



Gunnison Conservation District

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

Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2019

Regular Meeting: 7:00 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, Kim Antonucci

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: Dan Olson (NRCS), Marcella Tarantino (BCR), Mike Tarantino (State Forest Service Office), Sam Liebl

Call to Order President Jan Coury called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Partner Updates

NRCS Update:

Dan Olson attend a tour in Lake City with other agencies today and evaluated the 2018/2019 avalanche debris damage to the watershed. The avalanche debris has created dams, particularly in the Henson Creek drainage which is posing an imminent risk to the Town of Lake City and to the bridge crossing Henson Creek, which was designed for a 100-year flood. At this point there a high likelihood that the bridge and the Town could be taken out by debris. The NRCS is planning to implement their Emergency Water Protection Plan, which could help share 75 to 90 percent of the cost of permits and practices to protect the watershed for private landowners, such as dam repairs in Lake City. A public meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Dan continued the discussion about the new in-house engineering technician. Dan met with Bill, Jesse, Jackie and Aleshia to finalize more details. The position has gained NRCS approval, and they are obtaining a letter of support from the UGRWCD. Abbey Grey from the CSCB Matching Grants Program will help train the new technician. There may also be on-the-job training opportunities in Montrose. The position will focus on irrigation plans and watershed restoration planning.

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Update:

Marcella Tarantino is scheduling her field work with salinity and wetland creation.

Colorado State Forest Service Office: Mike Tarantino said the State is also coordinating efforts in Lake City with avalanche debris removal in the Henson Creek drainage. Sam is providing recommendations on using helicopter services on private lands in the area and inquired about the ratio of public to private lands. Dan commented that the lower end of the drainages in the valley are on private lands. The State Forest Service is hoping to mitigate risks for injury by providing an alternative to ground/foot work.

Mike announced the Forest Legacy Program, which provides funding for permanent conservation easements. This program has a deadline of July 31.

Mike discussed some planning efforts with Aleshia and Marcella in the Gunnison State Wildlife Area and the Lost Canyon parcel in the VanTuyl State Wildlife Area. He also mentioned that he has been sending referrals to the Conservation District for seed planning in association with tree planning. Mike expressed his gratitude for cross-boundary partnerships.

The State Forest Service will continue to operate out of their existing location on the University Campus and will expect to move their new service location at some point in the winter.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of April 10, 2019.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dan Zadra seconded. Jan abstained from voting since she was not present, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for April 2019 and noticed a profit in April due to seed sales as well as the NFWF grant finally coming in.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the financials as presented. Brooke Vasquez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Virtual Collaring Project.

Aleshia discussed several funding opportunities available for virtual fencing, including the Conservation Innovation Grant, which has a deadline of June 25. However, Curtis Allen has not been available to discuss additional opportunities with virtual fencing.

Agersens has partnered with Gallagher, who is now the rep for Agersens in the US. Sara Adams has reached out to Aleshia and will be touring Gunnison on May 29. Aleshia said that Sara is very responsive by email and asked if some of the Board Members want to attend the meeting Gunnison. A few of the Board members had questions for Sara and will be present at the meeting.

Grant and Contract Updates.

The administrative grants from NFWF and DCT grants are on track.

The CSCB Matching Grant hasn't yet started. Jesse said that he will commence irrigation improvements on the Potato Bohm Ditch as soon as the ditches are off. The State's grant administrator has no problem with this. Jesse is communicating with the State directly on this grant.

The CDA \$5K Cheatgrass Grant has been authorized and is under way. The County Weed District has matched the GCD with List A and List B species. The Cheatgrass Pull Day in the City of Gunnison was a success despite weather, with about 50 people attending. Mayor Gelwicks came to the event and proclaimed May 18 as "Eradicate Cheatgrass Day" in the City.

The HPP Cost-Share Grant for \$4,758 is also moving forward. The District has received 36 gallons of the generic form of Plateau (Panoramic), which is ready to be disbursed to landowners. An application process will be required with before & after pictures.

A Landowner Cheatgrass Workshop will be held on September 13.

County Sage-grouse reviews are picking up substantially.

May 10 Water Festival:

It was forecast to be a bad weather day, but Jennifer Diamond requested a contingency plan, and the Festival was held inside at the school, with two stations held outside (BLM Station and River Trailer). Approximately 79 students attended, and the inside stations worked well.

New Business

Mill Creek Youth Summit.

This year's Summit is scheduled for September 27.

District Manager Position

The Board discussed that May 31 should be the application deadline for the position, and that interviews will be held on June 4 and/or June 5 between 10am and 2pm at the USFS Conference Center.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7pm at USFS Conference Center.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: These minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of May 21, 2019 were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting of _____, 20_____.

By: _____
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District