

*Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD)
CACD 69th Annual meeting
General Assembly Meeting
November 14, 2013 Thursday, 9:00 a.m.
DoubleTree Hotel, Colorado Springs, Pueblo/Park/Teller Ballroom*

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. Gary Moyer welcomed attendees and offered an explanation of the new format for the business meeting. The minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting were reviewed. The Bookcliff Conservation District moved to approve the minutes, the Fremont Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Sharon Pattee, CACD Director from the Upper Arkansas Watershed and CACD Secretary/Treasurer reviewed the proposed 2014 budget with the General Assembly. Sharon referred to the handout outlining the 2014 budget and entertained questions. Questions were asked about the Upper Arkansas River Restoration Project and about Bank Charges for the Annual Meeting. Discussions took place about Conservation District Dues and about Annual Meeting Expenses. The Cope Conservation District moved to accept the 2014 budget as proposed. The Southeast Weld Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports: *Gary Moyer asked the chairpersons of the various resource committees to report on their hearing sessions.*

James Fisher reported on the Soil & Land Committee hearing. A written report has been entered into the CACD records.

Harold Anderson reported on the Water Resources Committee hearing. There were four resolutions submitted and all passed.

Danny Neufeld reported on the District & Association Outlook & Finance Committee hearing. Four resolutions were submitted, of which, three passed. The committee discussed the process and is very pleased with the new format.

Harold Unwin spoke for the Education & Public Outreach Committee. They had no resolutions for consideration, but set future meeting dates for the coming year. They also made recommendations to add the 5th Grade Level to the Poster Contest, to continue the Teachers' Workshop, to support Envirothon and to support the continuation of Camp Rocky. The committee also agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to search for a new Camp Director. Finally, the committee set up quarterly meetings for 2014 and elected a formal Chair and Vice Chair.

Gary Thrash spoke for the Small Acreage & Urban Interface committee. They had no resolutions for consideration but had good discussion and participation from the audience.

Gary Moyer spoke about the process of using the Consent Calendar for unanimously approved resolutions from Committees. Two resolutions were entered onto the Consent Calendar this year. These include the resolutions opposing the listing of the Greater Sage Grouse as threatened or endangered and the resolutions for 2014 CACD Association and Individual Dues.

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to approve the Consent Calendar resolutions. The Bookcliff Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The following resolutions and action items were brought before the General Assembly subsequent to review and vote in the appropriate policy committee. Items were discussed and voted upon with the following outcomes:

- 1. Action Item:** *The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts supports introducing a legislative action that follows the 2011 NEC wind energy template where certifying the turbine-generator is waived and requiring only the inverter is UL listed.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution; San Juan CD seconded the motion. Discussion included clarification of this item being an action item or policy. Danny Neufeld explained the intent of the action item. The motion carried.

- 2. Policy:** *The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts recognizes industrial hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity and supports the legalization and expansion of the industrial hemp industry in Colorado and the nation. National Association of Conservation Districts supports all reasonable efforts to legalize and expand the cultivation of industrial hemp within Colorado and nationwide.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution. The Bookcliff Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

- 3. Policy:** *CACD supports an initiative for the US Forest Service with the support of NACD to take an active approach to management, including the sustainable, wise use of resources in the future. Management of the forest should be based on conservation rather than on preservation.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution. The Bookcliff Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4. **Policy:** *The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts will oppose the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened or endangered species.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution. The Costilla Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

5. **Policy:** *CACD shall encourage local conservation districts to partner with local ground water management districts to promote conservation practices without being penalized by state rules and regulations. CACD shall work with the local conservation districts to urge the Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Ground Water Commission to consider and adopt changes to existing laws and rules designed to support water conservation practices, without penalizing conservation measures.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution and the San Juan Conservation District seconded the motion.

Discussion included the East Adams Conservation District requesting clarification about the motion being a Policy or Action Item. Harold Anderson explained the intent of Policy for this item so it would be a continuing item in CACD policy. Don McBee also offered additional clarification regarding applicability of the policy in certain areas of the State, already subject to certain water law.

The West Arapahoe Conservation District called the question, seconded by the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District and discussion was closed. The original motion carried upon vote.

6. **Policy:** *CACD recognized the value of manual snow courses for measuring snowpack and forecasting river flows. As a head water state, Colorado must have as much information that is available to meet Colorado landowner needs to meet river compact obligations.*

Action Item: *CACD oppose cutting funds from manual snow courses. CACD does support partnerships that can create synergies that would create more opportunities for expanded snow measurement.*

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the policy and action item. The Bookcliff Conservation District seconded the motion and the motion carried.

7. **Policy:** CACD opposes any legislation or legal action that in any way jeopardizes current Colorado Prior Appropriations Doctrine.

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the resolution and the Washington County Conservation District seconded the motion. The motion carried without discussion.

8. **Policy:** CACD supports the concept of Underground Storage with these recommendations: Any underground storage right has to be granted by the Water Court. The storage right is only granted to a party that has the direct physical means of using the water stored in that alluvial. If a party hires or joins in a venture at any point in time with other entities because of the direct physical means for water delivery, the entire storage system must be evaluated in Water Court. Water users that historically have had the ability to use the water being stored must be compensated for injury. The water can't be traded for water outside the alluvial. The amount of storage in an alluvial by a user has to be set at a specific amount in Water Court. After a specific amount of time, if the water has not been used the right to use it is lost and that amount of water must be "spilled". The storage structure can't block another water user's water supply.

The Middle Park Conservation District moved to accept the policy and the Bent Conservation District seconded the motion. The motion carried.

As an additional item, the Costilla Conservation District moved to remove the RC&D section from the CACD Policy Book due to the inactivity and reduction of RC&D organizations across the State. The Center Conservation District seconded the motion. The West Arapahoe Conservation District asked for explanation which was offered by Harold Anderson. Upon vote, the motion carried.

Gary Moyer announced that the CACD Board of Directors voted to re-appoint Gary Moyer and Bob Warner as Director and Alternate Director to the NACD Board from Colorado.

CSCB Board Appointments & Reinstatements: *Cindy Lair announced the reinstatement of Larry Sweeney to the Colorado State Conservation Board and his appointment as President of the Board. Larry Sweeney was officially sworn in.*

Larry Sweeney recognized Chester Zwirn as the new appointment to the CSCB from the Republican Watershed and officially swore him in.

Gary Moyer introduced all of the CACD Board of Directors and announced that Scott Nocks is the new appointee from the Colorado River Watershed. Gary Moyer also introduced Gary Thrash as the new appointee from the San Juan Basin Watershed, Jim Cecil as the newly elected Director from the Republican Watershed, Anthony Lobato as

the newly elected Director from the Rio Grande Watershed and Brian Starkebaum as the reinstated Director from the Lower South Platte Watershed. All four of the new appointees/elected Directors in attendance were sworn in.

Gary Moyer offered special thanks to Harley Ernst and Brian Neufeld for their service on the CACD Board. Harley Ernst commented about the importance of the Annual Meeting and urged members to talk to their neighboring Districts about the overall importance of CACD. He also commended Gary Moyer for his actions as Board President.

Brian Neufeld commented that he would still be working closely with CACD, the importance of CACD and volunteerism.

Finally, Gary Moyer offered special recognition to Cindy Lair and Mark Cronquist for their assistance with the Annual Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Segars
CACD Executive Administrator*