

La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) Board Meeting Minutes

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

Time/Date: 5:00 PM to 6:45 PM; July 21, 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, roll call and verification of quorum [4 required] Terry Jefferies- presiding. Quorum approved.

1. Introduction of guests:

- a. Sarah Lawton- Animas High School- LPCD scholarship recipient
- b. Lu Boren – Durango Ag Teacher. Envirothon Finished 1st year at Durango High School; 10 years at St Columba; Ag teacher; expanding natural resources education
- c. Sherry Bowman- volunteers for Grant writing.

2. **Agenda approval/update** Agenda OK'd. with addition on Conservation awards. Dave motioned to accept 2nd by Paul. Approved as amended.

3. **Approval of June minutes** [Action item] Motion by Paul to accept minutes ; Dave 2nd. Approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Account up to almost \$50,000. Dave gave quick overview of finances. Expenses up this month- paying for trees; insurance; seeded fund share bank account for weed cost share. Motion to accept report by Cecilia; 2nd by Paul. Motion carried. Dave is going to move another \$3k into weed share account.

Brainstorm will check out NRCS building and will install internet. 3MB prepay \$719 for 1 year includes installation. \$120 for a router. (suggestion to look into AlignTech by Lu). Motion to not exceed \$850 for internet access for next year by Dave; 2nd by Paul. Motion approved.

Gave \$500 check to Sarah Lawton for scholarship (photo taken by Terry).

5. **Public Comments and Communications- None**

6. Reports

a. Supervisors Reports/ and Project Updates

- i. Cecilia Whitaker – Ditch seminar- working on seminar for this winter.
- ii. Sherry Bowman- working on weed cost share. Contacted Pam Wilson who will send out email on weed cost share. Will work with Laura Spann to get notice out.
- iii. Paul Gray – LAPCO- door jamb on back door fixed, stanchion on hand rail on front fixed. Check is in the mail.
- iv. Gary Thrash -Watershed, CACD
 1. County Comprehensive Plan.

- a. Discussions on county infrastructure this last meeting (July 2nd).
 - b. Current round of state water plan meetings going around state. Durango meeting was 7/20.
2. CACD.
- a. Colorado has a new Ag Commissioner. Brown. CACD Lobbyist has met with him.
 - b. CSCB rep for west slope Karen Wolf has started. (Talked to her on 7/22, she will be at September watershed meeting. GT)
 - c. CACD lobbied for and received an increase in funds for Direct Assistance to Districts. Due to issues with new state financial system distribution of funds will be delayed until October.
 - d. Another effort started to get Public Trust Doctrine on the ballot next year. Colorado Water Congress does a good job of tracking such efforts.

v. Dave Miller

- 1. New checks have arrived from Bank of Colorado.

vi. NRCS. Sterling Moss

- 1. Local working groups. Setting up meeting for August 19th. See under new business.
- 2. \$596K for Equip projects; 20 irrigation related; 1 cropland; 5 rangeland; 1 forest; 1 SW Willow Flycatcher habitat.
- 3. Weed cost share- need to get the word out.

vii. Terry Jefferies-

- 1. Certificate for Sponsors. Letters to Sponsors prepared by Tom, Gary signed to get them out..
- 2. Laptop to Pam Deem.
- 3. Asked for motion to move \$3K into Burns Account from discussion above. Motion by Dave; 2nd by Paul. Motion carried.
- 4. San Juan weed Grant to be handled by LPCD.
- 5. Dave agreed to keep track of weed cost share.

viii. From Tom Hartnett's President Report

- 1. Supervisor Certification? No one new has started modules. Terry planning on completing.
- 2. Operational Functions?
 - a. Computer security- to see about training available for Pam.
 - b. Secretary duties? Postponed to have discussion with Tom present.
 - c. Offsite planning meeting. Cecelia volunteered to host at her house. No date set.

ix. CSCB : None

7. Old Business

- a. Grant Application- Garden Project – no response yet
- b. County Weed Office Coordination- no progress.
- c. San Juan Cooperative Weed Management Area (SJCWM)- Moved an additional \$3K into bank account.
- d. Lemon Reservoir Weed Abatement- no new information.
- e. Weed Cost Share Program- American Ag Credit has applications; also available on web.
- f. Calendar/Task List Review

8. New Business

- a. Local Workgroup Meeting by Aug 19 – Sterling handed out letter to LPCD to ask for our involvement. Scheduled August 12th 1-4 p.m at NRCS office. Sterling to send out letter. Gary to cosign letter along with Alan McCaw from Pine River Conservation District.
- b. Envirothon Project- Lu Boren. Goal to have Envirothon team this year from Durango High School. Theme this year is invasive species. Would like to have LPCD as partner. General discussion that it would be a good idea and fits with CACD now heading up Colorado Envirothon with other districts as partners. No motion on what we need to do. Lu will look more into how to engage in Envirothon.
- c. Fall Watershed Meeting- Cecelia moved to support Mancos hosting on 8th of September 9-12. 2nd by Paul. Motion Carried.
- d. Conservation Award Nominations - Gary asked that we consider possible nominations from our district this year and have any potential ready for August meeting. Sterling offered to have NRCS staff consider potential candidates.

9. Next Board Meeting – August 18, 2015. Chair: Tom Hartnett

10. Motion Dave to adjourn meeting, 2nd Cecelia. Adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Prepared by Gary Thrash