



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

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## Minutes

### Monthly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Directors

106 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Kremmling, CO 80459

April 8, 2014

The April 2014 meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors was called to order by Interim President Dave Abbott at 6:10pm. Other attendees included Deb Wood, Treasurer; Justin Fosha, Member; Jay Yust, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; and Mark Volt, NRCS District Conservationist.

**Justin Fosha moved and Deb Wood seconded a motion to 'Approve the February Minutes as Read'.** **Motion passed.** Each member was also given their Mileage and Timesheet to fill out and return to Katlin at the end of the meeting.

Under District Reports, Katlin presented her Timesheet and Tax Calculations. She worked 91.5 hours during the month of March and received a Net Pay of \$1005. She spent most of her time working on the aerial seeding project.

Under Financial Reports, Katlin presented the Profit & Loss statement for February thru April 8<sup>th</sup>, Check and Deposit Details, Open Invoices Report, Budget vs. Actual for 2014, as well as Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Comparisons to 2013. Overall, we have a net income of -\$821.16 for the year but are still awaiting a \$6,000 check from Grand County for short grass seed. Checks written since February include checks to Katlin for her wages and reimbursement of expenses she incurred, taxes, seed purchases, annual dinner expenses, and payments for publications in the newspaper.

Under Old Business, Katlin presented the board with a list of current funding agencies for the Aerial Clover Seeding Project. Middle Park HPP is contributing \$20,000, Grand County Board of County Commissioners \$5,000, Colorado Parks and Wildlife \$4,900, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory \$4,000, and Partners for Wildlife \$3,000. Landowners have also contributed \$1,800 to the project. We are still awaiting word from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on the approval of their funding request. Katlin mentioned that the seed is on order and that she will order more seed to match landowner contributions.

Next under Old Business, Katlin told the board that we had no new nominations for the two Board positions available, thus the election was cancelled. Dave and Justin will be sworn in after the May 6<sup>th</sup> Election Day.

Katlin then reported that she is still working on the Online Banking request for our Bank of the West account.



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As a follow up to the Annual Dinner, Katlin reported that we had 91 attendees and made a net \$90 after expenses. Per our agreement with MP Stockgrowers, we split that profit, so each entity gets \$45. The Board then spoke about possible options for next year's event including Latigo Ranch, Pole Creek, and Young Life. Katlin agreed to look into these suggested venues. The Board also expressed concern that they felt the Yampa Valley Boys weren't fully appreciated by the crowd. People seemed more interested in just chit chatting. Accordingly, the board felt that maybe we should save our money and not pay for entertainment.

Lastly under Old Business, Katlin reported that she has been working with Dave Hammer on Tire Tanks. He has agreed to go get them and store them behind the Kremmling Mercantile for only the cost of shipping. **The Board requested that Katlin have him sign a contract agreeing to those terms so that no future confusion over the terms of the deal.**

Under New Business, Katlin presented the Board with a spreadsheet showing all 20 applicants for the Irrigation Cost-Share Program. The spreadsheet outlined the landowner, project description, and estimated cost of materials. All projects combined equate to approximately \$65,000 in materials. Before discussing each applicant in detail, the board discussed possible criteria for selection. Suggested criteria included...

1. Does the project address irrigation management, efficiency, or irrigation-induced soil erosion?
2. Is it needed and feasible?
3. Has the landowner previously received funding through the Irrigation Cost-Share Program?
4. What is the size of the project in both dollars and acreage served?
5. Does the landowner have a verifiable irrigation water right?
6. Does the project seem like it will be able to be completed according to NRCS specs?
7. What is the landowner's ability to pay?
8. Is there a conflict of interest with the board?

The Board then reviewed each application in detail. After much discussion, it was determined that not enough information was known about several of the projects to be able to decide today which projects should be funded. **Deb Wood moved and Justin Fosha seconded a motion to 'Postpone the decision until May, thus allowing time for Katlin and Mark to collect more information on each of the projects'. Motion passed.** Information to be collected is feasibility of project, landowner willingness to pay for half the cost of the materials, and landowners willingness to wait until next year if not funded this year.



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Next up, Katlin told the Board about a Colorado River Watershed Meeting that is coming up in Gypsum on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am to 1:30pm. Due to budget concerns, Katlin told the board that she had already arranged for members to be able to call in if they wanted to. **Jay Yust moved and Deb Wood seconded a motion to have Katlin be our call in representative for the Watershed Meeting. Motion passed.**

Also under New Business, Katlin told the board that we must do a Budget Amendment to comply with state law for the added income we expect to receive and spend for the Aerial Clover Seeding project and Irrigation Cost-Share Program. **Justin Fosha moved and Jay Yust seconded a motion to approve the Resolution for Supplemental Budget Appropriations pending corrections for tire tanks. Motion passed.** Katlin will have Deb sign the resolution once corrected.

Katlin then told the board about two grant applications that have deadlines in the near future. The CSCB grant application for 2015 will be due almost a month early this year, so she asked the board what they wanted to have her submit. Justin felt that in addition to irrigation, range management was a major resource concern and that fencing repair and cross-fencing could address that concern. Thus, **Justin Fosha moved and Deb Wood seconded a motion to submit two applications: one for our Irrigation Cost-Share Program and one for a Fence Replacement Cost-Share Program. Motion Passed.** Katlin said that she would survey landowners first to determine the need and desire for a fence replacement cost-share program. The **Grand Foundation Grant is also coming due on May 1<sup>st</sup>, it was suggested that Katlin apply for funds to do adult workshops and provide additional education materials for the soil tent.**

Lastly under New Business, Katlin told the Board that she is planning to attend a Conservation District Employees Retreat/Training in Estate Park from May 5-7. The cost is \$50, which she will pay herself. Topics to be discussed are adult and child education, fundraising, getting your message out, district responsibilities, and more. She asked the board to consider moving the May Meeting to the following week. **It was mutually agreed to move the meeting from May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>. It will remain at 6pm at the MPCD/NRCS office.**

Mark Volt then presented an NRCS report of happenings for the month.

Dave asked all board members to complete a work review on Katlin and return to him. Dave, Katlin, and Mark agreed to have a formal assessment on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.



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Discussion on Plan B Contingency Plan was tabled until May as was a discussion on Budget Priorities.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.** The next meeting is to be held at 6pm on May 14<sup>th</sup>, here at the MPCD Office.

*Special Note: An additional cost-share application emailed to Mark on March 29<sup>th</sup> turned up after the meeting adjourned. Because it was submitted before the deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> and because the board moved to postpone decisions on all cost-share projects until May, Katlin will add it to the list and collect the board-requested information along with the other applications.*