

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts  
January 22, 2015 @ 9:00AM Ramada Inn Central, Denver  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

***In Attendance:***

Gary Moyer, CACD President  
Don McBee, CACD Vice President  
Gary Thrash, 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

***Absent:***

Anthony Lobato, Director  
Scott Nocks, Director  
Susan Raymond, Director

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 9:04AM 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 December 2014 Minutes from last month's BOD teleconference call. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the December 2014 Minutes and Brian Starkebaum provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the Board of Directors December 2014 meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

***NRCS Updates:***

There were no updates from NRCS. The group briefly discussed the pending announcement from NRCS regarding our new State Conservationist, hopefully by our BOD meeting in February. Moyer reiterated the need for CACD and CSCB to collectively meet with the new NRCS State Conservationist to start rebuilding the relationship between NRCS, CSCB and CACD.

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

There were no updates from CSCB since they had decided not to join CACD for the January NWSS event this year.

***Administrative Updates:***

Executive Director, Sharon Pattee provided electronic copies of the December 2014 financial statements and asked if there were any questions on the documentation. She discussed some of the financial line items within the documentation, explaining where CACD was financially positioned at this point in time, at the end of FY2014. After some discussion, Gary Moyer asked for a motion to accept the December 2014 financial statements as presented. Jim Cecil made the motion to accept the financial statements as presented, with Don McBee providing the second. The motion was passed unanimously by the BOD to accept the December 2014 financial statements.

Pattee then referred to 2014 Annual District Dues report as of 12/31/14. For the sake of these Minutes, she reported that 49 District paid the full dues amount, 13 Districts paid part of the full dues payment (\$1000 per year annually), and 14 Districts paid nothing, during the course of 2014. Sharon also said that Karen Barry from Jefferson CD had called and stated that they would be paying their 2015 dues, though they had been delinquent in the past two years.

Sharon reported that the financial audit (F-133) of CACD, due to the Upper Arkansas River Restoration project for the 2012 fiscal year, was underway. She has been in constant communication with CACD's CPA Waugh and Goodwin, LLP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife on what needs to be done in the past six weeks.

She then reported that the CO Conservator's Winter 2015 issue had been sent out electronically to all of the Districts, CACD's conservation partners, CACD's annual meeting sponsors, etc. Sharon handed out about 20 hard copy publications to each Board member present for their own distribution. Sharon also stated that she had sent the Districts an email stating that she would sent them some hard copies is they requested such. She also reported that she had estimated the cost of this issue would be around \$1500, and the publication's final cost was \$1580.00.

Sharon reported that she had narrowed the choice of where the 2015 Annual Meeting would be held on the western slope, November 15th through the 19th. The two hotels were the Vail Marriott and the Hyatt at Beaver Creek. She handed out information on both to each Director present, and asked for any questions. After some discussion, she asked for a vote on where the 2015 conference site would be held in November. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to have the 2015 Annual Meeting at the Vail Marriott, with Don McBee providing the second. The motion to sign with the Vail Marriott for the location for CACD's 2015 Annual Meeting, November 15 – 19, passed unanimously. Sharon said that she would follow up with Conference Direct to get the contract in place.

Discussion then moved to the status of the CO Envirothon program. Sharon reported that the Steering Committee was made up of the following: Mark Cronquist (CSCB), Judy Lopez (Rio Grande CD Education Specialist), Brenda Anderson (Center CD), Sharon Pattee (CACD ED), and Anthony Lobato (CACD Board Director). Sharon reported that progress was being made as to the direction that the group envisioned for the program/event, and that one of the first things that the committee was working on is securing the website and updating all of the information therein. The Committee would be rallying support from all of the individuals that had been connected to COE in the past, and hoped that they would want to continue in their involvement of this year's event, to be held in early May. Sharon stated that the National Envirothon annual dues of \$300 were due and asked the Board, given the bank balance of the COE program being \$1250, if the Board wanted CACD to pay the COE dues for 2015. There was a motion made by Gary Thrash, and a second provided by Don McBee, for CACD to NOT pay the National Envirothon dues for the 2015 COE program. The BOD asked questions as to the status of involvement be West Greeley CD, and Sharon reported that, at this time, West Greeley had stated that they would not be involved with COE. She hoped that they would eventually come back in as a supported, but when that would be was in question.

Brett Moore 2015 Lobbying Contract was needing to be reviewed by the Board and subsequently signed by Gary Moyer as President and Brett Moore as lobbyist. Sharon stated that there were only slight changes to Brett's contract, mainly in the area of legislative reporting punctuality, and asked the BOD to proceed with renewing Brett Moore's 2015 contract for services. It was voted on and passed unanimously, after a motion was made by Brian Starkebaum and second was provided by Don McBee.

Sharon then asked the Board for direction on purchasing a new laptop for CACD. She reported that the old one (7 years old?) was pretty much useless and very unreliable. She stated that she has been unable to retrieve much of the old information/documentation that had be downloaded on that computer in the past two to seven years, and was unable to have a working computer during the 2014 Annual Meeting in Loveland, much less any

other meeting. She suggested that a new laptop could be purchased out of the 2014 Annual Meeting proceeds and asked the Board for that consideration. Charlie Carnahan made a motion for the purchase of a new laptop computer for CACD from the 2014 AM proceeds, not to exceed \$1200, and Jim Cecil provided the second. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously. Brian Starkebaum said that he would put some information together on a few material options that he thought would work and send them to Sharon for consideration.

***Legislative Update:***

Brett Moore reported that he had been in contact with Representative Bob Rankin to help with CACD's request for additional District funding from the Legislature in 2015. Rankin agreed to help in regard to the 2014 Resolution passed at the Annual Meeting in Loveland for CACD to lobby for an increase in the state funding for the conservation districts. Brett spoke to the Board for the need for a "conservative" request of \$2000 for each District, in order to have any chance of being successful. The Board then discussed several approaches to help guide Brett in his lobbying efforts. It was determined that a small committee would be formed by Gary Moyer, Brett Moore, Sharon Pattee, and Cindy Lair and Tammra Straub from the CSCB, in order to come up with a plan of attack that included input by a select group of District Supervisors and their Districts. These District Supervisors would be asked to address some specific questions developed by the CACD committee, which would in turn be communicated to Mr. Tom Dermody, Legislative Analyst for the Joint Budget Committee. Sharon Pattee would schedule a teleconference call for the group to develop the questions for the Districts selected. Brett stated that he would be meeting with Dermody in the very near future to outline CACD's request, in preparation for the JBC meeting set for February 18.

Other topics that Brett brought up for discussion were brief updates on the 230 total new Bills being introduced so far, with 23 of those being Ag related, the current status of the Governor's Oil and Gas Task Force, and the final numbers and some comments on Legislator involvement at the NW Stock Show Rodeo event the night before.

***President's Updates:***

Since the group had already discussed the NRCS State Conservationist subject, Gary Moyer moved the topic to Board member meeting attendance, both face-to-face and teleconference calls. After lengthy discussion by the group on what should be expected by the BOD as a whole to properly represent each of the ten state Watersheds, it was decided that a new CACD By-Law be developed this year to address CACD's Board of Director expected involvement. In the coming months prior to CACD's 2015 Annual Meeting, a sub committee made up of Gary Moyer, Gary Thrash, Jim Cecil, and Sharon Pattee draft a new by-law outlining the expected CACD Board of Director time and commitment responsibilities to the ten State Watersheds.

It was then further discussed that the Director for the Gunnison – Dolores Watershed, Susan Raymond's lack of involvement and participation on the CACD Board and Board's email business on behalf of her Watershed, was of concern. Discussion ensued on whether this was a CACD Board issue or an issue for the G/D Watershed, on whether she should resign due to whatever the reasons. It was decided that Natalie Macsalka, the area's CSCB Conservation Specialist would be contacted about CACD BOD's concern, and that the G/D Watershed group should be made aware of Raymond's lack of participation by a letter from CACD. Sharon Pattee would draft a letter accordingly for Board approval.

Moyer then reported that the NACD Annual Meeting would be held in New Orleans, January 31, 2015 through February 4th. He would be attending, along Bob Warner, CACD's NACD Alternate. Bob would be paying his own way, and Sharon Pattee would also be attending on behalf of the CO Association.

After some discussion, it was asked of the Executive Director by the Board, that she provide them with some sort of an outline of what she (on behalf of CACD) accomplishes during the month, on a monthly basis. Sharon agreed to do so, as directed, within ten days of the following month. She also felt the need to inform all of the Districts of that information, by way of something similar, though with not as much detail.

***Adjournment:***

Gary asked for any additional items from the Board and hearing none, asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim Cecil made the motion to adjourn with Charlie Carnahan providing the second. Without further discussion, the Board voted to adjourn the January 2015 meeting at 12:12PM. The next CACD BOD meeting will be via telephone conference call on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 7:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee  
CACD Executive Director