

SOUTH PUEBLO COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 20, 2023
USDA Service Center - Pueblo, Colorado

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Ryan Froman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board members in attendance: Georg Pigg, Doug Thacker, and Devin Cossel. Other attendees included Lana Pearson, Resource Team Leader, Kristi Bartolo, Ex-Officio member, and Rich Rhoades, District Manager.

REVIEW AGENDA

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

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug had not received the checking account balance before the February meeting. The balance on 2/28/2023 was \$27,656.39. The balance at the end of March was \$27,550.39. Doug noted that the bank charge for paper statements has risen to \$6 monthly.

The spreadsheet balance matches the bank statements.

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.

George moved, and Doug seconded to approve the Report and for Devin to pursue better CD rates. Motion passed.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Rhoades - \$134.13 – meals for the Upper Arkansas Watershed meeting for the District

Lana Pearson - \$46.74 for water and soft drinks for the same meeting

Devin moved, and Doug seconded to approve the bills presented; the motion passed.

Checks # 2111 and 2112.

CORRESPONDENCE

CACD – Legislative information

CSCB – Abbey Grey will assume the position of Executive Director for CACD, STAR program.

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum – April 25-26 – Colorado Springs. Mark plans to attend.

George moved, and Devin seconded to pay his expenses; the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rich sent in a grant request for the Star Plus program. Grants will be received in the fall. The board will need to determine who is willing to run the program.

The new Pueblo County weed coordinator is Donovan Shepard; 719-334-0933.

NEW BUSINESS

Patty Knupp requested funds to purchase the Wingate grass ID keys. Patty is assisting with the TEN program (Teach Environmental Education Naturally). The publications would be used to help with a program to be held in June. The District would retain ownership of the Wingate publications. Ten copies are requested at \$9 each, plus tax and shipping. Devin moved, and George seconded to approve; the motion passed.

The board discussed the Star Plus program.

Kristi reported on several programs: CART training for emergency livestock care, utilized on the recent North Creek fire, Ag Classes for children, Plant Sale on May 6th, and the Drought Workshop has been funded. The Drought Workshop will be held June 15th, site to be determined. Kristi requested District support for meals. Lana mentioned that Turkey Creek CD would also be willing to assist with meal costs.

NRCS REPORT -

Lana reported that they had 90 applications for EQIP for 17 million dollars. Irrigation requests accounted for 15 million of those dollars. Funds are less than \$500,000. Consistent ranking among offices continues to be a concern.

The Bessemer Ditch – no update.

NRCS may fill the engineering position soon.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 18, 2023, at the USDA Service Center in Pueblo.

Approved minutes:

Doug Thacker - Secretary/Treasurer