



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

February 13, 2024
6:30PM

MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Lanny Denham (excused), Carl McKinney (excused)

Others Present: Jamison Jewkes/NRCS, Mendy Stewart/SCD, Mona Nkoyoyo/DCT, Cally Hale/VFP; Todd Ballard/CSU Extension, Katie Alexander/CSU Extension

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

Call for Additions to the agenda was made. Roxi Stewart added: A Discussion regarding the Montrose FFA Program.

The minutes from the January 9, 2024 regular meeting were presented and reviewed by the Board.

- ❖ Roxi Stewart made a motion to accept the January 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Guest Speaker

Cally Hale, Valley Food Partnership's CFRT Program Manager was present and spoke to the Board about a grant collaboration for the CFRT Program. She asked for the Board to consider providing a letter to support the CFRT program and also asked for assistance from the Western Colorado Soil Health committee which SCD is the fiduciary agent for. She asked for SCD to assist in supporting educational classes to her enrollees in this program.

- ❖ Ed Atencio moved to approve the Letter of Support to Valley Food Partnership for the CRFT Program for the new grant application and assist to support the educational classes for this program. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

NRCS Report

Jamison Jewkes/RTL for NRCS provided to the Board his written NRCS update as well as a Snotel update.

IWM Update

Ramona Nkoyoyo/SCD DCT presented a written Engineer Technician report to the Board for review for January.

Outreach/Education Update

Mendy Stewart provided her written report to the Board for review for January and also for upcoming events in February and March.

New & District Business

Western Colorado Soil Health, Food & Farm Forum Update: Steve Hale updated the Board on the conference that some of the board members and staff assisted with and attended on January 26 & 27. He stated that the event was a big success and had a great turn out. The breakout sessions were interesting and very informative. He also stated that the Forum's debrief meeting for the planning committee will be March 4th and will have more information for the Board after that meeting. Steve Hale also updated the Board that the WCSHC has discussed offering an agricultural trade show this year and more information will come as available.

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Discussion: Steve Hale updated the Board on the CIG Grant which was submitted last October by SMC for a 5-year, \$5 million grant in which SCD offered support to. There was a change in leadership for the grant within SMC and the new SMC project manager wanted more information regarding the grant stakeholders and their contributions to this project to determine if the deliverables that were written in the grant could still be met if awarded. Steve will update the Board at the next board meeting once the stakeholder meeting has taken place.

2023 S.T.A.R. Plus Program Update: Penny Bishop provided a written report to the board on status of the Round 1 & 2 of the program. She also stated to the Board that SCD was still needing 2 more applicants to sign up for the program and she is talking to prospective producers. She will update the Board at the next board meeting.

Final Review and Motion to Approve the 2023 Annual Report: Penny Bishop provided the final draft of the 2023 Annual Report to the Board for review. The Board reviewed the report and made no changes.

- ❖ Roxi Stewart moved to approve the 2023 Annual Report as written. Ed Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Potential Agrivoltaics Meeting Discussion: Steve Hale led the discussion regarding a request from Todd Ballard with CSU Extension to help Delta Conservation District put together a meeting for landowners in our areas to discuss the interest in and obstacles of Agrivoltaics in our area.

- ❖ Zak Danielson moved to have SCD assist Delta Conservation District in putting together a meeting to discuss the interest in and obstacles of Agrivoltaics in our area. Ed Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Small Ditch & Canal Information Meeting Update: Steve Hale updated the Board on the informational meeting which SCD is organizing to help get information to constituents in our area that are needing help finding resources for ditch improvements. Steve Hale stated that he spoke to Phil Brink with Colorado Ag Water Alliance and he has agreed to speak on grant funding opportunities available for small ditch owners/companies to help fund improvements. The Board also suggested that a meeting like the one being suggested in the south Montrose area should also be offered in the Norwood/Naturita area as there are ditch owners in that area that need assistance. The dates agreed upon will be March 12 & 13.

Annual Meeting/LWG Meeting Update: Penny Bishop presented to the Board the budget breakdown as well as the meeting information for awardees, guest speaker, food and venue. The Board agreed that the guest speaker should be offered to Phil Brink with Colorado Ag Water Alliance as they will be utilizing him for the Small Ditch & Canal Information Meeting to be held the same day. The Board also agreed to offer door prizes this year at the event.

2024 DCT Position Update: Penny Bishop provided a written report to the Board on the IRA DCT position as well as the current Engineer Tech DCT position.

Review Employee Policy Manual: Penny Bishop presented to the Board the Employee Policy Manual with highlighted sections to make changes. The Board reviewed the manual with the changes.

- ❖ Roxi Stewart moved to accept the changes to the Employee Policy Manual as written. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Discussion regarding the Montrose FFA Program: Discussion was led by Roxi Stewart who informed the Board that the current FFA Advisor will not be rehired for the 2025 school year. The Board had concerns about the agriculture program continuing. The Board suggested a letter of support to be written to support the FFA agriculture program in the Montrose High School. The letter will be addressed to the Montrose Daily Press. Zak Danielson and Steve Hale will draft the letter to be sent.

- ❖ Zak Danielson moved to draft a letter to the Montrose Daily Press in support of the Montrose Highschool FFA Agriculture Program to continue. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Committee Reports

Land Use/Planning Committee Report: Zak Danielson updated the Board on the DMRS application from Gold Eagle Mining, Inc. which is asking for written comment for a Surety Release Request for Hawkeye Mine for successful completion of reclamation. The Board contended that there was not sufficient information provided to make comment in the timeframe detailed and is out of our scope of practice to determine if successful reclamation was performed. No written comment will be made by the Board at this time.

No other Committee Reports were given.

Employee Comp Time Report

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

Shavano Building Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building report as prepared in a written report for January. Also discussed was the possibility to swap the Unit 5 that is currently held by SCD with tenant in Unit 10. Unit 10 is wanting more space and Unit 5 is bigger.

- ❖ Zak Danielson moved to offer Unit 5 to the tenant that is currently occupying Unit 10 at current rental rates. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Financials

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

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

Miscellaneous & Mail

No miscellaneous or mail was presented.

Being no further matters to discuss,

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hale, President

Roxi Stewart, Treasurer