***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

 ***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

May 11, 2016 at 7:30AM via Teleconference

(712) 432-0180, passcode 810871#

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Bob Warner, NACD Board Member

Gary Thrash, Director, NACD Alternate Board Member

Gary Moyer, Director

Charlie Carnahan, Director

Scott Jones, Director

Brian Starkebaum, Director

Jim Cecil, Director

Clint Evans, CO NRCS State Conservationist

Cindy Lair, CO State Conservation Board Program Manager

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

Sharon Pattee, CACD Executive Director

***Absent:***

Mike Cleary, Director

Elaine Kist, Director

Harold Unwin, CSCB Board President

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:38AM after establishing a quorum. McBee called for any additions to the agenda by the Board, and hearing none, moved on with the agenda.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the April 2016 BOD minutes from last month’s meeting. Gary Thrash made the motion to approve the April 2016 minutes and Charlie Carnahan provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the April 2016 BOD minutes passed unanimously.

***NRCS:***

Clint Evans reported on the State Technical meeting that was held May 9th, in Denver. There were approximately 30 in attendance from partners, Districts, and NRCS staff. There were presentations on various NRCS programs, such as EQIP, CRP, and TCPP. There were changes in rankings on the CRP projects, with a low level of approved applications because of the number of extremely competitive proposals for 2016. He is planning to revamp the TCPP to help Districts know which kinds of proposals would have a better chance of being approved during the Local Work Group meeting process. Evans said that he was planning to organize an Advisory Committee to help with putting planning ahead of the project identification. Clint finished with how he was working on the 3-Way Agreement with the CSCB, and that they were reviewing and trying to improve the agreement for the future.

Gary Moyer asked Evans about just how much input the Districts would have on the NRCS programs that were prioritized and funded. Clint responded with that the District can help to: identifying the project areas, prioritizing the projects, supply outreach to landowners, and conduct planning sessions.

Don McBee asked that the LWG session be started in the February and March time frame, in order to reach more landowners during the slowest time of the year. Clint said that that was a good plan. Sharon Pattee asked Clint if he could provide some kind of a “menu” that would give a simple explanation for each of the NRCS programs to be given to the Districts and their Board Supervisors. She stated that there seems to be so much confusion within the Districts over all of the different programs and funding available from NRCS. She recognized that there have been changes to NRCS’s funding processes and procedures over the years, and she thought that it might help the Districts to better understanding the new processes and criteria that would assist them in their project proposals. Evans said that he would try to have something out be the fall Watershed meetings.

***CO State Conservation Board Updates:***

Cindy Lair started her report by reporting on the CO counties that have collected more severance tax monies and that these dollars would probably have to be returned, so that Matching Grants Tier II pool would only amount to about $80,000. She stated the CSCB most likely would not go through the Matching Grants process for this year, for funding in 2017. She then reported that there was $225,000 in place for the DCT program, so the District’s DCT employees would be in place for the next funding year.

Cindy then reported that the District Manager Training that was held May 4 -5 was successful, attended by 19 District Managers both new and established employees, from all around the state. She hoped that they would be able to continue these types of workshops with state funding. She stated that there was positive feedback from the post workshop survey. She also reported that there was discussion, prompted by a survey question, with regard to the District Employees Association. She said that the CSCB was going to try to help reinvigorate that group. Gary Moyer reminded Cindy that the DEA was an affiliate of CACD and that is how their By-Laws are set up, not being a function of the state. Sharon stated that she had strongly encouraged the DEA over the past several years to engage and be viable, but that they were obviously struggling. Cindy stated that part of the survey taken after the DM Workshop had indicated an overall lack of enthusiasm at the present time, for the DEA, by those DM’s that took the survey.

Cindy also mentioned that CACD should contact Commissioner Brown about being a part of the DOA’s Ag Industry Oral Board, which would be tied into the applicable review process of certain Ag issues. Cindy concluded with stating that Tammra Straub had given her notice and that she would be retiring at the end of June 2016, and that there were also several other open staff positions that were still in the process of being filled by the CSCB.

***Administrative Updates:***

Per the request of President McBee, Sharon started her reporting with asking the Board for discussion and then a vote on whether to proceed with her draft agenda on whether to shorten the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting in November. Due to membership requests, the AM Program Committee had been discussing several options to shorten the AM by one half day, ending on Wednesday afternoon/evening. After McBee asked all of the Directors on the teleconference what they thought, he asked for a vote to be taken. Anthony Lobato made the motion to shorten the 2016 annual meeting under the draft drawn up by the AM Program Committee, with Jim Cecil providing the second. A vote was taken and it was passed unanimously that the 2016 CACD Annual Meeting be shortened by one half day.

Next, Sharon Pattee had provided copies of the April 2016 financial statements to the Board, and in the interest of time, she said that she would entertain any questions with regard to these reports. After some very brief discussion, Don McBee asked for a motion to accept the April 2016 financial statements as presented. Charlie Carnahan made the motion to accept the financial statements as presented, and Gary Moyer provided the second. The motion was then passed unanimously by the Board. Sharon briefly reviewed the 2016 District dues payments received to date.

Next, Sharon provided a brief status updates on the successful outcome of 2016 CO Envirothon, held April 26 – 27, and the upcoming 2016 Camp Rocky to be held in July. The 2016 Camp Rocky face-to-face meeting was going to be held May 18th, in Colorado Springs.

Sharon then mentioned the upcoming date that she would be on leave, for her son’s graduation (May 13). She also will be “out of the office” on June 2 – 7, to attend a wedding in Arizona. She expressed to the group that of course, she will be checking email and available by telephone while out of state.

***Legislative Update:***

Brett Moore, CACD lobbyist, apologized for coming on late to the teleconference call, and then he reported briefly on the bills left at the conclusion of the 2016 Legislative Session. He briefly went through the final copy of his Bill Tracking Sheet, giving a few short synopses on the bills that CACD has been in support of, has opposed, or is monitoring. Brett reminded the Board that on CACD’s website, there is a link that will take you to the most current version of CACD’s Bill Tracker.

***President’s Updates:***

Don McBee started with asking Sharon to provide an update of the status of the special request for additional funding from certain Conservation Districts. Sharon said that she had receive a phone call from John Leone, West Greeley Conservation District, stating that his Board had voted to provide CACD with $10,000 in funding to be designated to the Executive Director’s salary and travel. Sharon said that she had thanked Leone and would be following up with a written note of thanks when the check was received. Otherwise, the additional money received was from White River CD and Bob Warner, again to be designated to the ED’s salary and travel budget. She reported that she had not heard from Yuma County CD or Boulder Valley, Longmont, South Side, Bookcliff, and Mount Sopris CDS’s. It was decided by the Board that Jim Cecil would follow up with Yuma County CD and that Bob Warner might follow up with Boulder Valley/Longmont. Gary Moyer would touch base with the western slope CD’s to see if any decisions had been made.

At this point in time, Sharon requested that the Board address comments made by Elaine Kist, in an email last month, with regard to Sharon’s job performance and reputation. Sharon said that this could be done in Executive Session without her presence on the call. Don McBee then asked the Board members present, to provide feedback on the accusations that had been made by Kist. After some discussion, the Board directed McBee to address their concerns with Kist, by strongly suggesting to her that these types of personal attacks/accusations are unacceptable from a CACD Board member, especially without any legitimate back-up to her comments made, and that this should be done within the upcoming week.

Conversation then moved back to the additional $20,000 of special funding received to date. McBee asked the Board to decide on whether they wanted to vote on keeping Sharon Pattee’s position intact through 2016. A motion was made, along with a second, to keep Sharon Pattee’s position as CACD’s Executive Director funded and intact through the 2016 fiscal year. A vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.

For the next CACD Executive Committee teleconference, it would be discussed on whether another funding letter would be sent out to the next tier of Conservation Districts, perhaps with a slightly different format than the first letter sent out in late February.

McBee then reported that CACD’s Long Range Planning Committee would be meeting via teleconference either May 23 or May 25, and Sharon would send out a poll for the LRP Committee’s availability on either of those evenings. McBee reminded the group that he wants this Committee to meet monthly, until the BOD’s August face-to-face meeting. Sharon reminded the Board that this meeting would be during the first or second week of August 2016. McBee then asked the BOD to consider where that August meeting should take place, and offer suggestions by the June 2016 BOD teleconference, so that meeting/lodging arrangements could be made.

***Adjournment:***

Don McBee adjourned the May 2016 CACD Board of Directors teleconference meeting at 9:20AM and said that the June 2016 BOD teleconference would take place on June 8th, 2016, at 7:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

 *Sharon*

Sharon Pattee

CACD Executive Director