



Shavano Conservation District
102 Par Place, Suite 4, Montrose, CO 81401

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2024, 6:30PM

Present: Steve Hale, Roxi Stewart, Clifford Chiles, Zak Danielson, Ed Atencio, Lanny Denham, Carl McKinney, Penny Bishop/DM

Absent: Aleksy Cybulski/SCD DCT

Others Present: Jamison Jewkes/NRCS, Mendy Stewart/SCD, Special Guest-Janie VanWinkle, John Pavlich/WCSH committee member

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 pm by Steve Hale/Board President. A quorum was present. Lanny Denham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call for Additions to the agenda was made. Additions made were: Consider Hosting GD Watershed meeting this year, Discussion on FVP-CFRT Donation to be used for WCSH Soil Health Tour & Trade Show, Discussion to amend Employee Policy Manual specifically the Annual Leave Section regarding newly hired employees.

The minutes from the May 14, 2024 regular meeting were presented and reviewed by the board. Roxi Stewart made a motion to accept the May 14, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Clifford Chiles seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

CSU Extension Report

Katie Alexander was not present; therefore, no report was given.

Guest Speaker

Janie VanWinkle, ERC Federal Fellow representing AgriWest was present and spoke to the board about the goals and objectives of AgriWest. She also wanted to get the boards thoughts on landowners and producers local needs.

WCSHC & VFP Committee Report

John Pavlich was not present to give the report. Steve Hale updated the board on the WCSH Trade show being developed for November 15 & 16 called the Western Colorado Farm & Ranch Innovation Trade Show. Clifford Chiles made a motion to approve support from SCD and approve the Soil Health Committees plans in implementing the Innovation Trade Show in November. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Steve also alerted the board about the Western Colorado Soil Health Food & Farm Forum and that the next meeting for this conference will be held on June 20th.

NRCS Report

Jamison Jewkes/RTL for NRCS provided to the board his written NRCS update for May.

IRA DCT Report

Aleksy Cybulski/SCD IRA DCT was not present but provided a written IRA DCT report to the board for review for May.

Education/Outreach Report

Mendy Stewart/Education & Outreach Coordinator presented a written report to the board for review for May educational events and also upcoming events.

New & District Business

S.T.A.R. Plus Program Update: Penny Bishop provided a written report to the board on the status of the Round 1 & 2 of the CDA STAR/Soil Health program for May.

Review of the Resolution approved on 4/9/24 by SCD in Support of the Montrose County Commissioners Opposition for the Dolores River National Monument and discussion to amend said resolution: The board discussed the Dolores River National Monument and how it would impact our constituents' rights and limits to utilize the proposed land. Clifford Chiles, Board Supervisor abstained from voting on the resolution due to personal conflicts.

Ed Atencio made a motion to oppose the proposed National Monument as written. Lanny Denham made a motion to amend the motion to oppose the proposed National Monument as written due to the vagueness of the proposal and SCD would like to be at the table for further discussion. Carl McKinney seconded the amendment of the main motion. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor to support the main motion was approved and no opposed.

San Miguel PES Program Tour Reminder: Steve Hale updated the board on the PES Tour being organized by San Miguel County for the benefit of Saguache County Commissioners. The tour is to be held on Thursday, June 13th at Indian Ridge Farms in Norwood. He encouraged board members to attend.

Discussion to include Private Landholdings that are not included within the Shavano District Boundaries: Penny Bishop provided a written report to the board regarding information collected from the Colorado State Conservation Board about the private landowner holdings. Penny Bishop will give Zak Danielson the landowner form that is needed for landowners to fill out and be able to opt into the District.

Discussion to approve the fiduciary responsibility for the Wildlife Habitat Replacement Plan with the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA): As this approval was tentatively approved at the SCD May Board Meeting with the agreement that the absent board members agree to approve.

Roxi Stewart made a motion to approve the fiduciary responsibility for the Wildlife Habitat Replacement Plan with the CDA. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Discussion to approve SCD writing a letter of support to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to expand the Salinity Control Designation area into the west end of Montrose County & San Miguel County:

Zak Danielson made a motion to approve sending a letter of support to the BOR to expand the Salinity Control Designation area with mapping given to SCD showing the proposed area. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

IRA DCT Update: Penny Bishop updated the board on the IRA DCT position which they are in the process of hiring. She stated that the person whom was offered the position rescinded her job offer and that the job position was re-listed on Indeed and that they had a couple of potential candidates to interview on Wednesday, June 12th and asked if there were any board members that could attend. Steve Hale will attend the interviews for the board.

2025 Matching Grant Application Discussion: Penny Bishop provided the board with a written document regarding the grant application. Penny suggested that the board consider allowing SCD to put an application together for educational purposes for the \$25,000.00 amount and potentially incorporate the purchase of a river trailer into the application for this next year.

Ed Atencio made a motion to approve the preparation of the 2025 Matching Grant Application to utilize for educational purposes. Roxi Stewart seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Consider Hosting GD Watershed meeting this year Discussion: Penny Bishop relayed to the board that the Gunnison Conservation District is responsible this year for holding the GD Watershed meeting but that the District Manager was new and Penny offered to have SCD hold the meeting this year if the SCD board agreed.

Roxi Stewart made a motion to approve holding the GD Watershed meeting this year. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Discussion on VFP-CFRT Donation to be used for WCSH Soil Health Tour & Trade Show: Steve Hale discussed with the board the possibility of utilizing grant funds that were originally earmarked for the Cultivating Farmers and Ranchers That Thrive Program but not expended. The idea was to donate to the WCSH committee to be utilized for SCD's soil health tour or trade show.

Roxi Stewart made a motion to approve the fiduciary responsibility for the Wildlife Habitat Replacement Plan with the CDA. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Discussion to amend Employee Policy Manual specifically the Annual Leave section regarding newly hired employees: Penny Bishop led the discussion to amend the Annual Leave section of the Employee Policy Manual.

Roxi Stewart made a motion to amend the Annual Leave section of the Employee Policy Manual to read newly hired eligible employees must complete three (3) months of employment and a performance evaluation with the District in order to utilize accrued annual leave. Ed Atencio seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Committee Reports

Dams Report: Roxi Stewart reported to the board that there are still rodents on the dam as well as below the Shavano Dam in the irrigated fields and that one of the landowners were trying to figure out what they were going to do. Wild West Critter Control was hired to irradiate them.

Also reported by Lanny Denham was that the Roatcap Dam has rodent holes on that dam as well and that Wild West Critter Control was hired to irradiate them as well. Potential issues with cattle grazing on the face of the dam was brought up and the board instructed Penny Bishop to follow up with the State Dam Safety Inspector to advise next steps.

No other Committee Reports were given.

Employee Comp Time Report

Penny Bishop presented to the board a summary of the compensation time used and accumulated by the SCD employees in May.

Shavano Building Report

Penny Bishop presented the Shavano Building report as prepared in a written report for May.

Financials

The financial reports, accounts receivable, and accounts payable from May were presented to and reviewed by the Board. Roxi Stewart-Treasurer reviewed all financials and approved the Financials for May as submitted.

Lanny Denham made a motion to approve the May financials as presented. Zak Danielson seconded the motion and it was carried. All in favor and no opposed.

Miscellaneous & Mail

No miscellaneous or mail was presented.

Being no further matters to discuss,

Roxi Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Lanny Denham seconded the motion and it was carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hale, Board President

Roxi Stewart, Treasurer