



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT
102 Par Place, Suite 4, Montrose, CO 81401
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
March 8, 2022 6:30PM
virtually via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Ken Lipton, Roxi Stewart, Eddie Atencio, Lanny Denham, Carl McKinney, Michelle Malish, Steve Hale, Jack Brungardt, Penny Bishop/DM

Absent: None

Others Present: Mendy Stewart/SCD, Jamison Jewkes/NRCS RTL, Jerry Allen/SCD, Kris Holstrom/SMBOCC, Chris Hazen/Consultant for San Miguel County

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

Call for Additions to the agenda was made. Steve Hale would like to invite David Varner/Conservation Specialist for Colorado West Land Trust to speak to the board regarding potential collaboration efforts.

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

- ❖ Shelly Malish made a motion to accept the February regular meeting minutes as presented. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

NRCS Report

Jamison Jewkes/RTL for NRCS was present virtually on Zoom and gave a verbal report. No written report was provided to the board. Jamison gave the Covid update for the local NRCS office which he stated the office is at 75% staffing with weekly updates from the State. He stated that the mask mandate was removed and again stated that he would be given weekly updates based on hospitalization rates in the county and would relay any changes as they affect the office. The Department of Ag sent guidance on business as normal which will transitioned over the next couple of months with the majority of staff returning to the office by May 2. He reported that EQIP ranking deadline is March 18th and that there were 35 applications eligible. He also said that there will be guidance coming for the Local Work Group meeting and will send that to both Ken and Penny for the board to discuss.

IWM Update

Jerry Allen was present to give the IWM update. See attached Exhibit "A".

Jerry updated the board on the S.T.A.R. Plus Program where he stated that he was getting the Consultation Forms for the participants finalized and ready to submit to CDA.

He gave a report on the Western Colorado Soil Health Conference and he told the board that the conference went well. There was 188 people who registered for the conference and 156 actual attendees at this year's conference.

He updated the board on the Proximity Malt Barley Growers meeting also. He said that there were only four growers that signed up to grow barley for Proximity Malt and was hopeful that more would sign up as they still had not reached the 800-to-1000-acre barley crop they had wanted.

Guest Speakers: San Miguel BOCC/Kris Holstrom & Chris Hazen/Representative for San Miguel County

Kris Holstrom & Chris Hazen presented to the SCD Board their PES (Payment for Environmental Service) Program. Kris Holstrom led the presentation which she stated that they received a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and asked for Chris Hazen to update the board on the program. Chris stated the PES program was piloted in 2020 and they now have three landowners in this program which they hope to improve their soil and increase water holding capacity. They have also been able to sequester approx. 65 metric tons of carbon and will be working with more landowners in the future. They will be working with Ground Up Consulting and will be mirroring the S.T.A.R Plus Program which SCD is involved in. They also partnered with Colorado West University and will be having a student work on this program and she will develop her master thesis around this program. Kris Holstrom stated that they wanted to keep SCD informed and would like to develop a partnership.

New & District Business

Pleasant Valley Creek-Dallas Creek Update: Ken stated that the two landowners in this study have not yet applied for EQIP funding or any other funding opportunities to implement the BMP's that were given to them through this project. Ken will speak to the property owner at the lower end of the basin this summer and see what her plans are. He attended another meeting with CDPHE last week, others present were with CWCB, CRWCD, CDPHE & NRCS and they still wanted to continue work within the drainage of Pleasant Valley Creek/Dallas Creek. They are planning on having a luncheon meeting this summer with as many landowners along this drainage to see if there will be any interest in continuing the study. After that they will need to see if CDPHE will be able to put up more funding. CRWCD stated interest in supporting this project.

2022 SCD Board of Directors Election Update: Ken Lipton stated that both Ed Atencio & Roxi Stewart have submitted their Board of Directors' Self-Nomination form and have agreed to continue as board supervisors. There is still one vacancy to the board and Ken has asked the other board members to outreach to see if they can help fill the empty seat.

Cancellation of Election and Declaration Deeming Candidates Elected Resolution: By this resolution, the Board hereby formally cancels the regular election and certifies that there were no more candidates for the director than offices to be filled and declares the following candidates elected for three-year terms: Roxanna Stewart & Edward Atencio. Oaths of office will be administered on the May 10th Board meeting.

- ❖ Steve Hale made a motion to accept the resolution to cancel the election and declare deemed candidates elected. Carl McKinney seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Exemption from Audit: The Board reviewed the Letter of Engagement and Application for Exemption from Audit as prepared by Donald R. Moreland, the District's accountant. The exemption documents were reviewed and signed by the Board.

Resolution for Exemption from Audit: The Board reviewed the Resolution for Exemption from Audit. By this resolution, the board hereby approves an Exemption from Audit for Year 2021 for the Shavano Conservation District. The resolution documents were signed by the Board.

- ❖ Carl McKinney made a motion to approve the 2021 Exemption from Audit as written. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

CSCB Supervisor Training Module: Penny Bishop led the CSCB Supervisor Training-Module 8. The Board successfully passed the module test. The Board will complete Module 9 at the next Board meeting in April.

Employee Comp Time Report

Penny Bishop presented to the Board a summary of the compensation time used and accumulated by the SCD Employees in February.

Shavano Building and Equipment/Routing Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building report as prepared. See attached Exhibit "B". Penny Bishop also led discussion on rent increase for the tenants at the Shavano Building. She alerted the Board that there was a tenant that was questioning the increase in building rent. The board directed Penny Bishop to prepare a letter with the board agreed terms as well as a new lease and deliver it to the tenant.

Financials

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

- ❖ Carl McKinney made a motion to approve the February financials as presented. Shelly Malish seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Miscellaneous & Mail

No Miscellaneous & Mail was presented at this meeting.

Being no further matters to discuss,

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

The next meeting will be in April 12, 2022 at 7:00pm with the location to be determined closer to the meeting time as the NRCS building still will not allow for meetings due to Covid.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Lipton, President

Roxi Stewart, Treasurer