

*La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) Board Meeting Minutes*

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

Time/Date: 1PM to 4 PM; June 21<sup>st</sup> , 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

Call to Order- Dave Miller- Roll call and verification of quorum

1. Welcome and Introduction of guests: Rachael Hoffman- AWP; Michael Semler- LPCD scholarship awardee.
2. Approval of 5/17/2016 minutes- motion by Sherri, Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Carried.
3. Michael Semler- Transfer from NE Junior college to CSU; college livestock judging group at college. Will major in Ag Business/Animal Science.
4. Rachael Hoffman- AWP MOU ; Tom CSCB web has CD and county- identify parcel #'s in Pine River CD
5. Treasurer's Report Approval- **\$38399.49 ending balance.** Bill moved to accept, Sherri 2<sup>nd</sup>. Accepted as presented.
6. Reports and Updates
  - a. Supervisor Reports
    - i. Gary Thrash-
      1. Ended up not taking waterjet stinger to demonstrate with Vermejo Park Ranch near Raton, NM. They may stop by when in Durango for a demo.
      2. Animas Watershed Partnership Update-
        - a. Animas River Community Forum Monitoring Gaps Analysis Team:  
As part of the response to the Gold King mine spill the group was formed that includes representatives from San Juan County and La Plata Count and from the Silverton and Durango, EMS, ARSG, AWP, Forest Service, BLM, TU, San Juan Basin Health, CDPHE, Fort Lewis College.
        - b. Link for AWP Story Journal of Gold King Mine Release Event  
<http://arcg.is/1I9gJDr>
      3. CACD
        - a. Looking for watershed list for contacts fund raising. Tom has put together database of companies when he was on board.
        - b. CSCB – has hired replacement for Tammra: Barb Depasqually?
    - ii. Bill Szilva
      1. Wildfire coalition meeting summary from last month. Insurance companies use own database to review whether properties are insurable.

2. Targeted proposal- 7 landowners, 150 acres participating in this round, will be reviewed by NRCS. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> date for having contracts approved.
    - a. Forest Health landowner coordination meeting in Bayfield Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm with USFS and others; looking at 3 locations. Bill gave proposal to have LPCD annual meeting with this meeting- LPCD to kick off meeting.
  3. Suggestion to produce a marketing video for waterjet stinger. Need to contact Marty to find opportunity. Dave has GoPro we could use.
- iii. Paul Gray-
1. We have a SAMS # 968016373 Valarie did most of work. Paul will send out email with info for account access. Question on CAGE code.
  2. LAPCO- Now have SAMS # as well and we have been Tom motion to accept recommendation for improvements, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.
- iv. Sherri Bowman- no report. Got a Ballantine Family Grant for Animas museum. Recommends that LPCD apply. Next due date in September.
- v. Tom Hartnett-
1. Recruiting- Bob Oswald from county weed board probably not. Randy Kirkpatrick- water expert; Jeanne Collins- Breen area-
  2. Garden Project- good partnership. Tom motion that we support Garden Project in submitting grant proposal for \$5,000 to CSCB; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sherri. Motion Carried.
  3. Thank you to Dave for his work on website.
  4. Database: Tom will "scrub" database and work with Rachael.
- vi. Terri Jefferies- via email.

1. **San Juan Mountain Cooperative Weed Management Area – Oxeye Daisy**

Sherry and I attended meeting in Silverton on June 9.

Big news is that the Forest Service is working on a \$14,000 grant to help treat trailheads off the Durango and Silverton RR that go into the Weminuche Wilderness Trailhead. Should have an agreement to present soon.

The two employees from last year are back on the project again this year – Glen Sheridan and Alex Rea.

8 of 9 counties that signed the MOU – Dolores County is struggling with some weed district boundary issues.

Upper San Juan Forest is willing to donate trucks to the project – Rod Cook is working on how to get them insured – Tom and Dave may need to answer some questions on that. I did give Rod a check for the CDOT funds from last year's project that go to SJMCWMA yesterday in the amount of \$4195.48. That should allow them to start paying for some expenses for hard assets and raise more funds.

a. **Garden Project of SW Colorado- Conservation Board Grant**

Our first workshop was held on 6/15 with about 30 people attending – It was on Vermicomposting. More geared toward home gardeners.

The next workshop is this Friday 6/24 2-6 pm with Sterling Moss and Mike Nolan speaking on irrigation management. Tom has a list of all the workshops and thanks to Dave for putting all the information & registration on our website.

Sharon Orr is working on this project with the staff from Garden Project of Southwest Colorado and they are doing a fantastic job! There are currently 10 workshops scheduled throughout the summer and early fall. Try to attend one or all if you can!

b. Partner Reports

i. CSCB Report- N/A

ii. NRCS report.

1. Targeted Proposal 7 land owners 150 acres. Have 3 weeks to process.
2. Garden project irrigation workshop 6/24
3. EQUIP approvals - 35 to 40.
4. Participated in Animas Watershed discovery process by FEMA.
5. Rachael Hoffman security clearance- working on requirement or computer security training.

7. Old Business- N/A

8. New Business

a. Terry had two items for the board to vote on:

- i. We have an opportunity to apply for a grant up to \$7000 from the conservation board for 2017 to continue the workshop program. Tammra Straub indicated anything under \$7000 would receive fast track consideration. We would like to have permission to work with Sandhya on a grant application up to \$7000 to continue the workshop series next year, we would base the topics on feedback received from participants this year. **See above: board approved \$5,000 grant submission.**
- ii. We need to put some seed money into the grant bank account for the these grants as the Oxeye daisy spraying is ready to begin soon and I won't be able to submit an expense reimbursement until July for both grants. I would ask that the board approve \$2000.00 and that will be reimbursed back this fall. Bill: motion if money is for new grant account; Tom 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

b. Meeting time: Agreed to go back to 5pm meeting time.

9. Executive Session- N/A

10. Next Board meeting July 19<sup>st</sup>, 2016 5pm. Bill Szvila .

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm

*\* 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*