

La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) Board Meeting Minutes

Location: NRCS Office 31 Suttle Drive, Durango, CO, 81301

Time/Date: 5:00PM to 8:00PM; December 16, 2014

Attendee List: Board Members:

Tom Hartnett, President

Dave Miller, Treasurer

Sterling Moss, NRCS

Cecilia Whitaker, Secretary

Paul Gray, LAPCO liaison

Gary Thrash, CACD/Watershed

Bill Szilva,

Terry Jefferies- Guest

Quorum (need 4 voting members) yes

Tom presented Terry Jeffries as a candidate for supervisor position. Terry's skills and interests: budget; agriculture in La Plata county; dealing directly with people.

Approval of Minutes. Tabled to next meeting.

Treasure Report- Dave Miller. Dave was not at meeting but had prepared budget for 2015 that Tom presented.

- Financials: Through November 2014; ending balance \$36233.41
- Budget Transmittal: Budget submitted for 2015 budget with revenue change from 2014 of -\$400.00 and expenditure change from 2014 of -\$1,000.00. Brief discussion on how we address TABOR in our budget documents.
- Bill motioned to approve "Resolution to Adopt Budget" prepared by Dave Miller for 2015 budget Resolution shows estimated expenditures of \$19,300 and estimated revenues of \$22,010. Gary 2nd. Motion approved.
- Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money; Resolution prepared by Dave Miller to Appropriate from the revenues of the general fund: Estimated expenditures of \$19,300; Estimated Revenues of \$ 22,010. Tom motioned to accepted Resolution as submittd; 2nd by Bill. Motion carried. Documents to be submitted to DOLA by end of calendar year.
- Tree sales- Cecilia had submitted Excell spreadsheet for sales to date via email on 12/14/2014- Tree orders are at 1526 trees for \$ 3,088.26 income.

Partner Updates

CSCB: N/A

NRCS Report. Sterling Moss

- Susan Hakanson, Darrin Parmenter and Sterling met to discuss having a short landowner meeting at Ft Lewis Mesa elementary to discuss grazing management and soils of the area. (note: as of 12/29 meeting is proposed for January 10, 2015 9-11 GT)
- Have a proposal from Edit Aquarian? Who would like to have a 3-4 day workshop on Holistic Management. She is seeking letters of support from NRCS and the conservation district.
- Sterling has a copy of video "Symphony of the Soil" available and recommends it for use.

Gary noted that National Young Farmers Coalition has a short video “Resilient” <http://www.youngfarmers.org/resilient/> online that emphasizes importance of soil health as well. Local contact for National Young Farmers Coalition is : Kate Greenberg.

Committee/ projects reports

Watershed: Gary attended Dolores CD; Mancos CD and San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District (SJSWCD, New Mexico) annual meetings. Mancos and Dolores meetings focused and State Water Plan and San Juan Basin Roundtable discussions; Mancos also had a good presentation on the “School to Farm” emphasis in Montezuma county using Americorp volunteers. SJSWCD meeting with focus on efforts in water quality monitoring and a number of programs and grants that support CD.

- **Animas Watershed Partnership:** Working with this partnership who are the grant holder to host a Soil Health Workshop in March, 2015. Workshop scheduled for March 17th 12-5 pm at La Plata County Extension building and then in Farmington on March 18th 8-12. Funding covers free soil sample analysis thru Basin Coop for 1st 40 registrants at each site.

CACD- gave a summary of annual meeting at November Annual Meeting.

Lapco: Paul Gray gave report. Building maintenance- nothing needed till next spring,

Plot Master: Paul Gray- He has rewired trailer lights and plotmaster is working.

Recruitment: Tom Hartnett-

- Meeting with Greg Hopkins tomorrow.
- Karen Hartong: retiree from Farm Service Agency
- Terry Jeffries: after brief discussion on how she could fit with board, Gary motioned that she be appointed to the board, Bill 2nd . Motion carried, Tom will formally invite her to the board.

Unfinished Business:

Annual Plan of Work: Tom handed out spread sheet with proposed plan. Brief discussion on changes. Tom will rewrite and submit. Scheduled telephone conference call for 12/22/2014 to approve.

Grants: Bill Szilva.

- Colorado Ag Grants due date January 9th, 2015.
- Weed Grants- Working with weed partners for 2015 Weed Management Fund Grant to address Spotted Knapweed, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisy.
- Working with Rod Cook in getting 2014 program up and running.

Office Space at NRCS. Tom will invite San Juan RC&D to our January 20, 2015 meeting to discuss office sharing request.

Scholarship update: Sheryl Ayers volunteer to coordinate.

Poster Contest: Sharon Orr to coordinate expansion to additional schools for 2015.

Information Center for LPCD. Located in NRCS office.

Marketing Display/booth. Looking for 2 venues to use in 2015

Signage: Tom will get signs through Fastsigns for Plotmaster, Zircon and Riparian Trailer.

Website. Volunteer- Pete Ruhl working on and will try Mail Chimp for email notifications.

Weed Costshare Grant: Contract signed and mailed per instructions.

Supervisor Certification from CSCB. Tom Hartnett. Bill Silva has gone through certification, Gary and Tom will complete by end of December. (Note as of 12/29/2014 all 3 have completed certification).

New Business:

Request from Garden Project of Southwest Colorado: Proposal from Sandhya Tillotson- person who wants to get School to Farm program running in La Plata County. Wants support for State Conservation Board Matching grant. This is same grant that our weed program is funded from and would directly compete with that grant. Good program but need to find out how it would impact weed grant funds.

San Juan RC&D Request to present an January Board Meeting: Proposal to share office space at NRCS. Board wants information on projects they are working on, how they see the potential to work together with LPCD and where LPCD would/should be involved.

Comments/Questions from Audience: N/A

Executive Session [if required]. N/A

Next Meeting January 20, 2015 **Meeting rotating Chair** – Tom Hartnett

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.