



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

July 14, 2016

The July 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by President Deb Wood at 7:05pm. Other attendees included Justin Fosha, Treasurer; Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; and Mark Volt, NRCS District Conservationist.

**Justin moved and Dave seconded to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion passed.**

Under Guest Reports, Katlin gave Ron's report for the CSFS. His office is very busy doing all kinds of forestry projects. Ron wanted to remind everyone that his office will help landowners with forest health assessments and management plans. Any landowners looking to get help this year should contact Ron's office sooner rather than later. The Granby CSFS Office number is 970-887-3121.

Mark followed up with the July NRCS report. One EQIP application was accepted for funding this year: Carl Wood's application. Since the last meeting, Mark has been busy with Yust's irrigation and spring EQIP projects, the Town of Breckenridge's fire plan, Jodi Hill's irrigation EQIP project, Linke's irrigation EQIP project designs, the summer HPP meeting, the MPCD Irrigation Cost-Share Program, and MPCD seed sales. So far, Jodi has installed 22 pipes through the EQIP program.

Under MPCD Reports, Katlin asked the board if they had any questions regarding the financial statements or timesheet she sent out prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Moving onto Old Business, Katlin reported that 41 people attend the Water Law in a Nutshell Workshop on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Frisco. Forty-eight people were originally signed up but seven did not make it. Thanks to a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), through High Country Conservation Center, we were able to completely cover all costs and even make money on this workshop (\$640.55 net income).

Katlin next reminded the group to work on their Certification Modules. So far, Deb and Dave are both done. If the entire board is able to complete all modules by October, everyone will receive wool vests from CSCB. Apparently, the vests are very nice.

Next up, Mark reported on the Irrigation Cost-Share Program. He has now completed pre-inspections on all projects. Unfortunately, upon review of the Sybert ditch project, Mark and the landowners decided the project would be too costly, so the landowners removed themselves from the program. Mark and Katlin also met with Geoff Elliot, property manager for Witt Caruthers. Together, they agreed that a rock diversion was more appropriate than 2 pipes. Due to these changes and the removal of Carl Wood's project at the June meeting, Katlin informed the group that we now have excess money that we can reallocate (\$3300).

**Accordingly, Justin moved and Dave seconded to reallocate \$1100 a piece to Tom Hanchin, Jodi Hill, and Quad Ranch. Furthermore, if Quad elects not to take the funds, the excess will be evenly distributed to**



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**Hanchin and Hill. Motion Passed.** Update: Mark and Katlin reviewed all numbers on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and realized that Jennifer Baker's estimated project cost was too high. After contacting Jennifer and receiving copies of her receipts, Jennifer's cost-share estimate was reduced to \$450. As a result, Hanchin, Hill, and Quad Ranch were raised to \$1200 each (see attached spreadsheet).

Katlin next reminded the group about the fair booth on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> (Thursday-Saturday). Katlin will send out a sign-up sheet via email for everyone to pick their best booth-watching times. Katlin also told the group that she purchased some poster boards and easels from Amazon.com to improve our display area and have more room for educational information. The Noxious Weed and Garden Smart booklets have also arrived.

Regarding the 2017 CSCB Matching Grant that the Board decided not to apply for at the June meeting, Katlin informed the group that she went ahead and applied for it anyway. Upon reviewing the 2016 APW, Katlin realized that we could use some funds to print the Small Acreage Landowner booklets that we have had on our APW for the last couple years. Additionally, the Grand County Wildfire Council is running low on some of their wildfire education brochures. Accordingly, Katlin applied for funding through the 2017 Matching Grant program to help cover some of the printing costs for these brochures and booklets.

Also under Old Business, Katlin brought up the Money Market Account that the board approved at the April Meeting. Originally, the board approved the opening of a Money Market Account valued at \$50,000. Because our account is currently at about \$67,000, Katlin asked the board to consider revising their motion to be more flexible with the amount. **As a result, Justin moved and Dave seconded to start the Money Market Account at \$20,000 and allow Katlin to make transfers between the checking and money market accounts up to \$40,000 without board approval. Beyond \$40,000, there must be board approval. Motion passed.** Signers on the account will be the same as the checking accountability: President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

Afterwards, Katlin spoke to the group about accepting credit cards. She explained that people keep trying to pay for their purchases with credit cards, and more municipalities and big entities are starting to do business with the district. Trying to get paid from these entities is difficult because most of them don't use checks anymore, just credit cards. Katlin has researched the ability to accept credit cards and has found that it is fairly simple through QuickBooks. It also would not cost the district any annual or monthly fees. The only fee would be a per swipe charge. We could raise all of our prices to accommodate for this fee and then give a discount to those that pay with cash or check. To address Mark's concern about accepting credit cards when Katlin is not in the office, Katlin said that Mark could either photocopy the credit cards or Katlin could send an invoice when she gets back in the office. All being said, **Dave moved and Justin seconded to start accepting credit cards. Motion seconded.**



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Moving on, Katlin expressed concern to the group about the “Entering” and “Leaving” words on the Roadside Signs. Her concern is that we may not be getting all the possible business we could possibly get because people think they are not in the district (when, in fact, they are in the district boundaries). **The group collectively agreed that we should try peeling the decal off the signs.** Katlin will try peeling a decal off one of the signs at the office first, before moving onto the signs in the field. **It was also suggested that we should speak to Greg, at Everist Materials, to see if we can put a sign there. Justin agreed to contact him.**

Finally under Old Business, Katlin asked the board what (if anything) should be done about the Canada Geese objective on our Annual Plan. Deb said that she has spoken to the CPW but was told that the geese are under federal jurisdiction (and the Migratory Bird Act) during the summer when they are a problem for hay producers. Thus, there is nothing that can really be done. Mark agreed with Deb and said that he asked HPP is there was anything they could do to help landowners with geese problem, but HPP said they only deal with big game issues.

New Business started off with our OneDrive Account (our online storage account). Katlin said that she received notification that Microsoft is changing its account fee structure from free to \$1.99/month. Katlin encouraged the board to pay this fee because it is where all of our files are stored, and it can be accessed from any computer with internet access. Katlin said that if the board decides to pay it, she will pay for it on her credit card and the board can reimburse her once per year. **Dave made a motion to pay \$1.99/month to retain our OneDrive account. Justin seconded and Motion Passed.**

New Business continued with a discussion on a workshop about Zeedyk rock structures. These are the structures that Katlin wrote about in her Spring Newsletter that are used in head cut areas. Katlin said that she has been in contact with the instructor, Bill Zeedyk, and a workshop like that would cost about \$4000. Katlin said that both Steamboat and North Park are possibly interested in co-hosting the workshop. Katlin also thought that Bird Observatory of the Rockies (Donn’s organization) and CPW might also be willing to partner with us to help cover the cost. Overall, the board agreed that it was too late this year to get a workshop organized and advertised. The board also questioned whether we have enough landowner interest here to justify a workshop because we do not have that many head cuts in Middle Park. **The board asked Katlin to do a landowner survey in the newsletter and at the Annual Dinner to see if there is enough interest.**

Lastly under New Business, Katlin and Mark collectively discussed with Board about the District Conservation Technician (DCT) program through CSCB and NRCS. DCT’s are funded 80% by NRCS and 20% by Districts. They are to help with NRCS technical programs (EQIP). We have never applied for the DCT program in the past because we have never really needed a DCT. However, Mark revealed to the board that he is considering retiring at the beginning of next summer. Because the rehiring process for NRCS can take up to 6 months,



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Mark and Katlin are both concerned about leaving the office without any technical expertise for an entire field season. A DCT would help fill the gap until a new DC is hired. The application for the DCT program is due in mid-August, so if the board wants a DCT for next summer, we would need to apply this summer. Mark also expressed interest in becoming the district's DCT. It would be his way of transitioning out of the office. He was thinking that he could come back as a DCT and work 2 days a week from June thru October. Katlin also felt that it would be a good transition for both the district and the community alike for Mark to work 2 days a week next summer. The DCT hiring process would have to be open and competitive, but Katlin felt that Mark would likely be the most qualified candidate considering his decades of experience and knowledge of the office. **Dave moved to apply for the DCT program. Justin seconded and the Motion Passed.**

Under Closing Roundtable, Katlin mentioned that she has agreed to do a Mud & Muck day with Lacy Stovner, 4-H Coordinator for the Grand County Extension Office, on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Katlin will be organizing the soils-based curriculum and leading all activities.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.**

**Next meeting: Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

**Post Meeting Note:** Katlin forgot to mention during the meeting that she recently spoke to Paul Bruchez. Paul should know within the next two weeks if the IVLK project has made it through the preliminary application round of the NRCS RCPP program. If so, Paul said that he will definitely need the district's support for the Final Application. Katlin will keep the board posted as she finds out more info.