



MOTIVATING LANDOWNERS TO PURSUE, COMMIT, AND DELIVER ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2<sup>ND</sup> ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH:970.724.3456 FAX: 970.724.0807

www.middleparkcd.com middleparkcd@gmail.com

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## Minutes

### Monthly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Directors 106 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Kremmling, CO 80459

April 19, 2016

The April 2016 Local Working Group and Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by President Deb Wood at 6:00pm. Other attendees included Justin Fosha, Secretary/Treasurer; John Longhill, Member; Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; Mark Volt, NRCS; Karen Wolf, CSCB; Donn Slusher, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies/NRCS/SGI; Becky Jones, CPW/Bird Conservancy of the Rockies/NRCS; Joy Phelan, Grand Environmental Services; Sarah Merritt, Grand Environmental Services; and Carl Wood.

The meeting began with a Local Working Group discussion regarding the NRCS EQIP program. Through the discussion, it was determined that the two most important resource concerns in Middle Park are: 1) Water Quality and Quantity, and 2) Range and Pasture Health. Other expressed concerns included: Noxious Weed Control, Forest Health and Resilience, Watershed Protection, Wetland Health, Stream Stability and Riparian Issues, and Soil Quantity & Quality. Individuals present at the meeting felt that the installation of low-tech irrigation improvements, such as gated pipe, check and turnout structures, division boxes, and instream diversions, was the best treatment for concern #1 (Water Quality and Quantity). Installation of cross fences, spring developments, and livestock ponds; noxious weed control; brush management; and proper grazing management were treatment suggestions for concern #2 (Range and Pasture Health). Regarding the issues and limitations preventing producers from applying, participants felt that the high cost of improvements and the short construction season in Middle Park were the two main issues. Also, because the EQIP program requires so much forethought and planning and lacks a streamlined administrative process, some producers may be deterred. Furthermore, the attendees felt that funds have been unfairly distributed in the past and that funds should be distributed on a watershed basis, rather than a statewide or regional basis. The LWG decided that funds should be allotted 50:50 to Water Quality/Quantity and Range/Pasture Health. Finally, regarding possible adjustments that NRCS could consider, the group agreed on the following: 1) Change the pricing on pipe from cost/lb to cost/ft to more closely align with the way pipe is sold, 2) Increase the cost for HDPE pipe and grade control structures because they are priced too low, and 3) Change the cost docket to a watershed basis, rather than state wide or regional. The LWG meeting wrapped up 7:30pm, and Donn, Joy, and Sarah left.

**The official Board of Supervisors meeting began at 7:35pm with a motion to approve the March minutes by Justin Fosha and Dave Abbott. Motion Passed.**

Under Guest Reports, Mark Volt, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that the Kremmling NRCS Office had 9 EQIP signups for this year, 2 of which were funded. Mark also reported that, as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, snow pack in Middle Park was at 116% of normal.



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Moving on to District Reports, Katlin reported that she worked 88 hours in March and 48 hours so far in April. Her time was mostly spent on tree sales, seed purchasing, an accounting class for nonprofits, Save the Frogs Day, Water Warriors in Summit County, the spring newsletter, 2 subdivision reviews, and the Irrigation Cost-Share Program. Under the Financial Report, Katlin asked the board if they had any questions regarding the financial statements she had sent out prior to the meeting. There were no questions; however, Mark pointed out to the Board that we did receive a check from the Summit County BOCC in the amount of \$5,000. This is due to the great presentation John and Katlin gave to them last fall asking for their support of the district.

Moving onto Old Business, Katlin reminded the board that Dave will be calling into a CO River Watershed meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Katlin also informed the board about her recent trip to Summit Middle School to participate in the Water Warriors program organized by High Country Conservation Center (HCCC). Through the program, 250 6<sup>th</sup> graders learned about water rights and allocations. The students had to pretend that they were in year 2060 and were in charge of allocating all the water in the State of Colorado to the various stakeholders (agriculture, municipalities, industry, environmental, recreational users). Based on knowledge they gained over the course of the week and by talking with various experts, the students had to come up with a suitable allocation plan for the limited available water. Katlin represented agriculture on the panel of experts. Katlin did not see the final poster presentations but said she would follow up with HCCC and find out how they came out.

Also under Old Business, Katlin told the board that HCCC was awarded the CWCB Water Education grant they had applied for. Because the grant request included funding for a water law workshop, we will be doing another "Water Law in a Nutshell" workshop this year in Summit County. Katlin has already contacted Aaron Clay and scheduled the workshop for Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> from 8-5 at the Summit Senior Center.

Next up, Katlin reminded the board about the upcoming Forest Insect & Disease and Noxious Weed Workshop on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-4 at the Granby Library. Matt Schiltz from the CSFS and Amy Sidener from Grand County DNR are the two presenters. The class is FREE.

Lastly under Old Business, Katlin presented the Board with individual folders of the remaining CSCB Board Certification Modules. The Board put it in the 2016 APW that they would work on the certification modules, so Katlin asked them to complete them at their leisure over the next 8 months.



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Moving onto New Business, Katlin told the board that we are running out of tire tanks. We still have 8 8' tires left but only 2 unsold 10' tires and no 12' tires. We have been approached by Kelly and Shawn Farrell for 2 12' tires under the HPP Spring Development program. Katlin said that she had already looked into the cost of the tires from 2 different companies. WWF, Inc. (the Fort Lupton based company we bought from last year) has 10' tires available for \$500 and 12' tires for \$650. The price of these tires does not include shipping. Shipping last year cost approximately \$60 per tire. Judd Behrens from Deer Trail also has tires available. His 10' tires cost \$475 a piece, and his 12' tires cost \$550. Judd offered free shipping for a full load of tires. Twelve to fourteen tires can fit on a load. The board discussed their options and asked Katlin to contact the Deer Trail Conservation District to get feedback on the quality of tires from Judd Behrens. Pending a good review, **Dave moved and Justin seconded to purchase a load of mixed 10' and 12' tires from Judd Behrens. Motion Passed.**

Next Up, Katlin told the Board that she is once again helping Doreen Sumerlin, of the USFS, with the annual Save the Frogs Day. It is an international day to educate the public on amphibian conservation. School presentations are scheduled for all of the Kremmling and Granby 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> classes.

Katlin then informed the board that she had designed and submitted a new fairbook ad to the Middle Park Fair and Rodeo. The cost of the ad was \$60. She also told the board that she would not be around during the last weekend of Fair this year because she is a bridesmaid in her best friend's wedding. Accordingly, she asked if the board still wanted to do a fair booth on their own this year or not. **The board agreed that they did want to set up a booth again this year in the garage bays under the grandstand.**

Moving on, Katlin told the board that she had been asked by Jodi at Bank of the West if we would be interested in opening a Money Market Account. Jodi expressed concern about how much money we had in our checking account and said that the bank typically recommends people (and businesses) not keep such a large sum of money in a single checking account. Jodi also said that the Money Market Account will have a much better interest rate and that we can still write six checks a month from the MMA and transfer money between the money market account and the checking account as needed. **Dave moved and Justin seconded to open a Money Market Account for \$50,000. Motion passed. The signers on the account would remain as the President, Vice President, and Treasurer.**

Next, Katlin asked the board if they would be interested in sending a letter to NRCS State Technical Committee regarding concerns that the current EQIP allocation unfairly prejudices wild flood irrigation due to its lack of efficiency compared to sprinkler irrigation systems. This issue was brought up before, and we tried (unsuccessfully) to get funding under a Targeted Conservation Approach money pool. **The board mutually agreed to send a letter to the STC and asked Katlin to draft a letter.**



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Finally, Katlin and Mark presented to the Board the applicants for the 2016 MPCD Irrigation Cost-Share Program. The application deadline was April 1<sup>st</sup>, and in total, we received 15 applications with a total of \$87,854 in estimated material costs (\$43,927 cost-share dollars). With the MPCD imposed cap of \$3,000 cost-share funds per applicant, the total possible cost-share dollars dropped to \$36,203. However, the Board only had \$22,750 in cost-share dollars to distribute, so cuts had to be made.

**After much discussion, Justin moved and Dave seconded that the following policies be used to sift through the applications:**

**If there are more cost-share dollars requested than available for distribution, then...**

- **Cut #1 shall be any project that does not fit the guidelines and objectives of the grant**
- **Cut #2 shall be any applicant that had previously unfulfilled their cost-share contract during the initial contract period**
- **Cut #3 shall be any applicant that has received cost-share dollars for the last 2 consecutive years**
- **The \$3,000 cap shall remain in effect**

**Motion Passed.**

Based on the approved policies mentioned above, the Board narrowed their applicant list from 15 applicants to 10. The cost-share dollars requested from the remaining 10 applicants (with the imposed \$3,000 cap) totaled \$23,453. Because that figure was still larger than the possible \$22,750, **Justin moved and Dave seconded to approve 97% of each applicant's request, pending Mark's site inspection and approval. Motion passed. See table below.**

Under Closing Roundtable, Katlin told the board that the 2017 Matching Grant application would be coming due in June. She asked the board what they wanted to apply for this year. Because Water Quality and Quantity was listed as the #1 resource concern during the LWG discussion, and because we had more cost-share dollars requested than we had to disperse, **Dave moved and Justin seconded to apply for the MPCD Irrigation Cost-Share program again in 2017.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9pm.**

*The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm at the MPCD/NRCS Office at 6pm. It will begin with a Local Working Group discussion.*



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## 2016 C/S Applicants—Approved

	Landowner	Project	District Cost APPROVED (97%)
1	Henrichs Ranch LLC	various 12-15" pipes with gravel	0
2	Tom Hanchin	various 12-15" pipes with gravel	0
3	Jodi Hill	various 12-24" pipes with gravel	0
4	Gary Nordloh	1 30" x 20' CMP with screw gate, 1 anti-seep collar, rock diversion	2910
5	Riverside Ranch Co LLLP	2 24" x 20' CMP with pratt gates, 1 30"x 20' CMP with pratt gate, 4 12" 20' CMP with pratt gate	2861.5
6	Ryan Duncan	200' 18" black ADS pipe	1746
7	Sybert Ditch Group (benefits 6 landowners)	headgate replacement	2910
8	Quad Ranch	diversion box and 900' 8" gated pipe	0
9	Drowsy Water Ranch	2 20' x 15" CMP with gates, 1 20' x 35" CMP, gravel. 3' diameter rocks	2398.81
10	Duane Scholl	3 10 cfs water wiers	0
11	Carl Wood	120' 36" HDPE N-12 pipe	2910
12	Jennifer Baker	3 12" x 20' CMP & gates, gravel 1 anti-seep collar	1067
13	Troy Neiberger	2 12" headgates, 2 12"x 20' CMP, 1 15" headgate, 1 15" x 20' CMP	1455
14	Witt Caruthers	1 24" screw headgate, 1 20' CMP, 2 20' black pipes, gravel	1610.2
15	Alan Wheatley	36" x 20' CMP with pratt gate, 24" outlet 40-60' with pratt gate, 8" x 260' Black ADS pipe with pratt gate	2880.9
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22749.41</b>