

La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) Board Meeting Minutes

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

Time/Date: 5:00PM to 8:00PM; May 19, 2015

Attendee List: Board Members:

Tom Hartnett, President

Dave Miller, Treasurer

Cecilia Whitaker

Paul Gray, LAPCO liaison

Gary Thrash, CACD/Watershed

Bill Szilva,

Terry Jefferies

Sterling Moss, NRCS

Call to order, Cecilia Whitaker- presiding.

Quorum (need 4 voting members)- Yes Dave Miller excused;

1. **Introduction of guests:** Tammra Straub- CSCB; Sandya Tillotson- Garden Project
2. **Review minutes** [Action item] Approved with changes.
3. **Treasurer's Report: Reviewed. Motion to accept Terry; 2nd Paul. Approved.**
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Supervisors Reports/Project Updates**
 - i. Bill Szilva
 1. 3 applicants have applied to county weed grant. May be early in the year.
 2. Going to meet with SJWCC for veterans group to work on Lemon Reservoir project.
 - ii. Gary Thrash -Watershed, CACD
 1. Animas Watershed Partnership.
 - a. La Plata County Water Advisory Commission- April 23 document posted on OneDrive.
 - b. Summary of Comments from the 2 Soil Health Workshops posted on OneDrive
 2. CACD.
 - a. Annual meeting for CACD will be in Park Hyatt Beaver Creek; Beaver Creek, Co 11/15-19. Start thinking about resolutions; conservationist of the year nominations, etc.
 - b. Legislative tracking summary by lobbyist available on CACD website.
 - c. CSCB vacancy for southwest Colorado be out for recruitment.
 3. La Plata County Comprehensive Plan update: Did not attend May meeting. Will try to make June meeting where they will continue discussions on Agriculture part of plan. Meetings 1st Thursday of every month.
 - iii. Cecilia Whitaker –
 1. Tree sales sold 7100 trees; \$13200+ this year. Sales have been increasing for last few years.
 2. Ditch seminar- working on getting speakers for seminar.
 - iv. Paul Gray – LAPCO- received a check this month. Report from Pagosa that things are going well. Tom complemented Paul for his involvement in tree seminars with schools.

- v. Terry Jefferies- Article on “Resilient” screening from Durango Herald passed around.
- vi. Dave Miller – N/A
- vii. Tom Hartnett – President Report
 - 1. Long range plan approved by CSCB.
 - 2. Recruitment/Volunteer Activities Sherry Bowman to volunteer on grant
 - 3. Community Outreach- met with county manager, Butch Knowlton, Sterling Moss on CD taking on weed management.
 - 4. Home and Ranch Show went well for our booth.
 - 5. Marketing-
 - 6. Sponsorship Updates: Durango Nursery, Frazier Ranch, Summit Supply, World Liquor, American Ag Credit and others.
 - 7. Misc.
 - a. Need to come up with Secretary and Treasurer duties.
 - b. Need for Officer Elections
 - c. Operations- monthly meeting process needs improvement
 - d. Suggestion for an Offsite planning meeting: Long Range Plan, Board Roles, Grant Writing, Programs/Workshops, Ditch workshop.
 - e. Annual Meeting staffing.
 - f. Reminder for getting supervisor certification through CSCB.

5. Partner Reports

- i. NRCS. Sterling Moss
 - 1. 1st allocation of EQUIP ; \$1.6m in requests; \$405K available for all of San Juan Basin; includes funding approved for irrigation, forestry, grazing and soil health projects.
 - 2. Will be meeting with the Florida Consolidated Ditch Co.; Wright Water Engineers and CDOT on Hess Lateral ditch project along Hwy 550 south. To be held next Tuesday evening at Sunnyside Elementary.
 - 3. Riparian trailer use at Water Festival, Durango nature center and others. Sandya Tillotson expressed interest in using for Garden Project courses.
 - 4. Lost Dog Restaurant meeting on Forest Restoration next Thursday.
 - 5. Will send out article on soil carbon by Australian Soil Scientist; Dr. Christine Jones.
- ii. CSCB : Tammra Straub
 - 1. Search still on for CSCB employee for western slope
 - 2. San Juan River Watershed rep on CSCB board terms out this year. Watershed will need to elect new representative.
 - 3. Matching Grants: due June 17th for calendar year. Tammra available to do pre submission review until June 9th.
 - 4. Tammra gave an overview of grant programs available through CSCB.

6. Old Business

- a. County Weed Office Coordination- Tom met with county staff and Sterling- we would need to come up with a Business Plan on how it would work better through CD.
- b. San Juan Cooperative Weed Management Area (SJCWM)- Letter to Rod Cook per his request tabled.
- c. Lemon Reservoir Weed Abatement

d. Calendar/Task List Review

7. **New Business**

- a. Request to act as Grant Administrator for SJCWMA: tabled need more information on work demands.
 - b. Grant- for Garden project; Sandya Tillotson; Grant Proposal; matching grant from Payroll Department Company 10K. Americorp member to work for project - funded for 3 years. Motion by Gary Thrash to have Sandya administer grant. 2nd by Cecelia; motion carried. Our board needs to approve of reports. Terry will be district point person. (Board has already approved partnering with the Garden Project at board meeting 4/16/2015)
8. Next Board Meeting – June 16, 2015. Chair: Paul Gray
9. Adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Prepared by Gary Thrash