**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**September 20, 2022**

A meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District was called to order by Secretary/Treasurer Dustin Wise at 5:45pm at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Those attending included: Margaret Lenz, Dustin Wise, Chester Zwirn, Jeff Wingfield, Jake Prather and Tanya Fell.

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

Jeff moved to approve the August 9, 2022, meeting minutes, Chester seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

* District Manager Paycheck
* Matching Grant to Hardwick
* Water Grant Participants – Wudtke, Weaver, Kunnemann, Brittan & Hurlburt

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Rejuvra RESTORE grant with Pheasants Forever is in the final phase. With nine participants, approximately 2,500 acres of cheat grass will be treated by the first part of October. A map was distributed in the board packet. Additionally, there will be eleven test areas spread throughout Yuma and Phillips counties.

There is a grant opportunity to submit to extend the Rejuvra program for not only Yuma County but all of Northeastern Colorado and Western Nebraska including the entire panhandle. It is a federal grant through the USDA and is a Conservation Innovation Grant focusing on invasive species control. It was moved to approve the writing and submission of the grant by Chester, the motion was seconded by Jeff. Motion passed.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife shared their current grazing lease agreement that has been approved by the Bureau of Reclamation to use for the matching grazing grant project. The board is to review the lease agreement and bring back suggestions for the next meeting to construct a cooperator agreement for the project.

The next steps for the cooperator will include an informational meeting for the prospective cooperators to receive information packets and learn the expectations of what the project entails. We will need to know if they are cows, cow/calf pairs or yearlings and the number of head available for the project. The producer will have to do a summary what they have to offer and how the grazing project would benefit themselves, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Bureau of Reclamation. One of the bigger considerations will include the proximity of the producer from the grazing location, if they have experience in grazing river bottom areas and if they have transportation resources to check on the cattle without disrupting the grazing area negatively.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Margaret gave a report on the recent Colorado Association of Conservation Board meeting. The group was able to tour the east Troublesome fire area. The STAR Plus federal grant to expand the program was approved and they should be accepting new participants as soon as a new director has been hired to fill the empty position. The YCCD was approved for the matching grant program for 2023.

The Colorado Association of Conservation District poster contest county submissions are due by November 1. The YCCD will be doing a presentation to Idalia, Liberty and Wray schools to promote the contest. The them this year is “Healthy Soil: Healthy Life.”

The CACD has water outreach funding available for workshops specifically pertaining to water. The YCCD would like to do a workshop possibly on what to do after a well has been shut down. Tanya is to also talk to Travis Taylor to see what ideas he may have for workshops.

The NRCS and YCCD have been cleaning the office space. The YCCD currently has multiple pieces of old equipment including a typewriter, scanner, printer, monitor, computer and a huge number of old posters. The board approved the disposal of all the equipment. The computer will be checked for archival files before removal.

The mill levy that the YCCD will be receiving for 2023 has increased from what we received this year. The amount went from 85,178,830 to 97,002,800.

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

Chester made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Margaret seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The next YCCD meeting will be held October 18th at 5:00pm at the NRCS conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya Fell

District Manager

Yuma County Conservation District