**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**October 25, 2022**

A meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District was called to order by President Margaret Lenz at 5:39pm at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Those attending included: Margaret Lenz, Chester Zwirn, Jeff Wingfield, Ron Richards and Tanya Fell.

Updates were made by each board member to the mileage calendar.

Ron moved to approve the September 20, 2022, meeting minutes, Chester seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tanya Fell presented the financials. Chester moved to accept the financial report and pay the October bills, Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed. The current bills paid:

* District Manager Paycheck
* Water Grant Participants – Briggs

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There CIG grant was submitted to the USDA for cheat grass control for all of Northeastern Colorado and Western Nebraska including the entire panhandle. The USDA needed an additional commitment letter to be signed by the YCCD stating that the matching funds from the participating producers would pass through the YCCD and be paid to the applicators. It was approved to complete and sign the letter.

The Annual Meeting will be held mid-January in Wray hopefully on a Wednesday. Tanya is to contact Brian Bledsoe, the meteorologist with KKTV in Colorado Springs. In addition, she will speak to Travis Taylor with extension for ideas on grazing with a cover crop and additional speaker ideas.

Tanya was contacted by Chris West with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation regarding the Demonstration Grazing project. The board believes that Chris needs to meet with them and also the Southfork Restoration Group for a joint meeting if possible. Tanya is to contact Chris to see if the November board meeting will work. Tanya is to also meet with Travis Taylor to get the prospective cooperator packets together.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The board judged the CACD poster contest submissions. The grand and reserve grand champions will go on to participate at the CACD competition. The winners are as follows:

Liberty 6th Graders: 1st place – Harley Vaughn

 2nd place – Travis Wise

 3rd place – Kilah Rojas

Idalia 5th Graders: 1st place – Charliann Soehner – Grand Champion Overall

 2nd place – Chloe Soehner

 3rd place – Kimena Cordova

Idalia 6th Graders: 1st place – Blake Hardwick – Reserve Grand Champion Overall

 2nd place – Beckett Kite

 3rd place – Bristol Weyerman

Wray 5th Graders: 1st place – Kendree Reyna

Jake Prather had brought to Tanya’s attention that the YCCD used to help with funding and coordination for pheasant thickets. Tanya presented the information to the board for discussion.

The board also discussed that due to the drought a number of trees are being lost in the living snow fences planted in the YCCD. It has also been observed that some of the fencing protecting the snow fences need repair and cattle are causing damage to the trees. The Colorado Department of Transportation was responsible for the fencing, the landowners provided the land for the snow fences, YCCD provided the trees and area FFA youth assisted in planting the trees. Tanya is to reach out to CDOT about fencing.

The resolutions for the upcoming CACD meeting were distributed to board members and emailed. The resolutions are to be reviewed and suggestions and edits are to be discussed at the November board meeting. Tanya is to check the YCCD resolution that was sent because it is believed that it was an unrevised copy. Tanya will need to send the corrected copy to Bobbi at CACD and ask for them to be re-distributed.

The application and media release for the 2023 Matching Grant was reviewed. An addition of contacting 811 prior to the project beginning needs to be added to the contract. Tanya is to contact Abby and see how early the projects can begin for 2023.

A request for support was reviewed for the 2022 eastern Colorado State FFA Range Judging competition that was recently held in Siebert. Ron made a motion to do $100 sponsorship, Chester seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tanya will start working on the 2023 budget for the next meeting. A budget hearing will need to be set for the December 6th meeting and will need to be published in the newspaper for two weeks prior.

A motion was made by Ron to dispense with an executive session. Chester seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chester made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

The next YCCD meeting will be held November 15th at 10:00am at the NRCS conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Fell

District Manager

Yuma County Conservation District