

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

June 18, 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
Jim Cecil, Director
Charlie Carnahan, Director
Brian Starkebaum, Director
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate Board Member
Maria Collazo, NRCS – Acting State Conservationist
Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager
Larry Sweeney, CSCB Board President
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Scott Nocks, Director
Susan Raymond, Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:34 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 May 2014 minutes. Don McBee made a motion to approve the minutes and Gary Thrash provided the second. Without any further discussion the motion to approve the May minutes as presented passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Brett Moore was not able to be on the call, so Brian Starkebaum was asked, as Legislative Committee Chair, to review the wrap-up of the 2014 Legislative Session. Brian gave a brief summary of Brett's latest tracking sheet, dated June 16th.

Gary Moyer asked for discussion on the proposed November ballot initiatives, especially Congressman Polis's "Local Control" initiative that targets the oil and gas regulation within the state. Gary reminded those on the call that as far as CACD's policy goes that this becomes a private property right issue that we have policy on. Anything that would affect or restrict a private property right would go against already established CACD policy. If this initiative ends up on the November ballot, CACD (along with other like conservation partners) would need to collaborate and make a major "front" against this proposed act of private property rights/control. There was discussion on how the Oil and Gas market would "run" from Colorado, thus taking its relationship to CO's economy with it. Cindy Lair (CSCB) commented on how the mineral rights issue would be affected also, and might be seen as another governmental "taking".

Moyer then mentioned that he had recently met with Tracee Bentley, Legislative Director to Governor Hickenlooper and former CACD lobbyist, and discussed the likelihood of a “fear” tactical approach by the proponents of this particular initiative, and how that would effectively get the general public to “buy in”. There is still a small chance for a “special” session being called by Hickenlooper to further address the oil/gas issue.

Brian gave a brief synopsis on the CAWA meeting in April. Most of the comments were made on the Watershed level by the attendees, and that most of the Watersheds are on the “same page” opinion-wise. There was a Basin Roundtable discussion that emphasized water for agriculture as critically important in CO. A draft summary of the proposed water plan can be found at www.cowaterplan.com.

CO State Conservation Board Updates:

Cindy Lair reported that CSCB is preparing for their summer face-to-face meeting that is scheduled for July 1 – 2, in Trinidad. Any CACD Board members are welcome to attend, and she will be sending out logistical information in a few days. The CSCB fall meeting will be probably held in Wray, CO in late August. Also, Cindy reported that they are still in the hiring process to replace Nicole Reed and that the new office move to Broomfield went well. She then said that the Direct Assistance funding will be allocated as soon as possible in the next few weeks.

Cindy reported that she attended a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) meeting in Garden City, Kansas. The states that had representation, either in person or via teleconference call, were Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Nebraska, Texas, and Oklahoma. Sharon Pattee represented CACD on the teleconference. The main focus of the discussion had to do with the designation of the Ogallala Aquifer area, which is one of the seven Critical Conservation Areas (CCA) within the United States. There was discussion about a five state collaboration project that would deal with water issues and also the Lesser Prairie Chicken. It would include numerous agencies and conservation partners and Cindy said that she would pass on more information when it became available.

NRCS Updates:

Maria Collazo, State Conservationist from New Jersey, was on the call as Acting State Conservationist for Colorado until September 30th, when most likely a permanent State Con will be appointed by NRCS. She said that she is trying to get up to speed on CO issues and mainly focused on the NRCS RCPP guidelines. She stated that our point of contact (POC) would be either Gene Backhaus or Dawn Jackson with regard to the project. Contacting Roy Hall (Area 2 Conservationist) or Sherman Liechty (Area 3 Conservationist) was suggested for information on the eastern Colorado CCA designation and Mike Collins (Area 1 Conservationist) with respect to the Colorado River Basin CCA. She described the three avenues of funding available for the RCPP and touched briefly on the Farm Bill implementation with respect to EQIP. Maria said that she would send CACD a copy of a presentation on the RCPP in the next few days that could be sent out to the Districts statewide.

Administrative Updates:

Sharon Pattee (Executive Director) asked if there were any questions on the May 31, 2014 Financial Statements that had been sent out to the Board on Friday, June 13. She briefly touched on the status of the 2014 Annual District Dues payments status, and asked each Board Director to reach out to their individual Districts within their respective Watersheds and ask for any dues payments that haven’t been made. Sharon stated that she will be sending out a “second request” letter in the next week or so to those Districts that haven’t paid to date. She also informed the Board that as a result of prior discussions, she issued a check for the 2015 CO Envirothon program in the amount of \$500 to help with the initial planning process, and presented that check to Pam Wright (WGCD) and Mark Cronquist (CSCB) at the Upper South Platte Watershed meeting on June 3rd, in Greeley. Without any further discussion, Gary Moyer asked if there was a Motion to accept the financials as submitted; Don McBee so moved, with Charlie Carnahan providing a second. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Sharon gave the latest receipts reporting on Camp Rocky and said that she was very pleased with the cooperation from many of the District's at sponsoring a boy or girl (or several) to attend this year's camp. She felt that District involvement was up from last year. To date, there are approximately 40 campers confirmed.

Sharon then stated that the Spring 2014 issue of the CO Conservator was being printed and should be mailed out by the end of the week. There was enough material and articles submitted for a sixteen page copy and that roughly 5300 copies will be sent out.

Sharon reported briefly that Janette Terry is helping produce the Board and Executive Director business cards. Also, she updated on the District Outreach Program, stating that two Districts had been contacted and scheduled for an initial meeting, along with a 2014 Annual Meeting Program Committee telephone conference was set for the morning of June 19th. There has been a call out for volunteers for the other annual meeting committees also, with like meetings to start in the planning process.

Sharon again reminded the Board that there will be a summer face-to-face meeting in mid-August, most likely held in Leadville, CO. This location is centrally located and would allow the BOD to view the Upper Arkansas River Restoration Project that is underway there.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer reported that after a majority vote from the BOD, CACD pledged support of the "Seven Principles" put out by the Coloradans for Responsible Energy Development (CRED). Gary again requested that the BOD to please read/respond to emails that are sent out to them, often asking for input or some further communication. Moyer then asked for input on NACD travel with respect to the Board and also the Executive Director. CACD's finances don't allow for a lot of travel in general, so input was requested as to prioritizing said travel. Some discussion ensued, resulting in no particular decision(s) being made.

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 Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 7:30AM, via teleconference. Charlie Carnahan made the motion, with Anthony Lobato providing the second. Without further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pattee
Executive Director