

**Colorado Association of Conservation Districts  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Face-to-Face August 17, 2022  
BEST WESTERN VISTA INN – BUENA VISTA, CO**

**Attendees:**

*Jim Cecil, CACD President - Republican River Watershed  
Tyler Neely, CACD Vice President - Rio Grande River Watershed  
Scott Jones, CACD Director - Colorado River Watershed  
Mike Cleary, CACD Secretary/Treasurer - Gunnison Dolores Watershed  
Gary Thrash, CACD Director - San Juan Basin - CO NACD Alternate Representative  
George Fosha, CACD Director - Upper Arkansas River Watershed  
Nick Charchalis, CACD Director – North-Platte/White-Yampa River Watershed  
Charlie Carnahan, CACD Director - Upper South Platte Watershed  
Bob Warner, CACD Alternate Director - CO NACD Representative - NCF Trustee  
Brett Moore, CACD Legislative Liaison  
Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director*

**Absent:**

*Dale Parker, CACD Interim Director - Lower South Platte Watershed*

**Guests:**

*Gene Backhaus, NRCS-Submitted Notes for the NRCS Update  
Cindy Lair, CDA & CSCB-Gave Updates for both Departments.  
Rachel Theler, NACD SW Region Representative*

**Call to Order:**

*The meeting was called to order by **President Jim Cecil** at 9:01 AM after establishing a quorum. **President Jim Cecil** asked for any additional agenda items. Without any additional agenda items, the board agreed to move forward with the agenda.*

**Prior Meeting Minutes:**

***President Jim Cecil** asked for a motion to approve the **July 2022** minutes. **Director Scott Jones** made the motion to approve the minutes and **Director Charlie Carnahan** gave the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD's **July, 2022** minutes was **passed**.*

**Financial Update-Bobbi Ketels:**

***Secretary/Treasurer Mike Cleary** stated to the board that he and Bobbi reviewed Q2 2022 financials for an hour prior to the start of the meeting and books were fine.*

**CACD FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 06-30-2022 & Q2 2022**

**Beginning Balance in checking on 06-1-2022, \$170,551.93**

*Checks/Payments Cleared -\$5,357.79, Deposits & Credits Cleared \$1,886.41*

**Statement Ending/Cleared Balance in Checking as of 06-30-2022 \$167,080.55.**

*Total Uncleared Transactions = -\$24,740.05*

**Ending Register Balance as of 06-30-2021 \$142,340.50**

**Reserve Total \$41,075.15** \*In US Bank Checking Acct

*2021 Estimated Funds Rolled Over & Designated for Youth Programs \$9,500.00*

**NOI as of 06-30-2022 \$91,765.35**

**Credit Card Beginning Statement Balance as of 6/07/22 \$3,307.02**

Charges Cleared \$1,191.67, Credits/CC Payments Cleared -\$3,307.02

**Credit Card Ending Statement Balance as of 7/07/22 \$1,191.67**

Total District Dues Paid as of 6/30/22 \$44,300.00 (membership invoiced (74) \$88,800.00)

Total District Dues Paid as of 6/30/21 \$44,600.00 (down by \$300.00)

**Grand Total District Dues PD in 2021 \$58,750.00 (budget \$60K)**

**UARRP Activity 06-30-2022 YTD:**

Total pass-through income \$0.00

Total pass-through expenses -\$0.00

**Total CACD Income Earned YTD \$0.00**

(Includes 5% Admin & Payroll Reimb)

Balance of UARRP Federal **Funds Available \$19,437.73** from Mod #2 – There will be no Mod #3. CACD contract will end once this balance is expended, or by 08/31/22.

NRCS previous Grant as of 5/25/22 \$0.00 - \*All remaining funds allocated/expended.

NRCS new Grant as of 6/30/22 \$30,000.00 \*Will be used for Camp Rocky & Annual Meeting

NRCS Demonstration Project – 7 district projects approved \$75K – \$0 expended as of 6/3/22 – expires 9/30/22.

5 CACD contracts remaining to be signed.

**Open Invoices:**

(16) Total \$49,449.11 As of 6/30/22 – Camp Rocky, Misc. & (NRCS \$47,859.11)

**Profit & Loss / Balance Sheet:**

P&L June 2022 Net Revenue **\$43,663.07**

Balance Sheet = \*Accts Receivable **\$49,449.11** - Undeposited Funds **\$21,950.00**

Net Revenue YTD 6-30-22 **\$43,663.07**

**CACD FINANCIAL SUMMARY: 07-31-2022**

**Beginning Balance in checking on 07-1-2022, \$167,080.55**

Checks/Payments Cleared -\$16,559.29, Deposits & Credits Cleared \$0.00

**Statement Ending/Cleared Balance in Checking as of 07-31-2022 \$150,521.26.**

Total Uncleared Transactions = -\$33,745.85

**Ending Register Balance as of 07-31-2022 \$116,775.41**

**Reserve Total \$41,075.15** \*In US Bank Checking Acct

2021 Estimated Funds Rolled Over & Designated for Youth Programs **\$9,500.00**

**NOI as of 07-31-2022 \$66,200.26**

**Credit Card Beginning Statement Balance as of 8/05/22 \$1,191.67**

Charges Cleared \$898.68, Credits/CC Payments Cleared \$1,191.67

**Credit Card Ending Statement Balance as of 7/07/22 \$1,191.67**

Total District Dues Paid as of 7/31/22 \$44,300.00 (membership invoiced (74) \$88,800.00-budget\$60K)

Total District Dues Paid as of 7/31/21 \$44,800.00 (down by \$500.00)

**Grand Total District Dues PD in 2021 \$58,750.00 (budget \$60K)**

**UARRP Activity 07-31-2022 YTD:**

Total pass-through income \$0.00

Total pass-through expenses -\$0.00

**Total CACD Income Earned YTD \$0.00**

(Includes 5% Admin & Payroll Reimb)

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**Open Invoices:**

(16) Total \$49,449.11 As of 7/31/22 – Camp Rocky, Misc. & (NRCS \$47,859.11)

**President Jim Cecil** asked for a motion to approve the 2022 June and Q2 Financials. **Vice President Tyler Neely** made the motion to approve the 2022 June and Q2 Financials. **Director Gary Thrash** gave the second. Motion passes.

**President Jim Cecil** asked for a motion to approve the 2022 July Financials review. **Secretary/Treasurer Mike Cleary** made the motion to approve the 2022 July Financials review. **Director Nick Charchalis** gave the second. Motion passes.

**CACD Programs:**

NRCS Cooperative Agreements covered in the financials. UARRP covered in the financials. Annual Meeting will be held at the Marriott Colorado Springs Tech Center, November 28-29. Camp Rocky, Envirothon and the Conservator will be discussed during the working session. Potential for new CACD project to be introduced and discussed during working session. No official votes will take place during this session.

**Legislative Update – Brett Moore:**

**Brett Moore** reminded everyone we are 83 days away from the mid-term elections and gave his prognosis for the elections. He stated that the US Senate race will be competitive and that the focus is on the State Senate with six seats at play. Brett also reviewed the Bill that passed to add Ag to the Interim Water Committee. The next Interim Water and Ag committee meeting is August 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching closely. The first set of bills are due December 1<sup>st</sup>. Each legislator gets five bills bringing a minimum of five hundred bills. Each session typically averages around six hundred bills in total.

**Brett Moore:** Discussed legislator awards. He will give Senator Kerry Donovan her Lifetime Achievement award at the next Interim Committee meeting. He will also run the scores to determine two legislator awards to discuss with the Board for 2022.

**Water Discussions:**

**Scott Jones:** Water Plan has to be finalized. He feels there will be a line on the CO State Impact.

**Mike Cleary:** BOR-go forward plans for the Lower Basin. Never mentioned Upper Basin in the article.

**Tyler Neely:** CWCB – Compacts written. The Lower Basin is getting more cuts than they should have. Compact Administrations \$60M (\$30M for each watershed). The Republican Watershed already lost to Kansas.

**Brett Moore** also stated that he was unaware if the CO Ag Council were going to continue sending tickets out to the State Fair and Commissioners Luncheon which would normally be held on Friday the 26th. Cindy Lair said she had not heard of any plans for this luncheon and neither had Les. Brett will not be attending the state fair, but will be attending the Congress BBQ that evening. The Board encouraged VP Tyler Neely to attend with Brett if his schedule would allow.

**Brett reported & discussions took place on the Interim Water & Ag Committee**

The interim Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee met on August 4, 2022, and discussed the following topics.

- Biosolids and Per-and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Aging Infrastructure and Economic Resiliency in Agriculture
- Impacts of Trans basin Diversions and the Colorado-Big Thompson Project
- Non-tributary Water Resources

You can find the audio for those discussions here: <https://sq001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220804/-1/13623>

At the end of the meeting, legislators put forth the following ideas for potential bills, to be drafted by staff and voted on at the final meeting of the committee on September 22:

1. Senator Jaquez-Lewis - allow for use of xeriscape plans in HOA's in situations where certain plants are not allowed.
2. Representative McLaughlin - voluntary water literacy program in k-12 education
3. Representative Roberts - concerning non-tributary water resources.
4. Senator Sonnenberg - limit ability of CDPE to distribute unverified data.
5. Senator Simpson - give authority for water conservancy districts to file augmentation plans for constituents
6. Senator Bridges, for Senator Donovan - creation of livestock drought assistance pilot program using controlled environment agriculture
7. Senator Jaquez-Lewis - nursery/seed acts be modified for native plant swaths
8. Representative Roberts - concerning water rights on conservation easements, do those rights go on the abandonment list
9. Representative McKean - study bill use of water for ski resort water for temporary storage
10. Senator Sonnenberg - standards have to adopted by the EPA Science Advisory Board before CDPHE can implement
11. Senator Simpson - moving the water committee from an Interim Committee to full time committee
12. Senator Bridges, for Senator Donovan - Colorado Interstate Compact Committee must present to House and Senate Ag committees each year
13. Senator Roberts - Equitable compensation for wolf predation

The committee can put forward a maximum of ten bills as official Committee bills, and each of those must receive a 2/3rds vote to be an official committee bill, so there are still multiple steps these concepts must go through.

Brett also stated that the Colorado Water Congress would be holding their 2022 event in Steamboat and that it was open to the public. Tickets are \$500 per person. This concludes Brett's report. No questions.

**NACD Update – Rachel Theler, Gary Thrash & Bob Warner:**

**Rachel Theler:** The NACD TA Grants have been awarded and the NACD announcement has gone out. Colorado received funding for all five renewal contracts which included San Juan, Delta, Cope/Washington, and Boulder Valley/Longmont CDs. All received their full funding request. NACD will not be able to fund any new grantees for 2022. CO NRCS provided the rankings for Colorado districts applying for renewal funds.

NACD Insurance program is going well. Anyone who is a Gold Plus member (\$775) or higher is eligible. This is a nationwide program, not statewide, so this is a large insurance pool. Individual supervisors are also eligible. They offer medical, life, auto and liability plans. Rachel will get Bobbi in touch with Mercer for more specific information of what is now available and how to better promote. The Roosevelt District out of New Mexico will start District Sharing Sessions on August 25<sup>th</sup> 8am. The focus will be on how to make states more cohesive.

They plan to conduct quarterly group discussions. Rachel encouraged the group to share topics with her. Discussions will be recorded and put on the website.

**Discussions took place on the Eagle County Vence program:**

**Scott Jones:** This is a study; collars on cattle grazing – This will be ready to start by the end of the year – BLM, CO Forest Service, CIG grant. This is a big process and the study is to show the “Do’s and the Don’ts.” Rancher paying fence crew – instead of hot fence – 4 YR study – Cindy: State or National – Scott: Marrying old and new technology together. Boundary fences – CDOT etc. CPW, no one takes fence responsibility. Discussion between Scott and Mike: BLM – Permanent Structures not allowed? Movable Towers – Mike: Cannot fly drones over permits.

**Rachel:** Jim Berlier from New Mexico is the person who will represent the SW Region on the Farm Bill. One person from each region will be selected for the Next Generation Leadership Program. All are welcome to apply. Urban grants will be open again this November and December for 2023. These are community grants and far more reaching than most understand. These grants have a community focus and not for just one landowner. Gary: significant grant – monthly webinars for ideas. Rachel: \$10K planning piece now added. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon in the SW Region newsletter.

NACD Fall Regional meeting will be in Maui HI. NACD 2023 Annual Meeting will be in New Orleans.

Community Wildfire: Working document – wants response.

NACD Membership: Last year was \$17,407, currently \$13K – cycle coming to a close soon.

**Gary Thrash:** Gary thanked the BOD for being able to attend the NACD Summer Meeting in Puerto Rico. Did not get a chance to do the tours. He will do the ranch tour in Maui. Old San Juan Spanish movement in the 1500s – Strategic location – Advantages of citizenship – Puerto Rico National Forest – NACD President Joe Crowder visited the island and districts that are now back to being functional. This is different agriculture.

Speakers included NACD President Joe Crowder, NRCS Chief Terry Cosby, and Fernando Lloveras San Miguel, President of Para La Naturaleza. Dr. Bradley Doorn with The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) who gave a Technology Presentation as part of a Conservation Forum. Also included was NRCS Chief Terry Cosby and a panel of Caribbean Conservation Leaders.

**Bob Warner:** Bob encourage folks to go to the NACD Fall meeting in Maui if they can. Meetings will be on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> and tours on the eighth, followed by additional meetings on the ninth with the reception that evening. **Intermountain West Diversity Program:** Looking for ranches for the youth to do projects on. Focus on “How do you manage a ranch with limited resources. \$65K per ranch. Bob Warner is interested in participating.

**Gary: Master’s Program:** This would be a good presentation for our meeting – Also Estate Planning-Capital Gains Tax. Gary gave Bobbi the contact information for both.

**CDA & CSCB Update - Cindy Lair:**

**Cindy Lair** gave the CDA update for **Les Owen**. The ACRO office has been absorbed into the Conservation Services Division. Wolf 10J is tomorrow, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The Acres 3 program is shutting down if there continues to be no activity. This is Sam Anderson’s group. Current projects will be finished by 2024. The 2023 stimulus extended.

Cindy Lair gave an update on the Soil Health Program. Currently seventeen conservation districts and three eligible entities with 131 producers signed up. EQIP grants going out - drone - air seeding - spot spraying. Cindy is excited to see a demonstration on towers online, no till drills. This has been good. On the business operations side of CDA there has been tons of turnover. Nikki knows more than anyone right now. The turnover included five positions. Cindy attended the Mosca Hooper Tour and Event last Saturday, featuring guest speaker

*Jimmy Evans. He is the regional FPAC coordinator for CPAC. This event was recorded and will be put online. Senators Simpson and Valdez attended.*

*Cindy announced that Ryan's last day was August 1<sup>st</sup>. He took a position with Colorado Corn Growers. They are one of the partners on the STAR PLUS program. She will have his position posted and open next week.*

*Due to the turnover on the operations side the Direct Assistance checks will go out late August. The additional \$2K that was lobbied for by Brett Moore through CACD will be paid separately and will most likely continue to be paid separately each year. Jim Cecil questioned why. Brett said this may have something to do with the wording in the bill. Brett will check into it.*

*Cindy thanked George for his involvement on the District Consolidation committee. Cindy announced that Brian Neufeld may fill the vacancy on the CSCB Board. Cindy also spoke of their new employee who filled Noah's position. They hired Kayla She started at the end of June. She will be working on a new education outreach program focusing on historical accounts of conservation and the history and future of the conservation districts.*

*The next CSCB Board meeting will be held in Grand Lake. This will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Through the Soil Health program, they are finding ways to work with the zero Food Footprint program: the Colorado Healthy Soils Challenge. Launching to get more support to pay for more practices. This will give opportunity for more participants in the Soil Health program. CDA will not be touching a dime. All types of crops qualify. Jim asked who will be handling the Soil Health Program administration. Cindy said the current staff. This concludes Cindy's update. No questions.*

**NRCS Update-Notes from Gene Backhaus:**

- *CRP work ongoing – 1600+ CRP General plans finalized on over 350,000 acres, 1300+ CRP Grasslands plans to start on almost 650,000 acres (highest in the Nation by over 200,000 acres) with a September 9<sup>th</sup> deadline with all signatures,*
- *Deric Clemons, RTL for RT 15 has started as the AC for Area 3*
- *Heidi Ramsey – WGA liaison has left to take a position in California as ASTC-FO (AC)*
- *Clint Evans is scheduled to be back on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.*
- *New funding opportunities tied with Inflation Reduction Act for Climate-smart farming practices - \$20 billion*
  - *\$8.45 billion for EQIP*
    - *Nutrient management - \$40 million in grants through RCPP*
    - *Climate-smart ag and soil health innovations - \$25 million*
  - *\$4.95 billion for RCPP*
  - *\$3.25 billion for CSP*
  - *\$1.4 billion for ACEP*

*Next Board meeting: September 21, 2022, via zoom.*

*Meeting Adjourned by President Jim Cecil at 11:30 AM.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

***Bobbi Ketels,  
CACD Executive Director***