



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

September 12, 2023
6:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Steve Hale, Roxi Stewart, Zak Danielson, Ed Atencio, Clifford Chiles, Lanny Denham, Penny Bishop/DM

Absent: Carl McKinney (excused), Ramona Nkoyoyo/DCT

Others Present: Jamison Jewkes/NRCS, Dustin Shifflet/CSCB Regional Field Specialist, Mendy Stewart/Education-Outreach Coordinator, Tanya Ishikawa/UWP, Dennis Murphy/UWP, Katie Alexander/CSU Extension, Sri Pinnameni/CSU Extension, Kate Foral/NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Steve Hale/President. A quorum was present. Steve Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call for Additions to the agenda was made. Additions made to the agenda were:

- SCD Introduction letter to put into NRCS application packets.
- Mentorship Program for youth.
- \$65 million Conservation Innovation Grant Discussion
- Sri Pinnameni/CSU Extension request for Letter of Support from SCD for his research project.
- Update on interest rate for SCD bank accounts.
- Review proposal for interior cleaning at the Shavano Building.

The minutes from the August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes were presented and reviewed by the Board.

- ❖ Roxi Stewart made a motion to accept the August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Guest Speaker

Tanya Ishikawa/Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) presented their 5-year Strategic Plan and asked the SCD Board for input. She stated to the board that their draft plan review will be on October 17th at the Ouray Community Center for all who wanted to attend.

Guest Speaker

Sri Pinnameni/CSU Extension presented to the board a Letter of Support for his research project on understanding the ecosystem functions of different pasture systems and asked if the SCD Board for their support of this research project. The board asked Sri to share his reporting documents if his project is funded.

- ❖ Lanny Denham made a motion to approve the Letter of Support as written. Ed Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Guest Speaker

Katie Alexander/CSU Extension gave an update to the board on what she has been working on at CSU Extension. She stated that she was working on a cover crop planting project with Sri. Katie also stated that she will be helping the WCSHC committee in planning a soil health tour this fall. She also reported that CSU Extension will be offering tree seedlings sales again this next year.

The NRCS Mentorship Program for youth was discussed with Katie as she went through this program and asked for ideas on how to better support this program. Suggestions were made to get the Ag word out early in the junior high student's paths as to what the ag industry offers. Steve Hale tasked the SCD Education Committee to meet with Mendy & Penny and come up with ideas to get students more involved in agricultural activities and further their education into agriculture.

Guest Speaker

Dustin Shifflet/CSCB Regional Field Specialist was asked by the board to give an update on for CSCB. Dustin spoke to the board regarding the Matching Grant applications that were submitted for funding and that there was only \$455,000 available out of the \$785,000 applications. He stated that the CSCB board had a hard time deciding which applications would be funded for this next year. He also stated that the Ag Commission was holding a forum on 9/13 from 6:00-7:30 at the Western Colorado Research Center in Orchard Mesa and asked for any board members interested to attend.

NRCS Report

Jamison Jewkes/RTL for NRCS introduced Kate Foral to the board as a new Natural Resource Specialist. He also updated the board on other positions being filled within the local NRCS office. Jamison gave a presentation on the NRCS Web Soil Survey platform and explained to the board how to use this app to pull information for SCD's county land use application reviews. During his report, Lanny asked if NRCS could put a Introduction Letter from SCD into their application packet which they fill out with Producers. Jamison said he would check to see if that was possible and will update the board once he gets clarification.

DCT Engineer Technician Update

Ramona Nkoyoyo/SCD DCT provided a written Engineer Technician report. Mona was not present for this and the board reviewed.

New & District Business

Update on interest rate for SCD bank accounts: Steve Hale updated the board on the interest rate increase of the SCD Money Market account and the WCSHC checking account.

Government Shut Down Discussion: Jamison updated the board on the procedures for NRCS if the Federal Government goes into a shutdown on October 1. Penny Bishop updated the board on the procedures for SCD if that happens and will keep the board informed as to what the status is on October 1.

San Miguel PES Update: Penny Bishop provided the board with the written reports provided by Dave Dearstyne, TSP for SCD for August. Penny also reviewed with the board the payments received to date from San Miguel County.

San Miguel CO Comprehensive Compost & Food Reduction Project Update: Penny Bishop provided a written report for this project regarding the Compost Tour that took place on August 1. Penny stated that payment has still not been received from San Miguel County for this tour but will follow up with the program coordinator.

S.T.A.R. Plus Program Update: Penny Bishop provided a written report regarding Round 1 & 2 of the program to the Board. She also updated the board on the STAR+ Round 2 application process and webinars she attended for training for Round 2.

Western Colorado Soil Health, Food & Farm Forum Update: Steve Hale gave an update for the WCSHC committee & the WCSHFFF meetings which were held in August. He stated that Dave Dearstyne which was the Chair for the WCSHC has stepped down and will no longer be a part of the committee. He also stated that there were MOUs drafted & discussed. The WCSHC approved and signed the MOU with SCD. He presented both MOUs to the board for approval. The board wanted more information on the WCSHFFF MOU and Steve will update the board on the WCSHFFF MOU at the next board meeting in October.

- ❖ Roxi Stewart made a motion to approve the MOU between SCD and the WCSHC as written. Lanny Denham seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.
- ❖ Roxi Stewart made a motion to table the MOU for approval between the SCD and the WCSHFFF. Lanny Denham seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Gunnison Dolores Watershed Meeting Update: Steve Hale asked Lanny Denham & Roxi Stewart to give the board an update on the GD Watershed meeting which was held September 8th in Crawford. Lanny Denham reported that there was great representation from the districts. Roxi also stated that the tours were informative.

Review Time Change of Regular Board Meetings to Extend to New Time: Board reviewed and discussed the board meeting schedule.

- ❖ Ed Atencio made a motion to change the board meeting start times to 6:30pm starting October 2023 thru February 2024 and 6:00pm for March 2024 thru September 2024. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Penny Bishop asked the board to consider changing the November 2024 board meeting date to one week earlier due to personal reasons.

- ❖ Ed Atencio made a motion to change the November board meeting date to Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30pm. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Review 2023-2024 Direct Assistance Allocation: Penny Bishop updated the board on the Direct Assistance Allocation funds received from CSCB. She also updated the board that this will be the last year that the district receives San Miguel Basin CD DA funds.

\$65 Million Conservation Innovation Grant Discussion: Lanny Denham asked for the board to come up with ideas for the CIG to utilize in our office. Board to discuss further next month.

Education/Outreach Update: Mendy reviewed newsletter she produced with the board. Mendy also reviewed her written report on her education activities.

Committee Reports

Land Use/Planning Committee Report: The board discussed the template to be utilized for board comment on land use issues. The board also discussed the Norwood Solar Farm project and how to proceed with a letter of comment. The board asked Penny Bishop to send Ed Atencio and Zak Danielson a copy of the letter of comment template as they will be setting up a meeting to discuss how to modify the template to address solar farm issues. Zak Danielson has also agreed to draft a letter of comment on the Norwood Solar Farm Project. Also discussed was an email received from Montrose County requesting SCD to assist with their Master Plan Review process. The board requested Ed Atencio to attend these meetings.

Education Committee Report: Education committee will set up a meeting to discuss the mentorship program and Mendy's planned activities with the schools.

Dam Flood Control Committee Report: Roxi Stewart and Lanny Denham reported that there is no update on the Dams for August.

Shavano Building Committee Report: Penny Bishop presented the interior cleaning proposal for review. The board would like more information from the proposed cleaner and will table the discussion until next board meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Report: No Ad Hoc issues to report.

Employee Comp Time Report

Penny Bishop presented to the Board a written summary of the compensation time used and accumulated by the SCD employees in August.

Shavano Building Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building report as prepared in a written report for August.

Financials

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

- ❖ Zak Danielson made a motion to approve the August financials as presented. Lanny Denham seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Miscellaneous & Mail

No miscellaneous or mail was presented this month.

Being no further matters to discuss,

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hale, President

Roxi Stewart, Treasurer