

**SOUTH PUEBLO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 15, 2024**  
**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 George 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, contract District Manager.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

George moved, and Mark seconded to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Doug reported the bank statement dated January 31, 2024, was \$28,121.54.

The CD is at the Bank of the San Juans for four months at 4.91% interest.

The balance as of 12/15/23 is \$12,527.86. Interest on the statement in 2023 is \$205.93.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

No bills were presented.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

CSCB – District Operations training – Broomfield, April 22-23

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – March 6-7 in La Junta

Ag in the Classroom featured Pueblo Chiles in the Literacy Project

Jodi Amato, County Assessor for Las Animas County, provided the assessed valuation for the district land in that county.

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety – Cortner Pit – Surety Reduction, Acreage Release; Two Rivers Pit, south of Boone, CO, acreage increase of 18.2 acres.

Department of Labor and Employment – Exclusion of Uncompensated Pueblo Official Forms; change of procedure.

Colorado Noxious Weed Coordinator, Patty York – weed information.

Ag in the Classroom – thank you for supporting and includes a contribution statement.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Banking update – Devin reported by phone that \$10,000 had been transferred to Colorado Bank and Trust. He also arranged for Debit cards for the district.

Kristi and Rich reported on the Building Farmers program. All scholarships have been distributed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The board reviewed the Exemption from Audit report. Doug moved, and Mark seconded to approve the report and the resolution. The motion passed.

Kristi reported on Extension activities. Master Irrigator – sponsors are needed; Building Farmers started in January and is ongoing, Worker Protection classes, vegetable variety trials, fungal inoculation for beans, and enterprise budgeting.

The Annual Report was filed with DOLA and posted on the website.

Rich provided a District Manager Agreement, which the board reviewed. George moved, and Mark seconded to approve. The motion passed.

As noted in the correspondence, the District Operations training will be held in Broomfield April 22-23. Rich may attend.

Rich noted the 1099-NEC has been filed with IRS.

**NRCS REPORT -**

Personnel – a new Resource Conservation Specialist, Wesley, will report on 3/11/24. A Program Support Specialist will be transferring to the Area Office, which is a loss for the Pueblo and Rocky Ford offices.

Lana has 98 applications in Rocky Ford and 46 in Pueblo. Irrigation contracts are due March 1.

Lana reported on the Bessemer Ditch annual meeting held on February 10. Randa York from NRCS made a presentation about the proposed project.

Rich and Lana reported on the Upper Arkansas Weed Management meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Pueblo.**

**Approved minutes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Doug Thacker - Secretary/Treasurer**