



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT
102 Par Place, Suite 4, Montrose, CO 81401
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
July 9, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Ken Lipton, Lanny Denham, Jack Brungardt, Bert Earle, Ron Germann, Eddie Atencio and Penny Bishop/DM

Absent: Lanny Denham (Exc.)

Others Present: Jerry Allen/SCD, Mendy Stewart/SCD, David Olivero/SCD, Jackie Kragel/NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ken Lipton. A quorum was present. Ken Lipton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one addition to the Agenda: Discussion about change in time of Board Meeting.

The minutes from the June meeting was presented and reviewed by the Board.

- ❖ Eddie Atencio moved to accept the June meeting minutes as presented. Jack Brungardt seconded the motion and it was carried.

NRCS Report

Jackie Kragel gave an update about Salinity Core 6 Engineering Tech positions. After much discussion, Jackie is wanting to combine the two positions available into one position since we have not been getting qualified candidates at the wage posted. Jackie has requested the pay increase and will inform Board when approved. She also informed the Board that the lead engineer in the local office is transferring to Florida and the full time Soil Conservation position for the office has been filled and new employee has just started. Jackie informed Board that the local NRCS office has completed \$1.5 million in salinity practices, \$148,000 in range practices in Montrose, \$200,000 in range practices in Gunnison and, \$200,000 in Beginning Farmer funding. A high tunnel was also funded from the State-Wide Fund Pool. To date NRCS has 38 new application planning requests in addition to the applications that didn't get funded this year, so they have a total of about 60 applications for 2020. She also stated that the engineers have 30-40 current active contracts they are working on. Jackie also asked if the Board would consider changing the time of the board meeting as she cannot make the 7:00pm meeting. Board will consider this in new business.

IWM Update

Jerry Allen presented the IWM Update as prepared. Jerry along with other NRCS employees provided High Altitude IWM Training on mountain meadows. He stated that 12 employees from NRCS from around western slope attended. They walked through practices & structures to include underground & surface gated structures. Jerry is performing midyear reviews with irrigators and he state that weed control is becoming a challenge. He has deferred a lot of the weed problems to the county weed control supervisor. Jerry attended Food and Farm Forum meetings as well as Soil Health meetings. He sprayed weeds on the District dams this month, installed the District's conservation sign on the Montrose/Delta County line and assisted with prairie dog control on District dams with contractor.

Engineer Tech Update

David stated that he had 11 jobs given to him at beginning of year with 8 completed and 3 remaining. He also stated that one of his large projects he has been working on is 95% complete and Evans Ditch project has been completed. Side-roll system for Norwood property design has been complete and ready for review. Another project he has been working on that was in final design will be canceled due to the cost share involved as landowner's will not be able to afford the share.

New & District Business

Resignation of Board Member, Teddy Berger: Teddy resigned, and Ken stated that he would like to fill position with a candidate that is in production as there is a requirement that 66% of the board needs to be in production. Ken asked for the board members to make recommendations to fill the position. Ken will reach out to a producer in Ridgway to see if he is interested in the position. If he is not interested in the position, Bert will contact another producer that Board thought might be interested. Penny contacted a producer that was interested in joining the Board but cannot make meetings as he is out of town during the week and wanted to know if the meetings could be held via Skype. Board felt that if the interested producer was not able to be in town and be an active member that it probably would not work. Board members will give update at next meeting.

Dallas Creek Water Company Project Report: Ken Lipton reported that the final report has not been finalized yet as there were minor changes being made to the preliminary report. Ken expects the final report should be completed by the next Dallas Creek Project meeting which will be August 22.

Soil Health Coalition Update: The original group that Ken participated in was made up of 5 or 6 people and now there are 25 different organizations involved. Ken is concerned about the large group and nothing getting completed. He stated that there are monthly conference calls and a lot of contact with Dept of Ag at state level. Ken said that he has been proposing that any funds being developed through new legislation to provide money for soil health projects be funneled through the CSCB so they can funnel it to districts like SCD and he stated that it was pretty widely supported.

San Miguel Producer incentive for Carbon Sequestration: Ken stated that San Miguel is working on an incentive for Carbon Sequestration. He also stated that he has been asked to participate. There is a new legislative panel that is looking at new legislation to require large landfills that are treating organic waste to process the waste into fertilizer or other usable products. There are concerns about emissions coming out of dumps going into atmosphere and feel that if organic matter is processed properly, it can be recycled into fertilizer and be sold to the farming community and the state legislator is looking into legislation to enforce it. Ken has been asked to testify in front of legislative panel.

NRCS Salinity Core 6 Positions Update: Jackie already updated Board on positions.

Shavano Dam update with Attorney: Attorney prepared draft letter to be sent to County and landowners that were thought to be encroaching into easement. Penny had NRCS employee use map of easement along with GIS mapping and it was determined that both properties that were originally thought to be within Shavano Dam easement were outside of the easement. Attorney has been notified to not continue work on the easement. Board determined that no further action should be taken on this matter.

- ❖ Jack Brungardt moved to accept that no further action should be taken to send letter to County and landowners. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

Watershed Meeting Save the Date: Ken asked for all board members to attend meeting August 14. Ken stated he was going to make a presentation on a watershed project on improving soil health. Funding should be able to be secured.

Resolution deadline for Watershed Meeting: Ken stated that District submitted resolution for improving soil health, that resolution was approved at the CACD level but didn't get to NACD. Ken would like to resubmit the resolution again this year and will reword this. Ken would like board approval to write resolution on soil health for funding to come from CSCB to go to conservation districts as there is not time to re-write resolution and have board review it at next meeting as deadline for submission is August 1.

- ❖ Ron Germann moved to allow Ken to rewrite the resolution to CACD for submission at the Watershed meeting. Eddie Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried.

New Business:

Discussion about Daytime Meeting time: Jackie suggested that time of day Board meetings be changed to an earlier time as NRCS participation cannot be mandated for after hours meetings. Jackie feels that there would be more NRCS participation if it was during the day. Ron Germann stated that he could not make a daytime meeting as it is when they are the busiest. Board determined that it is more important for board to attend than NRCS employees and cannot accommodate the change. Board will consider changing hours in winter after irrigation season.

Shavano Building and Equipment/Routing Report

Update on the flooring was given by Penny, and Board was informed that the new flooring was still not acceptable. Bert informed Board that it looks worse than the first pour. Garage Kings pulled the cove off of women's bathroom and damaged the drywall, Jack will go by and repair the drywall so as Garage Kings can complete job. Penny will schedule Garage King's to complete job and notify tenants.

Financials

The financial reports, accounts receivable, and accounts payable from June were presented to and reviewed by the Board. Bert Earle, Treasurer, approved the financials and bank reconciliations.

- ❖ Jack Brungardt moved to approve and accept the June financials as presented. Eddie Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried.

Ken suggested a Ranch Tour to try to generate more income for SCD that would be geared towards non-producers in Montrose County. Felt that visiting working farms and talking about irrigation practices with lunch provided might raise funds. Board unsure if there are enough historical farms to tour. Board suggested that maybe a Hemp Farm Tour might be beneficial. Liability issue was also discussed for the landowners as there might be landowners that might not want to take the liability.

Farm to table event suggested. Felt that Valley Food Partnership and Food and Farm Forum would be a conflict.

Penny also suggested that there is a type of K-line sprinklers that she discussed with Jerry for a possible income producer to sell. Board interested and Jerry to follow up with manufacturer for details. Will update at next board meeting.

Miscellaneous & Mail

Review Draft of 2020 CSCB Matching Grant: Mendy presented draft Grant for review which is due to be submitted by July 19, 2019. Board permission is needed to review and approve draft of Grant. Mendy is asking for \$15,000 which is \$3,000 more than last year. Additions would be asking for Grant monies to help pay for Local Work Group and Annual Meeting expenses and asked for more of the salaries to be covered for Mendy & Penny. And also added and updated numbers from last year's Grant numbers. Mendy did say that the numbers would be finished

- ❖ Bert Earle moved to approve the application with revisions of the 2020 CSCB Matching Grant up to \$25,000. Jack Brungardt seconded the motion and it was carried.

Hardrock Mines-Atlas Mining application for review. Board had no issues with mining application. No action taking.

Being no further matters to discuss,

- ❖ Eddie Atencio moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:00PM at the USDA office in Montrose.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Lipton, President

Bert Earle, Secretary/Treasurer