic sheep on BLM land. Alternate allotments – boundaries – domestic sheep – grazing CPW – Big Horn Sheep working group. Vacant allotments on state land hurting us or livestock. Well managed livestock grazing. Scott brought up the Silt issue. Les commented permits normal; it is their year. BLM is standing pretty firm. He has not seen any data. This issue keeps coming up, and Scott wants it kept on the radar. Mike Cleary: Coming up this summer – Delta County BLM pipelines – perpetual easements; establish a cost – Basin - Hard to meet the number. Special interest groups are causing problems. Ditch lease removal is going to be an issue.

***CSCB Update:***

Randy Randall: Notified that the hiring freeze has been lifted. Batch vacancies.

Area 1: Western – Heavy lifts & EQIP – Delta Heavy lifts EQIP issues. 2: Conservation Stewardship heavy lift. Increase travel budget; Juggle around to keep mission capable; 6 to 12 salinity techs. Drop (2) years of funding; $50K into existing agreement. Agreement with CACD getting in place. Signature in May.

***Financial Update:***

Bobbi Ketels: Financials for April board meeting not yet available. Discussed meeting with our accountant to restructure bookkeeping system and will need more time to put this into place. Starting from January 1 forward, looking for a way to simplify reporting to the board and CD members. Tax filing extension in place. Q1 payroll tax filing due April 30th and will need CPA assistance. Requested reimbursement for Don McBee’s postage expense to close out Fountain P.O. Box and to open new P.O. Box in Lamar. Also covered certified mail to Sharon Pattee. The reimbursement amount total is $88.45. Motion approved by Jim Cecil, with a second from Anthony Lobato. Jim asked Don to submit am expense form for backup documentation.

***Programming Update:***

Envirothon: Everything is reading for Envirothon to be held 25th & 26th at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds. The last committee teleconference call is scheduled for April 18th. Bobbi will be on the call and attend both days of the Envirothon event.

Conservator: We have three advertisements sold for Spring issues. Hard copies to be distributed to advertisers. Don discussed possible advertising sponsors for upcoming issues. Rachel Theler has an electronic version, waiting for approval to release once check payment is received. Bobbi to attach the electronic Spring Issue with an introduction email as the new Executive Director.

Camp Rocky: Bobbi will be meeting Amy after Envirothon for first teleconference call with leaders and committee. Email contact avenues to be sent. Need larger attendance this year. Gary Thrash mentioned that he has (3) kids that need funding and discussion took place about additional scholarships through CACD. Gretchen is to get in touch with Anthony. We need to find out what districts are willing to help sponsor kids from outside their area if they cannot find anyone local to attend.

Fundraising: Mike is working with Vail. There is a COO meeting scheduled for the end of the week. He feels it is looking good and is trying for $10K. Mike gave a letter that explains CACD position. Mike stated the letter has only been out one month and corporate response takes awhile. Mendocks update; targeted, focused and in the drafting stage. Example set-back discussion; oil companies, landowner mineral interests. Mike will reach back out to Walton Foundations. Mike suggested for silver, or gold members to receive an automatic ad in the Conservator. Don liked the idea as one of the perks of individual membership. Mike needs 25 hard copies of the Conservator.

***Presidents Updates:***

Membership Dues: One district has paid the suggested donation with their $1K membership fee. Anthony’s District will pay, but the subject of the suggested donation keeps getting tabled. Lower Ark meeting next week. SE Weld Conservation meeting tomorrow night at 6:30 pm Discussion took place about the request from West Greeley for CACD financials for their accountant audit. It was agreed to discuss appropriate documentation to provide to West Greeley with our CPA. The board agreed the goal was to speak accordingly to districts regarding the suggested donations above the $1K annual dues and to work toward getting all districts on the same page that this was a suggested donation, not mandatory. Don asked Bobbi to email CACD new contact information to all sources once Bobbi was able to create new contact groups on the CACD laptop. Don McBee proposed a mileage reimbursement agreement for Bobbi Ketels at $0.53 per mile. Anthony motioned, and Jim gave the second. A unanimous decision from the board to approve.

***Adjournment:***

Don McBee concluded the April 2017 CACD Board meeting at 9:20 AM, stating that the next Board of Directors meeting would be via teleconference on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 7:30 AM, via teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Ketels

Bobbi Ketels

CACD Executive Director