

**Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 14th, 2019, at 7:30 AM via Teleconference**

Attendees:

Scott Jones, CACD President - Colorado River Watershed
Mike Cleary, CACD Vice President - Gunnison/Dolores River Watershed
Gary Thrash, Director - San Juan Basin Watershed /CO Representative to NACD
Jim Cecil, Director - Republican River Watershed
Charlie Carnahan, Director - Upper South Platte Watershed
George Fosha, Director - Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Nick Charchalis, Director - North Platte/White/Yampa River Watershed
Steve McEndree, Director – Lower Arkansas River Watershed
Nancy Berges, Director - Lower South Platte Watershed
Bob Warner, CO Alternative Representative to NACD
Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist
Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director

Absent:

Tyler Neely, Director - Rio Grande River Watershed

Guests:

Les Owen, CDA
Mark Cronquist, CSCB
Erin Kuhlman, AED Mancos CD

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Jones at 7:32 AM after establishing a quorum. President Scott Jones asked for any additional agenda items. With no additional requests, the board moved on with the agenda.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

President Scott Jones asked for a motion to approve the July 2019 minutes. CACD Director George Fosha made the motion to approve and Director Gary Thrash gave the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD's July 2019 Minutes passed unanimously.

CDA Update-Les Owen:

Les Gave an update about the news release from the Trump Administration rolling out the endangered species act regulatory changes that are coming. These hit the Federal register last September and now coming back around to finalize these changes. They will be published in the Federal Register fairly soon. One good change will rescind the blanket 4D Rule. Under the endangered species act, they can designate as threatened or endangered. The new regulations require a 4D Rule specific to a threatened species rather than extending the protections for endangered species to threatened under the blanket rule. Also changing is correcting the difficulties of being able to delist a species, by adding some clarity to the listing process. Also included is a change to the designation of critical habitat that is unoccupied by the species. They must prove now that the habitat is able to support the species. There are also some revisions to the definition of destruction or adverse modification of habitat. They have to consider the habitat as a whole, not just small sections or just one

allotment. Overall there are some pretty positive changes. Les reviewed everything that is out for comment or out for the protest, including some important to the sheep industry. CDA provided comment to these proposals. Gary stated comments made by CDA were good. Mike Cleary asked Les if there was any progress of the Ag Commissioner meeting the leader of the state BLM. Les said he would check into it and push harder to make it a priority. Mike stated he said he heard they announced an interim BLM Commissioner in Washington. Les said this was correct, William Perry Pendley who is a strong advocate for multiple use on federal lands.

CSCB Update:

No update. Scott reminded everyone that the CSCB fall meeting will be in Sterling on the 20th and 21st. Bobbi stated she would be attending. A couple of topics on their agenda will be the proposed soil health program and the CSCB/CACD joint board meeting at the Annual Meeting with the possibility of bringing in Ray Ledgerwood to work with both boards together.

NRCS Update:

No Update. Bobbi did state that we should be close to getting approval on our revised budget. Bobbi also brought up the NRCS area 3 employee/partner meeting on September 12th in Rocky Ford. Director George Fosha stated he might be able to attend. Director Steve McEndree stated he would not be attending. Discussions took place on the two CACD resolutions regarding CRP designation points for SE Colorado as well as discussions on the CACD Bill and concerns of the possible impact on EQIP. George is still working on this and will follow-up.

NACD Update-Gary Thrash:

Gary Thrash and Bob Warner both attended the NACD summer meeting and SW Pacific regional meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Both Gary and Bob served on the Stewardship Education group committee. A couple of the highlights from this meeting included that NACD has gone online with the educational website that has a lot of materials added for teachers and people who want educational materials for conservation. Gary talked to Dianna Blackwood who is the NACD lead for organizing this committee. Gary submitted the educational video to her from the CO State partners(CSCB, CACD, NRCS); Tomorrow's Conservation Generation. She may be posting our video on their national website.

Gary also spoke with the NACD Rep who has been the main contact with Cabela's for the marketing NACD is doing with Cabela's. Gary reminded the board of the cap promotion going on until August 31st. Gary also talked to Keith about getting Cabela's involved with our annual meeting. Gary will follow-up to get the name of the Colorado marketing director to contact for us to follow-up. Gary also said Cabela's would possibly be interested in providing promotional items for our live auction and also possibly getting a space for promoting their business at our annual meeting.

NACD has been going around the country having regional listening sessions. For their regional meeting, it was a discussion of a variety of topics followed by real-time polling with the NACD app on your phone that showed immediate results of the polls from questions asked. Meeting topics included environmental education advocacy, conservation planning, training and grant funding, meetings and more. The New Mexico Restoration Partnerships were featured during the general session and there was also a Conservation Leadership Training panel discussion of young people going through their conservation leadership training.

Envirothon information came up and Bob Warner is involved in the National Conservation Foundation which is a sponsor of Envirothon. The event this year was held in North Carolina and a team from Virginia won. There was \$30K in scholarships available to the top three teams. These scholarship funds came from Smithfield Foods. This is an added incentive for teams to get involved in Envirothon.

The 2020 NACD Annual Meeting will be February 8-12 and will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, with the topic of Conservation Innovation. Next year the regional meetings will be in Hawaii. Gary added he had just finished reading the book called "The Worst Hard Times" About the 1930's Dust Bowl where our own Baca County was mentioned several times and the folks there who lived through it. This is a good read for promoting people to buy into the conservation efforts that came out of the Dust Bowl era. Bob Warner said they have not yet determined a date for the regional meeting, but it should be sometime in September. It is Pacific's year to host and this is why it will be in Hawaii. He will keep everyone updated. Bob said the National Conservation Foundation meeting was productive. They are working really hard on a development plan; giving programs, giving concepts and also the national Envirothon event. Bob feels Envirothon is successful and going very well. The next summer meeting will be in Bismarck, ND sometime in July or August.

Mike stated he is being asked all the time about the BLM initiative and now that we have an interim director, he knows that NACD had talked about our BLM initiative about being allowed to move historic right of ways off contour lines and reroute them without losing your perpetual rights. Mike is just hoping to reinforce that this is still on NACD's radar screen. If not, maybe if we could get a contact person. Mike will be happy to follow up with that contact. They have two of these projects in their valley and they are trying to get through the red tape to get started. Mike said if there is a contact or confirmation this is still on their agenda, this will work for him. Gary gave Mike Jeff Burwell's number as a contact for follow-up.

Bob Warner discussed how we should look at ways Taos Conservation District has been able to establish grants for large projects and we should take a closer look at this. Gary also mentioned Bobbi is working with an employee from the White River CD for the NACD Conservation Bootcamp program coming up in October.

Legislative Update- Brett Moore:

Brett met with Helen Silver in early August regarding her work with CSU and the Colorado Collaborative for Healthy Soils, which relates to what CACD has heard from CDA and their priority on soil health. Helen is contracting with CSU and trying to make some of the soil health concepts manageable and package them in a way they can be distributed for these conversations.

The Collaborative for Healthy Soils had their second meeting Friday August 16, where CACD lobbyist Brett Moore and Bob Warner's attended to get a sense of where this group is going and how much of this may be picked up by the department. Producers were underrepresented at this meeting, and we will continue to work with CDA and CSCB to ensure these conversations continue to keep private landowners in mind and protect their rights.

The interim Water Committee is an annual legislative committee that explores issues around water that we keep an eye on. They had a meeting in Steamboat Springs on August 21st. They meet again in Denver on September 11-12. The CACD meeting is September 11th so Brett will cover their meeting on the 12th.

At the CACD face-to-face meeting in September, Brett will bring the legislative ranking for review, on which we base our Annual Legislator of the Year rankings, recognizing those legislators that best reflect CACD's mission of conserving natural resources and protecting private property rights.

Additionally, CACD is reviewing policies that were passed at the 2018 annual meeting to ensure we are acting on the Districts' priorities as voted on through the resolution process. The CACD Legislative Committee has reviewed these resolutions and discussed ways CACD can act on all them. We focused very strongly on the ditch easement bill the last legislative session, which accruals originated from the 2017 annual meeting. Brett will be reviewing and reaching out to the legislative committee with some recommendations of how we can advance outstanding 2018 priorities.

Brett represented CACD at the Commissioner's Luncheon and the Pueblo Chamber Legislative Reception at the State Fair.

Director Mike Cleary added he was at a roundtable in Delta county where he met state Representative Julie McClusky. There were representatives there from US Senator Bennett's office and US Congressman Tipton's office, as well as some Rocky Mountain Farmers Union representatives. All were asking what the issues were that have been coming up in their areas. The first that came up was rural roads need to have a set-aside program. The second concern was the fear of hemp growing, and the potential of it becoming a noxious weed. The third issue was about keeping wild wolf reintroduction off the general ballot. CACD currently has policy opposing wolf reintroduction.

Envirothon Update-Mark Cronquist:

Mark reported that the Woodland Park team that represented Colorado in the National competition in NC represented our state very well. Mark does not have the final tally sheets but in talking with their sponsors they placed ten higher in the oral presentation category from last year. Mark thanked Gary Thrash for the lead for a Forestry topic expert which has been confirmed. We have four of the five topic experts needed. We are still working on a topic expert for aquatic ecology. Mark is following up on some leads. The venue search continues. The Arapahoe county venue pricing is now too high. The venue lead in Weld County would have worked except for the time which fell right at the time of state testing. Mark is waiting to hear back from the state fairgrounds and is open to any suggestions from the board. He is working on final revisions for the Envirothon website with a goal to roll out the 2020 program in September. Director George Fosha asked about square footage needed for the projected 150 people. Mark stated we have been able to get by with about 8K sq. ft, with breakout rooms, or 10 to 15K sq. ft if we have to section off areas.

CACD FINANCIALS: 07-31-19

Ending/Cleared Balance in Checking as of July 31st, \$90,792.51

Checks/Payments Cleared - \$15,344.47, Deposits Cleared \$2,928.50

Total Uncleared Transactions (Checks/Payments Only-No Pending Deposits) -\$2,574.66

Ending Register Balance as of July 31st, \$88,217.85

Reserve remains at \$26,075.15 (remaining payback due to reserve total \$15K)

Funds allocated for AM 2019 \$5,000.00

Funds allocated for AM 2020 \$5,000.00

NOI as of 07/31/19 \$52,142.70

New Transactions

Expenses -\$27,725.99

Deposits \$40,981.95

Total New Transactions \$13,255.96

Current Register Balance \$101,473.81

Current NOI \$65,398.66

Credit Card Ending Statement Balance as of 08/07/19 \$7,228.38

Total District Dues Paid as of 8/13/2019 \$51,200.00

Bobbi discussed the need to determine the districts who will be eligible for the Anadarko funds set aside to help with districts on dues payments.

UARRP Activity 2019 YTD: Total pass-through expenses \$70,258.25 - Total pass-through income \$74,194.21 - Total CACD Income Earned YTD 2019 \$3,935.96 (Includes 5% Admin & Payroll Reimb) Balance of Federal Funds Available \$318,521.42

Director Jim Cecil made a motion to approve the July Financials. **Director Charlie Carnahan** gave the second. Motion passes.

Guest Speaker from Mancos Conservation District:

While waiting for Mancos to join the call President Scott Jones explained that they are wanting to ask CACD to act as a pass-thru for a grant. Discussions took place if there were any previous pass-thru programs done for other districts and if there was an admin percentage charged. The board agreed if we can we want to provide this service to our districts. Everyone agreed admin fees should be determined on a case by case basis and on additional workload with one employee and the continuing discussion of finding a way to bring on another employee to be able to expand our services to the districts. Discussions also took place with situations that might warrant not charging any admin fees in the case of charitable donations being passed through CACD to the districts.

Erin from the Mancos Conservation District joined the call to make the ask for the grant pass-thru from Patagonia. They are in need a non-profit 501c3 status in order to qualify for the grant. The reason for the grant is for the Mancos River Watershed and the river watch they participate in on a monthly basis. It will help fund tools and supplies which includes mailing back to CO Parks and Wildlife each month and any admin costs of handling this. This will go into their stream management planning procedures and protocols, so they are specifically looking for match funding for the overall arching watershed grant that they are working on. The grant is being written for about \$5K. This will be a one-time collection.

Director George Fosha made a motion to act as a pass-thru for Mancos CD. Director Jim Cecil made the second. President Scott Jones opened for discussion. Gary asked about budgeting and asked Erin if she anticipated any admin fees going to CACD. Erin said she would forward a budget to the board. Erin stated she could add the CACD fee percentage to the admin cost. Gary asked if Erin could go ahead and submit the application with the board approval to meet the deadline and then give Bobbi more time to talk further with Gretchen about budget and admin fee percentage. President Scott Jones closed discussion. Motion passes.

Camp Rocky:

No update except that we are still waiting on receipt of the Corteva sponsorship.

Corporate Fundraising:

Mike discussed the donation from Anadarko, and he would like to get this projected completed and distributed. He would still like to look at the budget data for each district, along with the spreadsheet submitted by Bobbi. The funds to the districts will not be an actual distribution, it will be a credit to the qualifying districts. Everyone agreed to further discuss at the face-to-face. Discussion took place about the participation of Cabela's involvement in the live auction. Everyone agreed to discuss further at the face-to-face. Mike will follow up with Cabela's contact from Gary and contact their regional person. Discussion took place about the participation of Cabela's involvement in the live auction.

Annual Meeting:

Bobbi started with an update based on the previous annual meeting call notes that were pending to be sent out. The theme this year is Conservation: "The Times they are a-changing" Bringing the Old and New Together. We discussed bringing Ray Ledgerwood back in. We discussed and agreed to bring Ray in to work with the two boards together during the joint board meeting. Cindy Lair will discuss this concept at the CSCB meeting in Sterling. Bobbi discussed the proposal/budget from Ray where we would be utilizing his services

for three days during the annual meeting. We discussed giving Ray time during the general session on Tuesday to pick up where we left off with the watershed leadership training. Ray would break everyone up into watershed groups during the general session to work in groups recapping and making any needed updates to their watershed leadership plans. After the break, a spokesperson from each watershed would be given an opportunity to come up on stage and showcase their watershed leadership plan.

Bobbi recapped on guest speakers for Tuesday's general session that will hopefully include Commissioner Greenberg, someone from BLM, someone from the State Land Board and someone to speak on CRP. Bobbi will reach out to Les and Clint to ask for help with leads on speakers. Bobbi shared the idea of having only two breakout sessions; one for a district employee training led by CSCB and one for a supervisor discussion/training led by Ray Ledgerwood. Discussion took place on specific topics for the two breakout sessions. Director Nick Charchalis stated that he would like to hear from each board member on what they feel about these new ideas and also to share any topic ideas. President Scott Jones stated this could be done at the face-to-face. Bobbi will set up another annual meeting call prior to the face-to-face.

Misc. Discussions:

Scott brought up details for the face-to-face meeting and travel plans. The meeting will start at 9 AM and end at 5 PM with a catered lunch. CAWA's next meeting is in September. Jim brought up the previous discussion we had on purchasing caps with our logo for the annual meeting. Jim said this brings up the question of do we move forward with the changing of the CACD name. Jim shared that Bobbi has heard of some concern from the districts of changing our name since they cannot change their names back.

Bobbi stated we are in year two of working on this and that she has a clear list of the steps to complete to make the name change. Bobbi also reiterated that she did hear there were some districts who had concerns about our name change. Bobbi stated she thought there could possibly be a resolution brought forth this year for CACD to stick with the current name. There is no confirmation of this resolution and it may not be true. Bobbi asked the board what they wanted to do. Director Gary Thrash stated that for the districts it requires legislation to change their names again. It would have to be done by statute for the districts.

It is rumored that some districts want their name recognition back and also that it is important to be associated with CACD either using soil and water in the name or leaving it out. Gary stated we don't want to change our name until our districts can change back. Jim stated he was not aware of the legislation rule for the districts when we passed our resolution. Jim stated if brought up for a vote again, he would vote to go back to CACD, so we are in line with our conservation districts. Jim and George did not realize what the districts had to do to change their names. Bobbi suggested doing a survey to get a clearer picture.

Gary suggested ordering the caps with the theme of the meeting, using the logo and the annual meeting theme but leaving off the association name. Mike agreed; he was unaware of the legislative process and agreed we should table changing our name. George said if Bobbi had time the survey would be good. Jim made a motion for the cap order and Mike made the second. Motion passes. Scott asked for any other items. Bobbi brought up that we had voted that we would participate with the article for Cultivating Colorado. Bobbi stated she would pass it around again this afternoon, so everyone had a chance to comment and make the deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Ketels
CACD Executive Director