



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT
102 Par Place, Suite 4, Montrose, CO 81401
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2020
via Zoom virtual meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Ken Lipton, Eddie Atencio, Roxi Stewart, Jack Brungardt, Michelle Malish, Penny Bishop/DM, Kelsey Price/NRCS

Absent: Seth Urbanowitz/Ex. Officio, Lanny Denham (Excused)

Others Present: Jerry Allen/SCD, Mendy Stewart/SCD

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President/Ken Lipton. A quorum was present. Ken Lipton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call for Additions to the agenda was made. Penny Bishop added a review of a Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety application for a Construction Materials Special Operation Reclamation Permit by BTOB.

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

- ❖ Jack Brungardt moved to accept the September regular meeting minutes as presented. Michelle Malish seconded the motion and it was carried.

NRCS Report

Kelsey Price/acting DC for NRCS presented the NRCS update for the Montrose field office. See attached, "Exhibit A".

IWM Update

Jerry Allen presented the IWM update as prepared. See attached Exhibit "B".

EDUCATION/OUTREACH Update

Mendy Stewart gave a report on the Education presentations made for the month of October. Mendy stated that Ken and Mendy attended and presented at the 4th Grade Fall Ranch Tour at the Ouray County Ranch History Museum. Ken presented on fencing, maintaining fences and proper irrigation practices while Mendy gave her presentation around Ken's topics with the Enviroscape model. She talked about erosion, fencing & general agriculture practices. She also gave a virtual presentation for this year's CACD Poster Contest theme of "Where would we be without pollinators?" to 8 classrooms of 4th & 5th grade students in our District. She reported that 212 students attended the virtual presentation. The presentation focused around a local beekeeper and their practices they use to help their bees with pollination. There were a lot of questions regarding bees that the students asked during the presentation and the beekeepers were able to give a lot of information on the subject of beekeeping. Mendy also stated that she was preparing the fall newsletter for the District. Another presentation she will be giving will be to Johnson Elementary on erosion as long as the school will allow her to give it in person or she could possibly do another virtual presentation if needed.

New & District Business

Review of a Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety application for a Construction Materials Special Operation Reclamation Permit by BTOB. The Board reviewed the application and did not find any issues to oppose the application.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to approve the mining application as presented. Eddie Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried.

Colorado Health Soils Grant Discussion: Ken Lipton stated that he is working with the Colorado Health Soils committee and that the STAR Program will be moving forward if funding can be secured-Spring 2021. This grant would fund 80 producers in 4 watersheds for initiating and monitoring soil health practices for 3 years. He will be working on getting a pilot program going in our district which would involve 20 landowners to participate. The landowners who will identify a field that would like to try new soil health practice(s) over the next three years. They would agree to enroll in the program by completing a field form and each producer that is willing to enroll will receive \$1000.00 each year each year and the conservation district will receive \$100.00 for each producer we enroll. The landowner needs to match the \$1000.00 grant either in-kind or cash match. If this pilot works then the state legislator/NRCS & other interested parties will get behind it and roll out the program state wide. Only monitoring is the soil health team will visit the property and take tests at the end of year one and year three. No penalties involved only rewards of the STAR or several STARS and recognition by anybody that passes by your property and improving soil health on your property. Ken asked the board if there are any questions and Ken would like the board's assurance that we could get 20 landowners to be involved in the pilot program. Ken stated that any type of land that would qualify. Ken will talk to Gunnison and San Miguel in this pilot also.

Colorado River District-RCPP Opportunity Discussion: An email from Colorado River District was received from Shanna Harness discussing the requirements to proceed with the RCPP opportunity. In this email, she stated that SCD would be responsible for developing a scope of work, advertising, announcing the RCPP opportunity, collecting applications, figuring eligibility, administering funds & ranking prospective projects. The board agreed that this would be more time consuming than the District had time to devote to this project.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to turn down the RCPP Bostwick Park Project partnership opportunity. Jack Brungardt seconded the motion and it was carried.

Colorado River District-Referendum Discussion on Increasing Mill Levy: Ken Lipton raised concerns about where the increase of the mill levy will be spent if passed. Roxi Stewart stated that she understood that the increase was to cover administrative expenses to help keep the Colorado River District projects going. The other board members were proponents for the increase. No further discussion was had on this referendum.

Demand Management Topic Discussion: Ken Lipton discussed with the board the work that the Colorado River District is doing to put together a program on Demand Management of water which would be funded by the Legislature. He stated that what this would mean is that if you agree to not use your water and allow it to remain in stream then you would get compensated for not using the water. Ken also stated that this has not been written up yet but this is something that the Colorado River District is discussing and the Legislature would have to approve. This would encourage people to conserve water and also be appropriate for some producers to take some land out of production and get compensated for it. Ken indicated the major issue is growing municipal use as agriculture is diminishing as more agriculture properties are being sold for development. Ken stated that it is a land use planning issue. Roxi Stewart suggested that recreational projects along with agriculture should be looked at. Jack Brungardt stated that the water rights would not be lost if you participated in this program. Ken said he would like the board to think about this for when this issue comes up to make sure conservation districts are involved and have input in the process.

CSCB Matching Grant Results: Ken discussed the grant ranking results with the board and went over the explanations and comments provided by CSCB committee. He stated that the results were not fairly judged and that it will affect the Districts education programs for this upcoming year. The District will re-evaluate how the 2022 Matching Grant Application will be submitted due to the judging.

Review Annual Plan of Work-2nd Draft Review: Annual Plan of Work- 2nd draft was presented by Penny Bishop and reviewed by board. Board discussed the annual plan and made changes to the draft and no other chances will be made.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to approve the 2021 Annual Plan of Work. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried.

Review 2021 Budget-1st Draft: 2021 Budget was presented by Penny Bishop and reviewed by the board. . Estimates are based on current year's figures to date to include expected revenues and expenses through the end of 2020 and are as accurate as is possible at this time. The second draft will be presented to the Board in November. Ken stated that reserve funds are dwindling and asked the board to review the revenues and expenses to make a decision as to whether there are any items the board would want to cut. Board will discuss this at the November meeting.

District Signage Discussion: Penny Bishop stated that the Districts signage that was removed was retrieved and is at the Shavano's District office. Penny stated that she will follow up with Nick Nordquist/CDOT to determine what steps need to be taken to get the Districts signs back up. She will report on this at the November meeting.

Reserve Fund for Shavano Building Repairs Discussion: Ken Lipton asked the board to consider setting aside a reserve fund for the Shavano Building repairs as there has been a lot of building expense in the last couple of years. Board discussion was that the Districts should earmark a certain amount of funds from the money market account to cover these expenses. Discussion will resume at November's meeting with more information.

CACD Annual Meeting Discussion: Ken Lipton discussed the November 2020 CACD Annual meeting with the board and asked if there were any board members that would like to attend. Ken also stated that he would be attending and that he felt it would be beneficial for Penny Bishop to attend the District employee sessions and asked other board members & employees if they would also like to attend. Board consensus was that the board would all like to attend.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to approve the \$150.00 CACD Annual meeting fee. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried.

Shavano Building and Equipment/Routing Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building report as prepared. See attached Exhibit "C".

Discussion on investing District Funds into Rental Equipment: Board discussed potential investment opportunities for the District Funds. Board decided to keep the money in the money market account that the District received upon the sale of the John Deere Scraper and to not invest in any rental equipment at this time.

The Key People Cleaning Fee Increase: Penny Bishop presented a letter from The Key People stating that the cleaning fee they are charging to clean the Shavano Building will increase \$70.00 to the new monthly fee of \$365.00 effective immediately due to rising costs.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to approve the pay increase to The Key People. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried.

Financials

The financial reports, accounts receivable, and accounts payable from September were presented to and reviewed by the Board. Roxi Stewart-Secretary/Treasurer reviewed all financials and approved the Financials for September as submitted.

- ❖ Michelle Malish made a motion to approve the September financials as presented. Eddie Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried.

Miscellaneous & Mail

Penny Bishop alerted the board of the November Employee Performance reviews and the board will be holding an Executive Session during the regular board meeting in November.

Being no further matters to discuss,

- ❖ Roxi Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Malish seconded the motion and it was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm** with the location to be determined at a later date as to whether it can be held in person at 102 Par Place, Montrose CO or if it will be held again on a virtual meeting platform.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Lipton, President

Roxi Stewart, Secretary/Treasurer