



Gunnison Conservation District

216 North Colorado St, Gunnison CO 81230 • (970) 707-3047

Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2019

Regular Meeting: 1:00 pm

US Forest Service Conference Room, 216 N. Colorado Gunnison, CO 81230

Board Members Present: Jan Coury, President; Bill Ketterhagen, Vice President; Rufus Wilderson, Treasurer; John Rozman, Supervisor; Dan Zadra, Supervisor; Brooke Vasquez, Supervisor

Board Members Absent: None

Employees Present: Aleshia Rummel, Sam Liebl

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: Dan Olson (NRCS), Jackie Kragel (NRCS, by phone), Eric McPhail (CSU Extension), Mike Tarantino (CSFS), Dayle Funka (USFS)

Call to Order President Jan Coury called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Partner Updates

NRCS:

Olson said NRCS staff are waiting to see whether a third person offered a job in the Gunnison office will accept the position. He said staff are also still waiting for program rules for the 2018 Farm Bill. The NRCS will have a meeting in the middle of January that will allow staff to move forward on the net program year.

Kragel said she met with the Big Thompson Conservation District about how they have a more diverse and functional forestry program. This district was able to hire a DCT forestry technician. They had a high demand for their forestry program but no one to administer it. The solution was to have a DCT, and the DCT was responsible for finding 20-25 percent of matching funds. The revenue generated through the forestry DCT funds not only the position but also the district itself because of extra dollars in forestry program contracts. There seems to be an opportunity for Shavano and Gunnison conservation districts to share a forestry DCT, and Kragel said she has spoken with the Shavano Conservation District about splitting a DCT with the Gunnison Conservation District.

Tarantino said there is a capacity issue at the Gunnison CSFS office but that there is the issue that grant dollars are for contracted services only, and he said he did not know any off hand that pay for staff salaries.

Olson said there have not been many forestry contracts with the NRCS, though he and Sam Pamcratz at the CSFS have spoken previously about a position that could tie the CSFS and NRCS together for funding and for technical services.

Tarantino said the CSFS stance is that the more people doing good forestry work in the basin the better. In Durango there is a cooperative agreement with the CSFS and NRCS to have a forester funded through the American Forest Foundation. Tarantino asked Kragel if that might be a route for this DCT forestry position in Gunnison. Kragel said that would not be an option right now, and instead this position would be a DCT position administered mainly by one of the two conservation districts, with that administering district being the lead district on this. Kragel said responsibilities like office location would be up to the Shavano and Gunnison districts to decide. Kragel said she would leave further actions on this idea to the conservation districts.

CSU Extension:

McPhail said the extension office has been busy with 4-H business. The office has decided to fill Nadine Henry's position and that the position description has been received from CSU. There will probably be a new agent in April, with the job opening being posted in January and interviews being done in March. Master Gardener programs are taking sign-ups currently. 14 speakers have confirmed for the February Landowner Day. Zadra will speak about beavers. Marcella will speak about backyard conservation.

Zadra suggested that a presentation could be given at the Landowner Day about Plateau herbicide and the District's cost-share program.

Rummel said she could have a table at the event.

McPhail said the Gunnison extension office will take 8-9 kids to the Leadership Development Conference (LDC) in January.

ACTION: Wilderson moved to approve a \$200 donation to the Gunnison CSU Extension Office for the LDC camp. Ketterhagen seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Liebl said he would print a check for Wilderson to sign immediately.

CSFS:

Tarantino said he is working on a forest management plan that, when drafted, will enable him to apply for TSP programming. He is in the process of becoming a technical service provider (TSP), since there is that niche in the Gunnison Basin and he may be able to fill it in 1, 2 or 3 years time.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of November 13, 2019.

ACTION: Wilderson moved to accept the minutes as presented. Zadra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for November.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Zadra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilderson requested that there be a better comparison of profit and loss vs. budget in the future.

Old Business

Grants and Contract Status - Virtual Fencing Collaring Project

Rummel said she was able to contact with Gallagher employees, who said that they are not ready yet to have a trial in Gunnison. They said they were doing trials on Angus breeds and had some successful trials in Australia. A trial with 450 animals in Queensland had some issues, however, due to herd size. Company staff said they were making improvements with software. This puts the possibility of Gunnison trials in the second half of 2020. Rummel said she is glad to be working with Gallagher employee Sara as she is more responsive, and that Rummel inquired about getting a more solid contract in place with Gallagher since several proposals had been sent back and forth and that there had been multiple cost estimates.

McPhail asked whether the company has another project for virtual fencing trials in the U.S. Rummel said it seemed that there is not.

Vasquez said nothing can move forward in the U.S. until the hardware has FCC approval for frequencies, and it sounds like they are working through that with uncertainty as to when approval could happen.

Funka said she is receiving a lot of calls from counterparts asking about the progress of deploying the technology in Gunnison. Funka suggested that there could be opportunities for she and her colleagues to help the project forward.

Rummel said she was able to find a copy of a wire transfer for \$8,000 but that other records of payments could not be found.

Ketterhagen suggested that the District could contact U.S. Representative Scott Tipton's office for assistance with the FCC process.

CSFS Seedling Sales

Liebl said more orders have come in, and that he would push the program with a mailer as soon as possible in 2020.

Grants and Contracts Status

Liebl said all is well with grant payments and year-end reporting.

Rummel said USFS Gunnison District Ranger Matt McCombs had requested an agreement regarding facilities use of the District in the 216 N. Colorado St. building. Rummel said she was not able to find anything that specifically gives office space to the District with the NRCS. Rummel said it would be

beneficial if the District drafted a contract, though there is a question of to what extent would such an agreement have to receive NRCS approval.

Olson said there is an MOU that exists between the NRCS and the District, and this MOU states that the two entities can come up with a space sharing agreement if desired.

Vasquez suggested that Liz With be asked about the space sharing agreement.

New Business

Cheatgrass Coordinator Grant

Liebl said the District has applied for a grant that would fund a part-time cheatgrass programs coordinator for the Gunnison Basin.

Elections

Liebl said 2020 is an election year and that the start date for nominations will be January 1.

Rozman said an election process is unlikely as he cannot remember more applicants than open positions since he began serving as a Trustee in 1986.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2019 at 1pm at the conference room in the USFS building at 216 N. Colorado St.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:57pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: These minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of December 17, 2019 were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting of _____, 20_____.

By: _____
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District