

SOUTH PUEBLO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Thursday, May 22, 2025

USDA Service Center, Pueblo, CO

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Ryan Froman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. TJ Knecht, Mark Koch, Devin Cossel, and George Pigg were in attendance as board members.

Other attendees included Lana Pearson, Resource Team Leader, and Rich Rhoades, Contract District Manager. Special guest was Garth Schaefer, CSCB, Southeast Regional Field Specialist.

REVIEW AGENDA

Devin moved, and Mark seconded the approval of the agenda. Motion passed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Devin moved, and Mark seconded the approval of the April minutes. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of April 30, 2025, the reports totaled \$23,279.88 at Colorado Bank & Trust and \$0 at US Bank.

The CD balance is \$13,157.80 as of April 23, 2025. The CD was transferred to the CO Bank and Trust for a 7-month CD with an APR of 4.48. It will be renewed on 8/23/25.

Interest earned on the CD in 2024 is \$629.94.

George moved, and Mark seconded the motion to approve the report; the motion passed.

BILLS TO BE PAID

We received the charge for the publication “cancellation of election.” The cost is \$25.80. Rich will pay the bill with the district's credit card.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information about Camp Rocky.

A thank-you from the Colorado State Conservation Board for the district's efforts to promote conservation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rich reviewed the proposed reports to be sent to NRCS regarding the results of the Local Work Group. Kristi sent out several forms on her mailing list. One response was received. The board recommended keeping the 2024 recommendations. In addition, we will send up information on a Targeted proposal for the Master Irrigator Class. Lana and Ryan signed the targeted proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Extension Report – Kristi was unable to attend and will be changing jobs. She will be working at the CSU Experiment Station in Rocky Ford. Her efforts on behalf of the board will be missed.

President Ryan Froman administered the Oaths of Office to Devin Cossel and George Pigg. Rich will send the Oaths to DOLA and the County Clerk.

Rich noted that the SAMs (System of Awards Management) registration is due before June 19th. He will complete registration prior to that date.

Garth reported on CSCB activities – July 11 deadline for matching grants (a potential funding source for the Irrigation Master). Due to budget cuts, the Soil Health program is not funded. The next CSCB meeting will be in Meeker in June. More information will be coming about the Ag Photovoltaic and a rain barrel project.

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NRCS REPORT

Lana reported that in addition to Pueblo and Rocky Ford, she is assisting the Las Animas field office.

Nothing is new on the Salt Creek PFIR (Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report). The PFIR is part of the PL-566 Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations funding. Lana will ask for an update. Staff levels for NRCS Colorado are set at 175. The current staffing is 157. There is some hope that positions will be filled to meet staff levels. A range EQIP and two urban EQIPs were funded. Waiting for more promised dollars.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next board meeting will be at the USDA Service Center in Pueblo, CO, on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Approved minutes: _____ **Devin Cossel - Secretary/Treasurer**