***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

***August 16, 2017, at 1:30 PM Face to Face***

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Gary Moyer, North Platte/White/Yampa River Watershed Director

Mike Cleary, Gunnison/Dolores River Watershed Director

Gary Thrash, San Juan Basin Watershed Director/CO Representative Alternate to NACD

Charlie Carnahan, Upper South Platte Watershed Director

Jim Cecil, Republican River Watershed Director

Scott Jones, Colorado River Watershed Director

Bob Warner, CO Representative to NACD

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director

***Guests:***

Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager

Greg Brunjak, UARRP Project Coordinator

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 1:23 PM after establishing a quorum. Don McBee then called for any additions to the agenda. Vice President, Anthony Lobato requested to add membership dues to the agenda. With no further requests, the board moved on with the agenda.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the July 2017 Minutes from the last meeting. Director, Gary Thrash made the motion to approve the July 2017 Minutes, and Director, Scott Jones provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD’s July 2017 Minutes was passed unanimously.

***CSCB Update:***

**Cindy Lair:** Cindy gave an update on the status of Direct Assistance and stated that letters were being sent out and that funds should be received within a few weeks. Cindy briefly recapped on the issue of noncompliance with a couple of the districts and discussed general DOLA requirements, including elections.

Cindy reiterated that compliance is huge, and how this affects the eligibility for direct assistance, matching grants, and DTC funds. Cindy explained for any district that does not receive direct assistance, this funding is only for the districts and is put back into the pot for the current year. These funds are not required to be given back to the state. Cindy discussed the Bootstrap Program history and stated that the future of this program is questionable. Gary Moyer brought up the CSCB Leadership program and further discussion with Cindy and all CACD Board members took place in regard to the future and vision of this program. Cindy covered CSCB staffing and stated they were reviewing applications and would soon be in the interviewing process for the Western Slope Field Specialist. Cindy invited a CACD Board Member to be involved in the interview process. Director Scott Jones volunteered to help. Cindy also announced that the new Grants Manager will be starting September 1st.

***NRCS Update:***

No Update

***NACD Update:***

Director, Gary Thrash asked about the upcoming NACD meeting in Tuscon, AZ , September 11-14. He covered the costs involved for him to attend. The Board discussed the importance of CACD presence at the National level. Discussion also took place about having (1) national vote, NACD being the number one advocate for the Farm Bill and the educational programs involved at the national level. Discussion also took place about the success of private associations and private funding. Bob Warner stressed the importance of representation of CACD resolutions at the National level. Gary Moyer is attending the NACD Regional and stressed the importance of Gary Thrash attending also. Don McBee called for a vote to send Gary Thrash to the NACD Regional meeting in Tuscon, with CACD covering the cost. Gary Moyer gave the motion to approve and Anthony Lobato provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve sending Gary Thrash was passed unanimously.

***Watershed Meetings/Membership Dues Structure:***

Director, Mike Cleary brought up the importance of the watershed meetings, how they are structured and the need for strong attendance and involvement. The board discussed the need to educate on the role and the value of CACD at all watershed meetings, and added that it is imperative for the watersheds to take this role in helping to educate the districts, getting them and keeping them engaged with their watersheds. The goal is for the watersheds to take the initiative and responsibility to recognize the situations that need to be brought to CACD and that we have a representative from each watershed to to speak on behalf of CACD. District Dues structure was also discussed, including the district dues resolution voted on in 2016. Don reminded everyone of the opportunity for speakers at the watershed meetings and for everyone to continue to help get the word out to the districts.

***Legislative Update – Brett Moore:***

Brett discussed the Ag meeting scheduled for October and discussed the Ag Council meetings coming up between the months of January through May. CO Ag Day at the Capitol is scheduled for March 21, 2018. Discussions took place about WOTUS and now being the time to testify. Discussions also took place in regard to EPA. Possible resolutions from watersheds were discussed. The board then went into review and discussion to vote for the Outstanding Legislature Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

***Financial Update – Bobbi Ketels:***

CACD operating income as of July 30th is $28,385.34. CACD reserve balance remains at $26,075.15. Bobbi is still waiting to follow up with the CPA regarding 2016 balances in the program classes that may or may not need to be rolled over to 2017. The balance in the raffle account is $429.04. Bobbi stated that she received the signed check from Sharon Pattee and ready to send to NACD, but needs the information of who to send it to and will need a letter of confirmation of the donation in order to close out the raffle account with to CO Secretary of State. Membership and District Dues total received $$31,884.40 . Credit card balance $10,888.46

***Conservator:***

Bobbi reminded everyone of the need for further assistance in obtaining advertisers and engaging districts for the upcoming Northeast Region issue of the CO Conservator.

***Annual Meeting:***

The board reviewed the draft schedule, discussed the speakers and topics for breakout sessions, and possible sponsorships for the Annual Meeting . Further discussion took place in planning for the Live Auction and goals for the exhibitors expo. Changes to the sponsorship form were reviewed for updating to the website, as well as changes in processing credit cards for the Annual Meeting registrations, sponsorships and exhibitors. All agreed for security reasons it was not a good idea to have credit card processing through the website. Don asked for a motion to vote on removing the credit card information section from the forms and to open an account with Square for easier credit card processing procedures prior to and during the Annual Meeting. Director, Gary Moyer made the motion to approve, and Director, Mike Cleary provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve was passed unanimously.

***Envirothon:***

No Update

***Camp Rocky:***

No Update

***Guest Speaker Greg Brunjak, UARRP Project Coordinator :***

Greg Brunjak from Quality Fisheries Management is the Project Coordinator for the Upper Arkansas River Restoration Project. CACD is the fiscal administrating partner, along with Greg and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. Greg gave a presentation to the board on the history and the progress of restoration as we approach the end of the first (5) year contract. Construction has been going on since 2011 with 11 landowners who signed onto the project. Now (10) of these landowners have cattle back on their property for grazing. Greg will be giving a more in-depth presentation as one of our break-out speakers at the Annual Meeting. CACD is in the process of signing a new (5) year agreement for the monitoring and maintenance stage of this project. As part of the new agreement, CACD will continue to be the fiscal administrator and will receive compensation for administrative time provided. CACD board members will join Greg for a tour in the morning.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Ketels

CACD Executive Director