

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
August 11 and 12, 2014
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Face-to-Face Meeting in Leadville, CO
National Historic Mining Museum

Attendees:

Gary Moyer, CACD President
Don McBee, CACD Vice President
Gary Thrash, Director
Anthony Lobato, Director
Scott Nocks, Director
Jim Cecil, Director
Brian Starkebaum, Director
Charlie Carnahan, Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member
Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Susan Raymond, Director
NRCS Representation

Guests:

Greg Brunjak, Project Manager for the UARRP

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 1:15PM after establishing a quorum. Moyer called for any additions to the agenda, at which time Sharon Pattee asked that Greg Brunjak, Project Manager for the Upper Ark River Restoration Project, would be allowed to give the Board a briefing on the UARRP tour scheduled for the next morning, August 12, at 9:00AM.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Gary Moyer entertained a motion to approve the July 2014 Minutes. Scott Nocks made a motion to approve the minutes and Gary Thrash provided the second. Without any further discussion the motion to approve the July 2014 Minutes passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Legislative Update was given by CACD lobbyist, Brett Moore. Moore spoke about the potential Special Session regarding oil and gas ballot initiatives, saying that most likely nothing would happen until the next Legislative Session. The Board moved into discussion about responsible energy development, and the fact that CACD policy does not specifically address oil and gas issues. Moyer spoke about oil and gas being a natural resource and that CACD policy does have policy on natural resource issues, along with private property rights policy. Scott Nocks mentioned that he thought that Bookcliff CD had some broad policy on oil and gas development, noting that oil and gas groups were pretty good about following up with any problems that are brought to their attention.

Discussion moved to the idea of taking money/contributions from oil and gas companies as sponsorship funding for CACD. It was noted that just because an entity takes or accepts support from a corporate sponsor, doesn't mean that the entity supports everything that the donating corporation does or stands for. Generally, it indicates that the corporate sponsor believes in what the receiving entity does. Most Directors felt that in CACD's current financial situation, that accepting sponsorship money from almost any corporation must be looked at by CACD.

Brett then reviewed the upcoming changes in the House and the Senate and that both Chairs of the Ag Commission (Fischer and Schwartz) would be changing. Also, Jerry Sonnenberg would be moving to the Senate. The EPA's proposed changes to the Waters of the US were brought up and discussed by the Board. Several Board members had been to one or more of the many meetings over the past several months. Brett also spoke about NACD's involvement in these discussions on the national level. Gary Moyer gave some detailed information that he had in this regard, after attending the NACD Summer Meeting held in Indianapolis, just last month (July).

The conversation then moved to the CO State Water Plan and its upcoming stakeholder meetings. Sharon Pattee said that she had sent out several emails to the Districts with respect to these meetings, encouraging CACD's membership to attend one or more, in order to provide input.

Finally, there was discussion about CACD looking to lobby for new/additional funding in 2015, and what the best way would be to approach new legislation. It was determined that discussion would continue on this subject over the next few months and that there was talk of some Resolutions coming forth relating to going after additional funding in 2015. There were several ideas were discussed by the Board and Cindy Lair, CSCB.

Upper Arkansas River Restoration Project Update:

Guest Greg Brunjak, Project Manager for the UARRP, welcomed the Board to Leadville, and gave a brief report on the UARRP. On the following morning, he would be hosting a tour with the Board, of this restoration project along the upper end of the river project. He explained how, over several years, multiple partners came together to make the six year project happen. It was a very long process, but one well worth all of the collaboration. The river project tour would take approximately 2 hours, starting at 9AM.

CO State Conservation Board Updates:

Cindy Lair, Program Manager for CSCB, provided a brief update on current CSCB happenings. The DOA has hired a replacement for Nicole Reed's position, specifically Wayne East. Wayne will be working closely with CACD, as Nicole did, and is adept at facilitating meetings. Cindy offered his help to CACD if needed. Also, the new hire for Ashley Ross' position is Robin Reilley. Robin will be the Conservation Specialist for the southeast area of Colorado, as well as the San Luis Valley. She will start on August 18th and work out of the DOA Broomfield office until the end of September or so.

Cindy Lair also reported that CSCB and the DOA was still dealing with the state's CORE financial program issue. She anticipated that the Direct Assistance payments would go out around the second or third week of August, in the form of paper checks. She expressed her frustration with the program and feels bad for the Conservation Districts waiting on their DA payments for 2014. She mentioned the very hard work that Tammra Straub was putting in, in an effort to rectify the many problems. Lastly, Cindy reported that the next CSCB face-to-face meeting was to be held in Wray, CO on August 27 and 28.

NRCS Updates:

Unfortunately, there was no representation from NRCS at the meeting. However, there was a desire by the Board to discuss the changing relationship between NRCS and the Conservation Districts. Concerned was expressed by several present about the seeming change in attitude and a feeling of a general lack of importance

that NRCS has on its relationship with the Conservation Districts. Gary Moyer brought up a recent conversation with Harold Unwin with respect to the State Technical Committee. Also, there still doesn't seem to be any schedule for the State Technical Committee, but if/when a meeting is scheduled, CACD and CSCB would absolutely attend.

Also, when NRCS appoints a new State Conservationist, CACD plans to sit down with that appointee and explain the recent, mostly negative feedback that CACD has and received from the Districts.

Moyer mentioned that Astor Boozer, NACD's Western Region Specialist, would be attending the annual meeting. Gary had asked Astor about the status of a new State Con being named by then. Astor seemed to think that CO would have one in place by then, but there was no guarantee.

At this time, the Board adjourned until the following morning at 11:30AM.

Wednesday, August 12, 2014

Call to Order:

At approximately 11:42AM on Wednesday morning, Gary Moyer called the Wednesday portion of the August 2014 BOD meeting to order.

Administrative Updates:

Sharon Pattee, Executive Director, asked if there were any questions on the July 31st, 2014 Financial Statements that were handed out to the Board previously on Tuesday afternoon, August 11th. Sharon briefly commented on each of the reports starting with the Balance Sheet/Income Statement. At this point in time, she was comfortable with how things looked to date on the Actual vs. Budget report, with the exception of the postage and travel line items. She reviewed the current status of the 2014 Annual District Dues payments and encouraged each Watershed Director to reach out to their individual Districts and ask for any District dues payments that haven't been made. Sharon again said that as soon as the Direct Assistance payments went out from CSCB, that she would send out a "second request" letter to those Districts that haven't paid yet. Without any further discussion, Gary Moyer asked if there was a Motion to accept the financials as submitted. Anthony Lobato so moved and Charlie Carnahan provided the second. The Motion to accept the financials as presented passed unanimously.

At this time, Sharon handed out the new business cards and reported that the total cost was approximately \$200 for the 12 templates, card stock, and printing.

Pattee updated the BOD on the District Outreach Program, stating that she had two more meetings scheduled in the next few weeks. She had finally received a copy of the reimbursement form from NRCS and had a draft of expenses incurred through January of 2014 ready to submit. She said that she is still fairly unclear as to what sort of detail NRCS would require for reimbursement, and that she would be calling Randy Randall, at NRCS in Denver, for guidance at this point in time. There was a suggestion that the request for reimbursement should be made for all of the expenses through June 2014. Sharon agreed that that would be a prudent way to go and would adjust the numbers accordingly.

Additionally, Sharon briefly reported that there have been weekly teleconference meetings with the 2014 Annual Meeting Program Committee and felt that the program/agenda was coming along well. All of the speakers that CACD had requested to present at this year's conference had agreed to attend. She also stated that she hoped to have all of the annual meeting forms available and on line by September 5th. She said that she

has been working at updating all of the necessary forms that go along with the annual meeting preparation. She also stated that a site visit in Loveland was tentatively scheduled for the first or second week of September.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer started the discussion with the subject of the 2014 District dues payments and about how to encourage those Districts that have yet to pay, to engage and understand what their dues money goes for. He asked the Board to consider CACD's image and a District's perks of membership. Several ideas were given on the benefits that could be given as "perks" of a CACD membership. It was decided, after the 2nd Notice for Dues was sent out by CACD's ED, that this issue would be brought up again at a later date.

Moyer then moved on to the subject of the Employees Association, reporting that as far as he knew, CACD had had little communication from the EA in the recent months. Sharon reviewed what correspondence that she had had with Bethleen McCall in the past 5 months, since being hired as Executive Director in March. She reported that there were two email notices about their April teleconference and May "Retreat", and one email recently about talking to her about the annual meeting. This last email coincidentally came right after the July BOD teleconference call, and to which she had immediately replied to Bethleen asking her to call anytime, to discuss the annual meeting subject. That communication was sent on or about July 18th. Charlie Carnahan asked for some history of the relationship between CACD and the Employees Association. Moyer provided the background from the past three to four years, as best he knew of it, asking for Brian Starkebaum to weigh in on what he remembered to date. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that any plans to engage the EA in the 2014 Annual Meeting, along with the Silent Auction issue, would not move forward until the EA contacted CACD in this regard. The majority of the Board was in agreement on this.

Discussion then began about the 2014 Resource Committees and the Resolution Process. Sharon Pattee stated that all of the 2014 Resolution form was available on the CACD website and that she was working with the RC Chairs from last year on RC member contact information. She stated that she would have the RC procedure letter and forms out to the committees by the 1st of September.

Lastly, Gary Moyer again asked for direction on NACD travel with respect to the Board and the Executive Director, reminding those present that CACD's finances don't allow for a lot of travel in general, so input was requested as to prioritizing some of this necessary travel. Once again, the general consensus was that travel be kept to a minimum and within the budget, but to attempt to make sure that the important meetings were attended. Moyer then spoke about the upcoming NACD meetings, specifically the Southwest and Pacific Regional Meeting to be held in Portland during the week of September 15th, which Moyer, Bob Warner (at his own expense) and Sharon Pattee would be attending. During the week of September 22nd, there was the NACD Executive Directors Conference to be held in Tennessee, and only Sharon Pattee would be attending that meeting.

Adjournment:

Gary asked if there were any other items to be discussed and upon hearing none he entertained a motion to adjourn. Don McBee made the motion, with Jim Cecil providing the second. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously at 1:42PM.

The next BOD meeting, via teleconference, is tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2014 at 7:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee
CACD Executive Director