

La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, Durango, CO, 81301

Time/Date: 5 PM to 8 PM; February 16, 2016

Attendee List: Board Members:

Tom Hartnett, President

Gary Thrash, CACD/Watershed

Dave Miller, Treasurer

Bill Szilva,

Cecilia Whitaker

Terry Jefferies

Paul Gray, LAPCO liaison

Sterling Moss, NRCS

Sherri Bowman

1. Welcome and Introduction of guests: Ann Oliver- AWP, Sandhya Tillotson- Garden Project, Michelle Abrams- FSA Program Technician- grasslands project, Kevin Reeves- FSA acting director, Laura Knapp – NRCS Conservationist.
2. Michelle- FSA Grasslands project-
 - a. CRP contracts- Accepting offers for existing grasslands and can be used for forage and for seed. \$15/ac across state. Went over criteria to qualify. Potential cost share for weeds and grass seed. La Plata County 6-7,000 acres in addition to normal CRP. Continuous signup. Overlap with our weed cost share. 15 yr contracts. FSA web page for CRP. Land owner id on county committee minutes.
3. Garden Project: Sandhya. Grant approved. 25k between our district and Garden Project. Plan, create and pilot conservation education program- online. Garden Project doing youth program, responsible for organizing 4 workshops in next year (dryland farming, ditches, beneficial insects, etc). Need to hire grant administrator, and conservation educator. Join with garden producers possible grant admin. Home grown food retreat April 9th in Mancos.
4. Ann Oliver: AWP. Use of stinger for planting willows. March 19th and April 9th on Florida River below airport. Motion to waive fee for partner and to video operation to put on website by Cecilia. 2nd Bill... motion passed. Work out MOU with Gary on use of office space. Beneficial soils partnership with Travis Custer out of Mancos.
5. Approval of 1/19/2016 minutes- motion by Bill, 2nd by Tom. Motion Carried.
6. Treasurer's Report Approval- Invoice for CACD and NACD dues just came and will be paid. Motion to accept by Cecilia 2nd by tom. Motion Carried.
7. Reports and Updates
 - a. Supervisor Reports
 - i. Cecilia Whitaker-
 1. Tree sales. 31 orders 2500 trees for about \$4400. Trees might run out due to state wide demand. Tom Campion ordered 17 bundles of 26 = \$442 + tax. \$3200 came thru web sales.
 - ii. Dave Miller- nothing else.
 - iii. Bill Silva
 1. Meeting for Targeted proposal today. Potential for multi- year effort. Partner with USFS, Pine River CD? Around Forest Lakes. Non burned area over Grassy.

- iv. Terri Jefferies
 - 1. San Juan Mountains Cooperative weed management. Waiting on invoice to finish out 2015. Start on 2016. Mentioned a number of upcoming meetings of interest to land owners. Will post on calendar and web
 - v. Tom Hartnett-
 - 1. Polymer supplier- listed on inventory spreadsheet. Shipped in 55lb. bags. Needed by 1st of April. Paul will contact.
 - 2. San Juan Mountains Cooperative weed grant for 2016. Terry- commented it has been submitted by partners.
 - 3. Freeman creek source water protection planning NW side of Vallecito Reservoir. Should we be involved. Majority of land in watershed is USFS, supplies water to group of homes along reservoir. No decision on involvement.
 - vi. Gary Thrash-
 - 1. Animas Watershed Partnership Update- Vista volunteer application San Juan SWCD New Mexico, March Forum at San Juan College on Storm water management 3/3/2016 posted on calendar.
 - 2. NACD Annual Mtg 1/31/16 to 2/3/16 -
 - a. New Mexico SJSWCD- John Arrington La Plata NM suggested we look at how the state conservation association has funding from BLM & FS in NM.
 - b. Tribes- presentation by Washington State on working with tribes.
 - c. National resolutions on Wild Horses, feral horses and waters of US probably of most interest to west.
 - 3. CACD-
 - a. Letter to successful districts on voluntary funding of line items and/or CACD admin.
 - b. CSCB \$406k available to 9 districts. Increase from original thought of only \$200k available.
 - a. Support available for districts to update computers > \$500 hardware and software
 - 4. BLM SW Resource Advisory Council meeting on 2/11 about Master Leasing Plan in west La Plata County and Montezuma County. Looking at boundary and whether anything is gained with MLP. Public concern was not specific to either question, more general about oil and gas development and effect on private lands. And recreation site in Montezuma county.
 - 5. Election 2016- Election Date May 3rd 2016. Up for reelection- Tom Hartnett, Dave Miller, Cecilia Whitaker and Terry Jefferies.
 - a. *Resolution Election Type- will not go for De-Taboring this year.
 - b. Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms
 - c. Call for nominations published in Herald on Jan 27th .
 - vii. Paul Gray- LAPCO- on the way to Archuleta County to find deed to property. Need to have all 3 CD's listed as owners to property for lease to NRCS. LAPCO has a SAM number for payment from Federal Government.
 - viii. Sherri Bowman- Absent.
- b. Partner Reports

- i. CSCB Report- None
- ii. NRCS report.
 - 1. Equip 75-100 people have applied. Deadline postponed to mid- March
 - 2. Targeted Conservation Proposal
 - a. Forestry project mentioned earlier.
 - b. Handout on replacing earthen ditch with pipe. May overlap with SWWCD roundtable help.
 - 3. Riparian trailer is back. Four Corner river sports want to use for high school session.
 - 4. Local work group meetings. CD proposed joint meeting with Pine River CD.
Proposed date: March 23 1-3pm at extension building
 - 5. NRCS getting an intern- looking for housing.
 - 6. Water supply: San Juan basin 114% of average to 105% average.

8. Old Business

- a. Office Share Opportunity- AWP is sharing office with San Juan RC&D until end of current Vista Volunteer term in April and will decide after that what they want to do.
- b. Calendar/Task List Review
 - i. San Juan Watershed Meeting March 15 9-12 at Oxford Grange. Hosted by Pine River CD. Lunch provided. Gary suggested we have our board meeting following the watershed meeting.

9. New Business

- a. Tom- suggested having a 2 day working session to plan getting us funded idea. Meeting would include presentations on how other districts have succeeded with funding.

10. Executive Session- if required

11. Next Board meeting March 15, 2016 Tom Harnett

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

** Indicates Possible Board Action*

The Board may address the agenda in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the audience.

Prepared by Gary Thrash