

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
July 16, 2014
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Via Conference Call

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
Susan Raymond, Director
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member
Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager
Larry Sweeney, CSCB Board President
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Charlie Carnahan, Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
NRCS Representative

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:33 a.m. after establishing a quorum. Moyer called for any additions to the agenda and heard none.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

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

CO State Conservation Board Updates:

Cindy Lair asked Larry Sweeney to report on CSCB's summer face-to-face meeting that was held in Trinidad, on July 1 - 2. Good attendance included Sharon Pattee in for CACD, among other state Board representatives. Sherman Leichty came on the first day, on behalf of NRCS and Gene Kelley spoke briefly, coming down from CSU. Sweeney mentioned that in addition to "housekeeping items", the Board discussed, at length, the results of the Direct Assistance rankings for the upcoming year, noting that Branson-Trinchera CD came out on top this year. DA funding will hopefully go out by the first week of August. There was a vote to expend \$6000 to the "Boot Strap" program, and emergency funding for the Districts was also discussed, i.e. how CSCB can be more responsive to the Districts on this type of funding. Of course, there will be an application process that will need to be followed by a District for this funding. The Board also discussed the 2015 Matching Grants funding and application process. The group had a local tour that lasted about two hours, to see the mitigation efforts being done on the noxious weed, African Rue.

Cindy Lair spoke to the issue of the state's new financial accounting system and the fact that there are many problems that need to be worked out. She was concerned that the Direct Assistance payment would not go out on time due to the data base and address issues. Apparently the EFT system isn't working correctly, and there are also problems with mailing out paper checks. Payments could be delayed as late as the second week of August. She would be sending out an email to the Districts letting them know what was going on, by the end of the week.

Cindy also suggested that extending the CSCB and CACD face to face meeting during the CACD annual meeting be considered, so that CSCB would not have to meet with CACD in January, due to budgetary constraints. That subject brought up the idea of passing a resolution this fall, by the Districts, to have an increase in conservation funding. She mentioned that she, Brett Moore, Eric Lane, and a member of CSCB's finance team had recently met to discuss current funding levels. She felt that it is time to look at asking for more conservation dollars legislatively, that includes Direct Assistance and other program money.

Cindy reported that they had interviewed several very qualified candidates for Nikki Reed's job, and she had offered the job to Wayne East, who had accepted and would be starting August 1st. She also reported that Ashley Ross would be leaving August 1st, and that her position would be filled as soon as possible.

Cindy addressed some of the "behind the scenes" conversations with regard to the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and some of the Districts' attitudes and feelings of confusion and exclusion. She suggested that the Districts need to take a proactive approach in order to be involved with any pre-proposals that might be coming forth from various collaborations. Unfortunately, there was no one from NRCS on this call to comment further about the RCPP and the CCA's, because there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding this new program. Gary Moyer agreed, mentioning the June 30th meeting that he attended in Denver, which was put on by several agency partners regarding RCPP. Scott Nocks suggested that Moyer send a letter to NRCS outlining our concerns and the concerns of the Districts. Cindy followed up with also asking them for a listing of the pre-proposals that have been chosen, so that the Districts can review them and make a decision on whether to get involved.

Legislative Update:

Brian Starkebaum gave a brief report on some current issues with respect to legislation for Brett Moore, who was unable to be on the call. He touched on the CO State Water Plan issue and the CAWA meetings that are to be held around the state prior to October. A draft summary of the proposed water plan can be found at www.cowaterplan.com. Gary Moyer commented on that there is still a very small chance for a "special" session being called by Hickenlooper to further address the oil/gas issue, but doubts that it will happen.

Administrative Updates:

Sharon Pattee (Executive Director) asked if there were any questions on the June 30th Financial Statements that had been previously sent out to the Board. She briefly comment on the Actual vs. Budget report stating that she was comfortable with how things look half way through the year. She then reviewed the status of the 2014 Annual District Dues payments and encouraged each Watershed Director to reach out to their individual Districts asking for any dues payments that haven't been made. Sharon stated that she will be sending out a "second request" letter to those Districts that haven't paid to date. Without any further discussion, Gary Moyer asked if there was a Motion to accept the financials as submitted, with Don McBee so moved and Scott Nocks provided the second. The Motion to accept the financials as presented passed unanimously.

Sharon provided a wrap-up report of the 2014 Camp Rocky program stating that everyone involved had been very positive and pleased with how camp went this year. There were 35 campers, 7 junior leaders, anywhere from 8 to 10 instructors, along with Amy Gossman, Director and her assistant, Logan Merrill, and Sharon during

the full week of camp. Sharon was very pleased that the Districts had provided scholarships for almost all of the campers. Everything went very smoothly and the overall atmosphere of the camp was positive and energized. The feedback that she had received thus far was all good.

Sharon also mentioned that the 2014 Spring issue of the CO Conservator had gone out, both by snail mail and electronically, with mostly positive feedback on the copy of the CACD newsletter. Also, with the help of Janette Terry the Board of Directors' business cards are now printed and will be given out at the August Face-to-Face meeting in Leadville. Also, she updated the BOD on the District Outreach Program, stating that she had met with Spanish Peak/Purgatoire River CD two weeks ago and was meeting with Fremont CD the following afternoon in Canon City. Additionally, she reported that there have been several teleconference meetings with the 2014 Annual Meeting Program Committee and she felt that the annual meeting program was coming along very well and that just about all of the time allowed for speakers had been filled.

Sharon reminded the Board that the next BOD meeting would be in Leadville on August 11th – 12th, and that most of those details have been taken care of. We will start the meeting at 1PM on Monday and finish up around 1 – 2PM on Tuesday. There are rooms reserved at the historic Delaware Hotel for the evening of the 11th, downtown Leadville. The BOD will have a short tour of the Upper Arkansas River Restoration Project while there, either Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning. The remainder of the time will be spent in discussing various CACD issues, either at a meeting room at the hotel or another location a very short distance (a block or so) away. An agenda and further details will be sent out by August 4th.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer again asked the Board for some direction on NACD travel with respect to the Board and the Executive Director. 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. 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. Gary stated that he and Bob Warner would be going to the NACD summer conference in Indianapolis next week, to attend the mid-year NACD executive board meeting, with Bob paying for his own travel, etc.

Next Board Meeting:

Gary asked if there were any other items to be discussed and upon hearing none he entertained a motion to schedule the next meeting for Monday, August 11 and 12, in Leadville, starting at 1PM. Scott Nocks made the motion, with Jim Cecil providing the second. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee
Executive Director