Present: Ken Lipton, Eddie Atencio, Roxi Stewart, Lanny Denham, Ron Germann, Penny Bishop/DM

Absent: Bert Earle (Exc.), Jack Brungardt (Exc.) Seth Urbanowitz/Ex. Officio (Exc)

Others Present: Jerry Allen/SCD, David Olivero/SCD, Nick Foster/SCD

Guest Speakers: Carey Denison, Trout Unlimited

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President/Ken Lipton. A quorum was present. Ken Lipton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no additions to the Agenda.

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

- Roxi Stewart moved to accept the December meeting minutes as presented. Eddie Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried.

NRCS Report

Jackie Kragel was not present to give update on the Montrose NRCS Field office, but prepared written report and the Board reviewed. See Attached Exhibit “A”.

IWM Update

Jerry Allen presented the IWM update as prepared. See attached Exhibit “B”. He also updated the board on the Food and Farm Forum which was held on January 24 & 25 at the Montrose Pavilion. He stated it was a success. He also stated that he attended IWM training in Delta on February 4 & 5 where there were 10 different District Conservationists and Planners from Western Colorado. He also stated that he will have 22 contracts from last year and 23 new NRCS EQIP projects projected for 2020 if they all are funded.

Engineer Tech Update

David Olivero presented the Engineer Tech update as prepared. See attached Exhibit “C”.

New & District Business

Update on Basin Round Table Grants-Cary Denison/Trout Unlimited: Carey updated the Board on the available CWCB Water Reserve Fund Grants that Trout Unlimited will administer, he stated that there are funds available for education and water efficiency projects. These funds are available for producers and irrigation districts as well.
2020 Elections and Director Vacancies: Penny Bishop updated the Board on the Director vacancies in which their terms are expiring. She stated that Lanny Denham, Ken Lipton, Ron Germann & Bert Earle’s terms will expire. Lanny & Ken have already given her their self-nomination forms and but the other Board members expiring have not. She informed the board that the deadline for nominations is February 28th. Ken stated that the two individuals that he was talking to have not yet stated if they were interested in picking up the nomination form. Penny to update Board at next meeting on nomination status.

Finalize 2020 District Annual Meeting Discussion & Award Nominees: Award nominees for Wildlife Conservationist, Conservation Producer & Conservation Educator of the Year were discussed. The Board reviewed the nominees and decided on Jordan Frigetto to receive the Conservation Producer award, Elizabeth Nava & Linda Daniels to receive the Wildlife Conservationist award and Jan Congour to receive the Conservation Educator award. The Board also decided on Rib City to cater the event and the Board also discussed the agenda.

Final Review of Annual Report: The Board reviewed the 2019 Annual Report and accepted the report as written and will be submitted to DOLA before February 15th which is the deadline to submit.

CSCB January Board Meeting Update: Ken updated the board on the January CSCB meeting he attended in Broomfield, CO. It was a training session for Board members with the State Attorney General and the meeting reviewed the rules that the state board has to abide by. Ken asked questions about issues on the local board level and he stated that the boards were in compliance. Other reports given was that there was a lot of interest in soil health. Ken told the Board that he was elected as the CSCB representative to the Colorado Coalition for Soil Health board.

CPA Letter of Engagement, Exemption from Audit: The CPA letter of Engagement to develop the District’s Exemption from Audit was presented to the Board review and acceptance signatures.

  - Lanny Denham moved to accept the Letter of Engagement. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

2019 Exemption from Audit and Resolution/Ordinance for Exemption from Audit: The Board reviewed the Exemption from Audit as prepared by the District’s accountant, Donald R. Moreland and Associates, as well as the Resolution/Ordinance for Exemption from Audit. Signatures were obtained and submission to DOLA will be no later than March 31, 2020.

  - Lanny Denham moved to accept the 2019 Exemption from Audit as prepared and approve the Resolution/Ordinance for Exemption from Audit. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

NRCS/SCD/CSCB MOA for Signatures: The NRCS/SCD/CSCB MOA was presented to the Board for signatures. Ken discussed the MOA with the Board and reviewed information in the agreement. All Board members present signed the agreement as written.

Discussion on NACD TAG Grant Renewal & Potential DCT Grant Position: Board was presented information regarding the current NACD TAG Grant employee and an update on his current status as to when he will be leaving this position. The employee will be leaving the end of February but would like to stay on part time until the current grant funds run out. The Board agreed to approve his current hours.

  - Lanny Denham made a motion to accept the TAG Grant employee to be allowed to work part-time until the TAG Grant funds ran out. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Board was also presented on whether to renew the next round of the NACD TAG Grant or apply for the DCT Grant that Jackie Kragel/NRCS proposed to the Board in October. As time frame for application of TAG Grant was expiring soon, Board agreed to have Penny re-apply for this grant but also to check on the availability of the DCT Grant. Board to be updated next meeting.
Shavano Building and Equipment/Routing Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building & Equipment report as prepared. See attached Exhibit “E”.

Financials

The financial reports, accounts receivable, and accounts payable from January and February were presented to and reviewed by the Board. Bert Earle, Secretary/Treasurer, was not in attendance but did review all documents prior to the meeting. A letter of approval of the minutes was provided to the Board that was signed by Bert Earl, Secretary/Treasurer that approved the Financials for both January & February.

- Lanny Denham moved to accept and approve the January & February financials as presented. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried.

Miscellaneous & Mail

No mail or miscellaneous matters to discuss at this meeting.

Executive Session pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(3)(b)(1) regarding personnel matters.

- Lanny Denham moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to CRS Section 24-6-402(3)(b)(1) to discuss personnel matter at 8:25pm. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried.

Regular Session was reconvened at 9:05pm

Being no further matters to discuss,

- Lanny Denham moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Germann seconded the motion and it was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

The next meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Ute Indian Museum, 17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ken Lipton, President    Lanny Denham, Vice-President