



Gunnison Conservation District

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

Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 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, Sam Liebl, Kim Antonucci

Employees Absent: None

Others Present: George Sibley (UGRWCD), Eric McPhail (CSU Extension)

Call to Order President Jan Coury called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Partner Updates

CSU Extension:

Eric McPhail told the board that the severity of the flooding risk in Lake City has been downgraded as there is no imminent threat. McPhail suggested that a study on the impacts that flood irrigation has on lessening river flooding would be useful.

McPhail told the board that gardening, youth programs and Cattlemen's Days are the current focus of the Gunnison extension office. He and his staff are being made aware of new weeds that no one has seen before. More than 50 landowners picked up seed potatoes from the extension office.

McPhail suggested that the district might consider partnering with the Colorado State Forest Service about selling seedling trees. Sam Pamcratz of the CSFS told McPhail that the sales have been overwhelming, and as it is a winter and springtime thing, it could be a good opportunity, and perhaps lucrative, for the District. Many counties have youth clubs that take on these sales, but McPhail said there are probably not any local clubs that would like to take this on.

McPhail said that the free well water testing program continues and that Gunnison County residents can have it done if they just fill out a form. The value of the tests over \$500.

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District:

George Sibley said the UGRWCD is working to finish its first round of needs assessments and is preparing a report for submission to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) at the end of June 2019. That report is connected to a grant that the CWCB gave to the UGRWCD for the needs assessment work. The next phase of needs assessments will focus on Cebolla Creek and the Taylor River and the Gunnison River mainstem, finishing up the nearby Gunnison River watersheds by 2020. These needs assessments are the first step in creating water management plans that will extend to mid-century.

Sibley told the board that it is not certain whether Blue Mesa Reservoir will fill this year.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the regular meeting of May 21, 2019.

ACTION: Jan Coury moved to accept the minutes as presented. Rufus Wilderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Board reviewed the financial statements for May.

Kim Antonucci told the board that she thinks the District should close its account with Bank of the West. Antonucci said the account with the bank was opened so that money could be accepted through a debit or credit card account through the NRCS. Because it is a public funds account the bank requires that a different online banking system be used. There is a \$15/month fee if a balance of at least \$6,000 is not kept. The District is required to do tests to keep the account open every 3-4 months. Antonucci said it is not worth it to keep the account open. The account was opened in connection with the cattle collars effort. Antonucci suggested that if a checking account is needed again that one could be opened at Gunnison Savings and Loan. Antonucci said there is probably \$500-\$600 in the account.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to close the Bank of the West account. Dan Zadra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Rufus Wilderson moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Bill Ketterhagen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Grants and Contract Status - Virtual Fencing Collaring Project

Aleshia contacted virtual fencing representative Sarah Adams, who is basically a new representative because Gallagher bought a 55 percent stake in Aegersen's. Aleshia said it was reassuring to talk to Adams because if the District wants to pursue the NRCS conservation innovation grant that deadline got bumped back to July 16, so we could pursue it if we are interested. Aleshia said she knew that Jesse K. was going to apply for the grant, but Jesse had wondered whether the District could partner with him on that application. Aleshia said, however, that she does not know whether Jesse's project and the collaring project could fit into the same category for the application.

Brooke Vasquez said she does not know whether the District and the Allens are prepared to expand the collaring program yet. Vasquez said she wondered whether if in 2020 we have collars on cows that the District could go after those grants even though the project had already been initiated.

New Business

New District Manager

Liebl told the board that new wildflower mix will be ordered so that some can be sold retail at the office. Antonucci told the board that much of the district manager workload has been seed orders.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7pm at USFS Conference Center.

REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: These minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of June 18, 2019 were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting of July 23, 2019.

By: Janet Coury
Supervisor, Gunnison Conservation District