***Colorado Association of Conservation Districts***

***Board of Directors Meeting Minutes***

***September 20th, 2017, at 7:30 AM via Teleconference***

***Attendees:***

Don McBee, CACD President

Gary Moyer, North Platte/White/Yampa River Watershed Director

Mike Cleary, Gunnison/Dolores River Watershed Director

Gary Thrash, San Juan Basin Watershed Director/CO Representative Alternate to NACD

Charlie Carnahan, Upper South Platte Watershed Director

Jim Cecil, Republican River Watershed Director

Scott Jones, Colorado River Watershed Director

Bob Warner, CO Representative to NACD

Bobbi Ketels, CACD Executive Director

***Absent:***

Anthony Lobato, CACD Vice President

Brett Moore, CACD Lobbyist

***Guests:***

Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager

Clint Evans, NRCS CO State Conservationist

***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order by President, Don McBee at 7:32 AM after establishing a quorum. Don McBee then called for any additions to the agenda. Don McBee requested to add the CACD 207 Policy Book. With no further requests, the board moved on with the agenda.

***Prior Meeting Minutes:***

President Don McBee asked for a motion to approve the August 2017 Minutes from the last meeting. Director, Charlie Carnahan made the motion to approve the August 2017 Minutes, and Director, Gary Thrash provided the second. Without any further discussion, the motion to approve the CACD BOD’s August 2017 Minutes was passed unanimously.

***Legislative Update – Brett Moore:***

No Update

***CSCB Update:***

**Cindy Lair:** Western Slope Specialist Update:  Interviewed 6 candidates on Friday, 9/15.  Narrowed down to 3 and two backed out.  Interview committee is currently calling references on the final applicant and reviewing next level of applications for a potential second look.  It may be November 1 before this position is filled. Glenn Ehlert is the new Grants Specialist for CSCB.  He was formerly an accountant for the CDA Business Operations Division, working on Federal Grants with the different CDA programs.  It is nice to have someone with so much grant experience come on board.  He is excited to work with the Conservation Districts and to help them implement their conservation goals. There are two board positions on the CSCB Board that are open for nominations: Colorado River/Gunnison River (Replacing Larry Sweeney who is term-limited)

Lower South Platte/Republican River (Replacing Chester Zwirn) - NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 5:00 PM ON SEPT 29, 2017. There will be a board meeting to approve matching grants. Making recommendation to the state board and they will vote to send out for January. The state Legislative Counsel is proposing to statutorily change the name of the CSCB to the Colorado Conservation Board (CCB).

***NRCS Update:***

**Clint Evans:** Clint attended the Southwest and Pacific region NACD conference along with a west region state conservationist meeting in conjunction with the conference in Tuscon. The sessions included good partnership presentations around the region. Still severely down on staff and still under a departmental hiring freeze. Out of 260 positions on the CO staffing plan they currently have 53 vacancies with three more in the state coming up due to retirements. Ten district conservationist positions are currently vacant or will be vacant as of next week. People are covering multiple offices trying to keep up with the workload and make sure the staff has the tools and training to get the work done. Looking for opportunities to expand to additional partnership positions. In the state of CO, there are partner positions through the DCT program, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, CPW, Pheasants Forever and a couple of other partners. There are 42 positions statewide that are shared positions through various agreements (25 of these are under the DCT program in CO). Partner positions make up 15% of the overall field positions helping deliver conservation programs. Discussing ways to hire planners under an agreement through CSCB or local districts. Reviewing where they have workload needs. Alamosa and San Louis Valley are high workload areas where people are needed. Looking at bringing on a Wetlands Biologist position as well as a planner. Northeast part of the state in Sterling, Ft Morgan, and Akron, has a number of vacancies and need more soil conservationists on the ground. Recently funded several EQIP contracts in Prowers and Otero counties. Preapproving more for Rocky Ford and Lamar offices with last-minute contracts approved due to some cancellations. Need more people in place in these locations as well as the West Slope. Delta and Montrose offices have a tremendous workload with the EQIP salinity program as well as other ongoing technical assistance in these offices. Looking for opportunities to enter into new agreements or to expand overall partnership opportunities in the state to get more people out in the field. Hopeful they will start hiring internal positions, not gaining staff but promoting from within to get some of these positions filled. Waiting for the opportunity to move forward. Finishing up program obligations for FY17. Three to four easement agreements are going through national reviews and may not get done by next week but will be allowed to carry funds over and obligated early in Oct or Nov for FY18. All stewardship program obligations should be done by the end of the week, and a few EQIP preapprovals are being pushed to get completed. This year there is approximately 34 million in EQIP obligations in CO. CSP prior year and new contract obligations should come in between the 17-18 million range. The agreement between NRCS and NACD is in the works and still in the preliminary stages, but could possibly fund a few positions in CO. Department of Ag reorganization news release states they are looking at consolidating at the national level with shared administrative duties. NRCS District Conservationists and leadership team will attend and participate in the CACD Annual Meeting.

***NACD Update:***

Southwest and Pacific regional meetings focused on the significant partnerships between AZ and NM. Discussion took place on the Southwest region court ruling affecting the ability of districts to pay dues to nonprofit organizations. Utah districts are funded differently. In the past, all of the district employees were funded through the state association but determined they could not do this anymore, and this has left the state association out in the dark. Four years ago the Utah Dept of Ag and Food took control of district employees. Commissioner of Ag started in July making some moves trying to change it to where there is a submission request for reimbursement to get funding based on specific activities. Discussions took place about 51 districts consolidating to around 15. This is vastly different from Colorado as for how districts can be formed (locally controlled and local board). Utah is totally funded by the state. CO has the independence, but with this comes lack of funding. When the State conservation board was formed at the national level, USDA helped with the terminology. CO treats it as a local issue to be determined by the voters. NACD is currently looking at the dues issue and encouraging districts to pay national dues which are also down. NACD on a national level is addressing the WOTUS reconsideration and the wild horse program. Both are high-level topics.

***Watershed Meetings:***

Bobbi has been attending the watershed meetings to promote the Annual Meeting. Scott has been waiting to schedule his watershed meeting until the Western slope position is filled. With the delay in filling this position, Scott will move forward with plans and Cindy offered her assistance. Gary Moyer’s watershed meeting has not been planned. Gary will follow-up. Steve Mcendree was voted in as the new CACD Director for the Lower Ark, and three resolutions were voted forward. George Fosha was voted in as the new CACD director for the Upper Ark. Mike Cleary is working on three resolutions. San Juan Watershed did not have a quorum. Travis Custer ran a resolution request through email, and it was voted down.

**Corporate Fundraising:**

Mike and Don are continuing to work on their list of contacts. Mike is reaching out to the Cattlemen’s Association to get a list of the insurance agencies they work with for the possibility of having an exhibitor booth. Gary Thrash was given a lead for Dragonline Irrigation out of Kansas but needs assistance with contact information. Gary Thrash does not have a contact for Trout Unlimited but could try for a local contact. Mike will work on the API group. November 1st is the cutoff for sponsor logos to be placed in the program for the Annual Meeting.

***Financial Update – Bobbi Ketels:***

CACD register balance as of August 31st, $48,665.88. CACD reserve balance remains at $26,075.15. Net operating income $22,590.73. Credit card balance $10,493.94. We are waiting for confirmation from the CPA regarding 2016 balances in the program classes that may or may not need to be rolled over to 2017. The balance in the raffle account is $429.04. District Dues total received $35,034.48. Membership remains at $5,100.00 for a total of $40,134.48. CACD signed a new contract with UARRP for the 5% admin fee. We have come to the end of the first five-year agreement and were able to get all of the funds allocated for FY17. The new 5-yr contract is now in place.

***Conservator:***

The Conservator will be submitted by Friday and will exceed 16 pages with six to seven advertisers and West Greeley as a sponsor. Don confirmed board did not need to review before submitting to the publisher and to provide final product to the board once complete.

***Annual Meeting:***

Bob will give a donation to the Honor Guard for the Annual Meeting. Bobbi to send resolutions to Gary and Brian to assign to the committees. Bobbi will submit to the committees once assigned. The cut-off date for submitting resolutions is October 1st. Need to schedule another AM committee call for Monday 25th. Don, Mike and Gary Thrash are pushing hard on their exhibitor leads as well as involvement for the live auction. Gary and Bobbi to review the resolution process after the call. Discussion took place about the need to present a resolution each year at the Annual Meeting that sets the dues for the following year. Don brought up errors that were brought to his attention in the 2017 Policy Book. CACD dues are not precisely correct as stated in the policy book as well as the need for updating the CACD address. Gary Moyer made a motion to change address now and to leave the CACD dues as is until the Annual Meeting. Jim Cecil gave the second. The board was unanimous in the decision to change the address now and leave the dues as is. Clint is interested in working out a plan giving NRCS staff the opportunity to be affiliate members. Everyone is getting positive feedback about the Annual Meeting being moved to the week after Thanksgiving. Discussion took place on raising the individual membership dues from $35.00 to $50.00. Gary Moyer made a motion to increase the individual membership dues to $50.00. Charlie Carnahan gave the 2nd. The Board voted Unanimously to change to $50. The suggestion was made to propose the subject of a possible name change for CACD during the committee meetings based on identity confusion and concerns of how to deal with this. The idea of adding Soil and Water back into the name was brought up to distinguish ourselves from other groups. Cindy will address the concerns with the state board. This resolution could be brought forth by CACD or one of the committees at the Annual Meeting.

***Envirothon:***

No Update

***Camp Rocky:***

No Update

Don asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Moyer gave the motion and Mike Cleary gave the 2nd. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Ketels

CACD Executive Director