

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
June 10, 2015 @ 7:30AM via Teleconference Call
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Gary Moyer, CACD President
Don McBee, CACD Vice President
Gary Thrash, CACD Director
Jim Cecil, CACD Director
Anthony Lobato, CACD Director
Charlie Carnahan, CACD Director
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Cindy Lair, Program Manager CSCB
Harold Unwin, CSCB President
Brian Neufeld, former CACD Director
Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Brian Starkebaum, CACD Director
Scott Nocks, CACD Director
Elaine Kist, CACD Director
Bob Warner, NACD Alternate
Clint Evans, NRCS State Conservationist

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Moyer at 7:34AM after establishing a quorum. Gary asked if there were any additional items that needed to be added to the morning's agenda. Brian Neufeld asked if he could be placed on the agenda, whenever time permitted. Gary allowed Brian to be placed on the agenda, when appropriate, and then moved forward with approval of the May 2015 BOD meeting Minutes.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Gary Moyer entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 2015 meeting. Jim Cecil made the motion to approve the May 2015 meeting Minutes, and Charlie Carnahan provided the second. After no further discussion from the Board, the motion to approve the CACD Board of Director's May 2015 meeting Minutes passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Brett Moore, CACD's lobbyist, briefly reviewed his final Legislative Tracking Sheet: there were 682 bills that were introduced, with 53 being monitored by CACD due their natural resource or agriculturally related nature. A copy of this report will be posted on the CACD website for public review. Brett briefly went through the more important legislative bills that came down to the last few days of this year's legislative session. There were a few that would be reviewed during the summer leg session, but no action would be taken. He reminded the group that CACD's efforts for additional 2015 funding was successful and the CSCB would see a \$92,053 increase in the Conservation Districts Direct Assistance allotment. Brett mentioned that the Public Trust Doctrine ballot initiative was still moving forward and that he would provide updates when he had them.

NRCS Updates: Clint Evans, CO State Conservationist, couldn't be on the call, but had sent Sharon Pattee an email with some comments to be shared with the CACD Board. Sharon read Clint's NRCS brief report as follows:

“NRCS leadership team is meeting at the Alamosa field office this week. Hot topics as always are budget and staffing. We have been advised that the budget for CO could be reduced by \$2M for fiscal year 2016. So we are making staffing decisions in anticipation of the budget reductions. I can expand on this topic at the annual meeting this fall if the CACD is interested.

Field office staff are wrapping up the EQIP contract obligations and gearing up for CSP application evaluations.

We will be evaluating the remaining EQIP applications in order to submit a supplemental funding request. No guarantees but better to ask for additional funds just in case another state returns funding to the national office.”

Sharon finished with letting the CACD Board know that she would be travelling down to Alamosa with Cindy Lair later in the day, to join the NRCS Leadership Team, at the invite of Clint Evans. Both Cindy and Sharon looked forward to spending the afternoon and next day with the NRCS group, discussing the partnership and strengthen the partnership.

CO State Conservation Board Updates: Cindy Lair, Program Manager for the CSCB, and Harold Unwin, CSCB President, were both on the call. Cindy reported that interviews for the western slope conservation specialist position were completed and that Karen Wolf had accepted the job offer and would start on July 7th. She said that Karen had previously interviewed for the southeast/San Luis Valley conservation specialist position, but had declined that job. Cindy stated that Karen would be moving to Grand Junction, where the job would base from. The next focus would be the SE/San Luis Valley specialist position, which would be opened for applications next week and hopefully have someone in place around the first of July.

The 2015 Direct Assistance review process was completed and the scoring would now be tallied by Nikki Reed, and then be sent to the CSCB Board for review for distribution to the Districts, when they meet in Canon City on July 1st and 2nd. Cindy thanked Scott Nocks and Sharon Pattee for volunteering to review the 2015 Direct Assistance applications and said that Sharon would be joining the CSCB in July for the meeting in Canon City.

Due to a concern with the Matching Grants application form, Cindy said that they were in the process of revamping that form where it asks for a NRCS signature to confirm that the project conforms to NRCS specifications. She said that there has been some problems with subjective opinion on whether a project adheres to NRCS specs in the strictest sense, depending upon the NRCS district conservationist’s view. So, now the form will give the person signing off on the project, either a “does” or “doesn’t” conform to the NRCS specifications. Hopefully, this will clear up any further issues when one person’s opinion could hang up the Matching Grant award process.

Funding CACD New Leadership Opportunities: At this time, Brian Neufeld, former CACD Rio Grande River Watershed Director, suggested that the current BOD take some of the funding in the Leadership line item to use in awarding new District Board Supervisors to attend the CACD annual meeting. He also suggested that the AM Newcomer Session, with maybe the Supervisor’s Watershed paying for mileage and per diem for those Supervisors to attend the AM. The question was asked about would this only be offered to a Supervisor’s from a District that is current on their CACD dues. After some discussion, it was suggested that in the case of a Supervisor coming from a non-dues paying District, that perhaps the registration could be split between CACD and the District and/or individual Supervisor. Sharon said that she would go back through the financial accounting to make sure that the line item money could be used for this purpose. It was also decided that Sharon would work with Brian

and draft a letter and application form to send out to the Districts to explain this idea. At this time, Gary Moyer asked the Board for a motion to proceed with this concept, and Jim Cecil provided a motion to move forward with using a portion of the Leadership line item funds to help send new Supervisors to CACD's 2015 Annual Meeting. Anthony Lobato seconded the motion to proceed, and after holding a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Updates:

Sharon Pattee started with review of the May 2015 financial reports, earlier submitted to the Board. After a few notations, she asked if there were any questions on her documentation. Hearing none, Gary Moyer asked the Board to accept the May 2015 financials as presented. Anthony Lobato made a motion to accept the May 2015 financial statements as presented, and Gary Thrash provided the second. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Sharon then provided the Board the to-date report of the 2015 annual District dues paid, encouraging each Director to contact the Districts within their own Watersheds about getting their 2015 annual dues payments in to CACD.

Sharon then reported on 2015 CO Envirothon, stating that it was an overall success. Thirteen teams participated in the event, and the winning high school team was from the Monte Vista area—Sargent High School. The first place team and its two advisors will travel to Springfield, Missouri at the end of July to compete in the 2015 National Envirothon competition. Sharon said that the 2015 CO Envirothon Steering Committee and the Resource Committee did a fantastic job, given the six month time frame that they had to work with, particularly thanking Judy Lopez and Brenda Anderson for the efforts. After taking care of the registration, forms, logistics, etc. for the Sargent HS team to compete in Missouri, Sharon will start to focus on next year's state competition.

2015 Camp Rocky is coming up fast, and Sharon said that she felt everything was falling into place. To date, there were about 12 campers and 8 junior leaders signed up for camp. Sharon hoped to double that count in the next three weeks. She reported that the 2015 Camp Rocky face-to-face meeting, held in CO Springs on May 20, went well, with Amy Gossman and the majority of the key instructors attending. The 2015 site visit, prior to camp, is set for June 18th.

The second teleconference with the 2015 AM Program Committee was held on June 3rd. The Program Committee is made up of Sharon, Gary Moyer, Cindy Lair, Mark Cronquist, Gary Thrash, Nancy McIntyre, Brian Neufeld, and Rachel Masters. Brian Neufeld was able to participate for a portion on the call. The group further discussed what the meeting message/content might emphasize, building on the partnership and collaboration theme chosen. Conservation Partnerships – Strategies for Success is the most liked theme idea. The next teleconference meeting was set for July 16th at 1:30PM. In the meantime, Sharon will be drafting a meeting agenda and schedule.

Sharon had sent out a poll to the CACD Board asking for available dates from the Board members in August for the BOD 2015 Summer Face-to-Face meeting. With the feedback that she had received to date, it was looking like the third week of August would probably be when the overnight meeting would be held and the location would most likely be in Pagosa Springs. She said that she would be working with Gary Thrash and John Taylor, with the San Juan CD on a possible tour of some kind, potentially something to do with Bio-Fuels, and would send out information to the Board as soon as she had it.

Finally, Sharon urged each Director to make it a priority to attend their Watershed meetings, and also any of their Districts' annual meetings. She is unable to make a lot of the District meetings, but stressed the importance of CACD being represented in the month-to-month happenings of each District, whenever possible.

President's Updates:

Gary Moyer reminded the Board that the NACD Summer Board meeting was scheduled for July 11 – 13, in Spokane, WA. He would be attending in the place of Shaun Sims, NACD Executive Board member, who will be unable to attend. Gary will be going in Sims' place and stated that NACD would be paying for his costs of the trip. Most likely, Bob Warner will not be attending due to his hospitalization/health.

Adjournment:

With no other business on the agenda, Gary asked for any additional items for discussion from the Board. Upon hearing none, Gary asked for a motion to set the next CACD Board of Directors conference call next month on Thursday, July 16, at 7:30AM. Don McBee made the motion, with Anthony Lobato providing a second. Without further discussion the Board voted unanimously to set the next BOD teleconference call on the morning of July 16, which Gary reiterated is a Thursday, instead of the usual Wednesday. The meeting adjourned at 8:56AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon

Sharon Pattee
CACD Executive Director