

SOUTH PUEBLO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Thursday, October 19, 2023
USDA Service Center - Pueblo, Colorado

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Ryan Froman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were Devin Cossel, Georg Pigg, Doug Thacker, and Mark Koch.

Other attendees included Lana Pearson, Resource Team Leader; Kristi Bartolo, Ex-Officio member from CSU Extension; and Rich Rhoades, District Manager.

REVIEW AGENDA

Devin moved, and Mark seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The board reviewed the minutes of the September monthly meeting. Devin moved, and Mark seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug reported the checking account balance on 9/30/2023 was \$ 32,164.18.

CD rates have increased significantly. The CD reached its maturity on 2/7/23; Devin did check into better rates. The CD is at the Bank of the San Juans, and interest earned in 2022 is \$6 for six months. The balance before expiration was \$12,315.59. The current CD is for four months at 5% interest.

BILLS TO BE PAID

No bills were presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

CACD – Annual Meeting

CSCB – Agrivoltaic grant

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held March 6-7, 2024, in La Junta.

Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety – Thunderbird Sand and Gravel Pit – planned pit south of Baxter, along the Arkansas River.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Doug and Devin are working on a bank transfer.

Mark moved, and George seconded to open an account at Colorado Bank and Trust, and the motion passed. Rich will prepare a letter for Ryan's signature.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reviewed the draft budget. Ideas for potential projects were discussed. Kristi had several educational items in the planning stage for 2024. She will get cost estimates and present them to the board next month.

Streamline Web Hosting – Rich attended a Zoom meeting, which showed an alternative to SIPA's platform (Statewide Internet Portal Authority). Streamline charges for their services. The core setup is \$500, and the annual fee is \$720. Both hosting sites will meet the new guidelines for web accessibility (HB 21-1110). At present, the board voted to table. Doug moved, and George seconded; the motion passed.

Mark moved, and Doug seconded to add \$500 per year to the district manager's contract for website maintenance. The motion passed.

Kristi reported. She is now certified to teach Ag Worker Protection, which will assist local farmers. She is wrapping up several other programs from 2023.

NRCS REPORT -

EQIP – there is an increase in the number of fund pools for 2024 with a short deadline to process applications.

No new personnel actions.

No Bessemer Ditch report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the USDA Service Center in Pueblo.

Approved minutes: _____
Doug Thacker - Secretary/Treasurer