Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2015 @ 7:30AM

Via Teleconference Call

***Attendees:***

Gary Moyer, CACD President

Don McBee, CACD Vice President

Gary Thrash, Director

Anthony Lobato, Director

Scott Nocks, Director

Elaine Kist, Director

Brian Starkebaum, Director

Charlie Carnahan, Director

Jim Cecil, Director

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member

Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

***Guests:***

Cindy Lair, CO State Conservation Board Program Manager

Harold Unwin, CSCB President

Mike Cleary, Delta Conservation District Supervisor

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:32AM after establishing a quorum. Moyer called for any additions to the agenda by the Board, and hearing none, moved on with the agenda.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Gary Moyer entertained a motion to approve the November 2015 Minutes from last month’s meeting in Beaver Creek. Don McBee made the motion to approve the November Minutes and Scott Nocks provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the November 2015 Minutes passed unanimously.

***Election of 2016 CACD Board Officers:***

Due to time constraints, Scott Nocks asked if the election for CACD’s new officers could be moved up on the agenda. Hearing no objections, Gary Moyer asked for nominations for the office of CACD Board President for the upcoming 2016 – 2017 term. Scott Nocks nominated Don McBee to serve as CACD Board President. Moyer asked if there were any other nominations, and Brian Starkebaum nominated Anthony Lobato. Moyer then again asked if there were any other nominations. Anthony Lobato said that he would be unable to serve in the office of President. After some discussion, Gary Moyer closed the nominations. A vote was taken and Don McBee was elected to serve as CACD’s President for the 2016 – 2017 term.

At this time, Moyer asked for nominations for the office of Vice President. Don McBee nominated Anthony Lobato to serve as CACD Vice President for the upcoming term. With no further nominations for Vice President, a vote was taken and Anthony Lobato was voted in as CACD’s new Vice President, effective January 1, 2016.

Scott Nocks mentioned that he would be terming off as Director for the Colorado River Watershed and that no one had stepped up to take his place, at this point in time. So, there will be two vacant Director positions, one for the Colorado River Watershed and the one for the Gunnison-Dolores River Watershed. Mike Cleary, from the Delta Conservation District, stated that he hoped to be approved by his Watershed soon, and would be the representative CACD Director for the Gunnison-Dolores. He will let CACD know as soon as things are confirmed in that regard.

There was some discussion as to whether any of the Board wanted to assume the role of Treasurer/Secretary that was being filled by Executive Director, Sharon Pattee. Gary Thrash said that he would like to act as a back-up Treasurer/Secretary, just in case Sharon was unable to continue to serve in her capacity. Sharon stated that she would be happy to share the financial statements, prior to the BOD conference calls/face-to-face meetings, with Gary so that if he had any questions or concerns she could address those with him and bring him up to speed and any more major financial issues. The Board thought that this was a good plan.

***NRCS:***

Clint Evans was unable to attend the teleconference, but told Sharon that he would try to make the January 2016 face-to-face in Denver. It was briefly discussed by the Board as to where things were currently with the SHPO issue. The CACD Board had been notified that an agreement had finally been signed and that things were moving forward. Although there has been a backlog of contract problems, it was hoped that things would be reconciled in the near future.

Scott Nocks mentioned that he wanted to meet with Clint to address some funding concerns, but wanted CACD’s Board approval to have this dialogue with NRCS. He stated also that he would keep Sharon in the loop to assure that protocol was being adhered to and there weren’t any conflicts. Gary Moyer asked for a motion to confirm that Scott Nocks would be acting on behalf of CACD in any fund raising efforts. Jim Cecil made the motion, with Anthony Lobato providing the second. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Cindy Lair started the CSCB report with saying that she felt that the CACD 2015 Annual Meeting was a big success, stating that the content was particularly good this year. She agreed that the Breakout Sessions were great, but that they could probably be longer in length.

Cindy then stated that she was working on the January 2016 CSCB meeting and hoped that she might be able to budget a face-to-face meeting for the CSCB Board. She didn’t think that they would be joining CACD in Denver during the Stock Show, as had been done in the past, due to her budget constraints. She would let Sharon and the rest of the Board know when and where that first quarter meeting would be held.

Cindy briefly touched on the financial situation at the Department of Ag, saying that things were moving forward and that the matching grants funding might be less than what had been anticipated. As soon as she had more to report, she would update CACD and the Districts. She stated the DCT Program was almost lost, but a last minute agreement with NRCS seems to have resurrected the program’s funding problems. The DCT funding was a priority and the matching grants program was being delayed for the time being. All of these funding issues would be the primary focus of the CSCB meeting in January.

***Legislative Update:***

Brett Moore gave a brief report on the Co Ag Council’s meeting at the CO Farm Bureau’s Denver office on December 4th. Both he and Sharon attended the meeting, along with CO’s more active Ag organizations. He commented on the presentation given by Reeves Brown, from Build a Better Colorado. The meeting was about five hours in length and fairly well attended.

Brett then moved to discuss the upcoming 2016 Legislative Session, which starts on January 13, 2016. Again, Brett stated that a few of the legislative issues that failed to pass in 2015 would no doubt be readdressed in the 2016 session. He reminded the Board that the first 2016 Legislative “Meet and Greet” for the CO Ag Council will be held on January 20th, in the lower level of the Capitol, at 7:30AM.

Brett then reported that the JBC would be holding their pre-hearing process and planned to hold the 2016 funding levels, with no increases to any lines unless some place else took a cut.

Finally, Brett mentioned the Ballot Initiative process and that the Public Trust water issue was expired, so would not move forward unless readdressed.

***Administrative Updates:***

Sharon Pattee provided copies of the November 2015 financial statements and subsequently went through a few of the reports, explaining certain line items. She asked for any questions, and hearing none Gary Moyer asked for a motion to accept the November 2015 financial statements as presented. Don McBee made the motion to accept the financial statements as submitted, and Gary Thrash provided the second. The motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Sharon review the current status of the Annual District Dues payments received to date, stating that she did not anticipate any more payments from delinquent Districts this late in the year. She reiterated that at this same point in time last year, CACD was about at the same level of dues paid, and that that represented about two thirds of the District membership had paid their dues in full and that balance was made up of approximately eight to ten Districts that had paid only partial payments. She again expressed her concerns to the Board as to whether CACD will be able to operate at the current administrative level with the forecasted amount of funding for the upcoming 2016 fiscal year.

Discussion then moved to possible program cuts to CO Envirothon and Camp Rocky. The Board felt that these programs that must essentially pay for themselves, were taking up valuable ED time. The Board felt that they didn’t want the ED to being running camp programs, and that her time should be focused on direct service to the Districts. A MOU had been drafted on turning over the CO Envirothon program to the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative for the 2016 contest year. This agreement would be re-visited by CACD late in 2016 for the 2017 contest year. A motion was made to that affect by Gary Thrash and a second was provided by Don McBee. A vote was then taken and was passed by the Board unanimously. There was brief discussion about 2016 Camp Rocky, but no decisions were made.

Sharon then said that she needed direction from the Board on giving out a small plaque to all CACD lifetime membership contributors. With brief discussion about keeping the cost of the plaques under $50 each, Brian Starkebaum made the motion to allow Sharon to order small appreciation plaques for those lifetime membership donators, keeping the cost under $50 each, and Don McBee provided the second. A vote was taken and was passed unanimously.

***President’s Updates:***

Gary Moyer started his discussion by asking if there was someone on the Board that was interested in attending the 2016 NACD Annual Meeting in Reno at the end of January. Gary mentioned that NACD was giving each state one “scholarship” which was a free registration to the event. Gary had said that if no one on the CACD Board, who would meet the scholarship criteria, was able to attend that the free registration be granted to Mark Cronquist, NE CO Conservation Specialist for the CSCB. Brian Starkebaum made the motion to give Mark Cronquist the CO state scholarship to the 2016 NACD Annual Meeting, unless there was a current CACD Board member that met the NACD First Timer’s Scholarship criteria, and could attend. Don McBee seconded that motion and a vote was taken. The motion passed.

Moyer then asked if any CACD Board members would be interested in serving as the NACD Board Alternate from CO, after Bob Warner moves into the position that will be vacated by Gary Moyer, who moves onto the NACD Executive Board. Gary Thrash said, although he might not be able to attend the upcoming NACD meeting, that he would be interested as the NACD Alternate for CO, behind Bob Warner. A motion was made by Anthony Lobato and seconded by Don McBee for Gary Thrash to serve CO as the NACD Alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

Gary Moyer said that he would be attending the 2016 NACD annual meeting, but that since he was elected to serve on the NACD Executive Board, NACD would be paying for his travel expense from now on. Bob Warner will also attend, but he will pay for his own expenses.

***Adjournment:***

Gary asked for adjournment, stating that the January 2016 BOD meeting would be held on January 21st in Denver, at the Ramada Inn Central in conjunction with the 2016 National Western Stock Show. Sharon would be sending out further detail within a week or so. Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

 *Sharon*

Sharon Pattee

CACD Executive Director