



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

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2ND ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH:970.724.3456 FAX: 970.724.0807

www.middleparkcd.com middleparkcd@gmail.com

Minutes

Monthly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Directors 106 S. 2nd St, Kremmling, CO 80459

March 8, 2016

The March 2016 meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors was called to order by President Deb Wood at 6:15pm. Other attendees included Jay Yust, Vice President; Justin Fosha, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; and Mark Volt, NRCS; and Matt Schiltz, Colorado State Forest Service.

The minutes of the January Board of Supervisors Meeting were approved as read by Justin Fosha and Dave Abbott. Mileage/Hours sheets were also passed out for them members to complete.

Under Guest Reports, Matt Schiltz from the Granby District of the Colorado State Forest Service reported that his office will be starting a large timber sale up by Grand Lake this spring. His office has also been speaking with Pinto Valley Ranch and Mark Davison regarding a possible EQIP project to address Aspen Decline and Regeneration. Lastly, Matt reiterated to the group that CSFS, Grand County, DNR, and MPCD will be hosting a joint workshop on April 22, 2016, regarding Forest Insects & Disease AND Noxious Weeds.

Mark Volt, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that the Kremmling NRCS Office had 9 EQIP signups for this year, 3 of which are viable. Because the high mountain flood irrigation funding through EQIP will not be separated this year, he asked the board to consider applying for Targeted Funding through EQIP with the Routt and North Park Conservation Districts. If funded, the irrigation funding through this targeted approach would only go to wild flood irrigation improvements in Routt, Jackson, Grand or Summit. **Dave moved and Justin seconded to support a targeted irrigation approach between Routt, North Park, and Middle Park Conservation Districts. Motion Passed.**

Mark also reported that the Middle Park HPP will be meeting on March 15th. Important items on the agenda include: the annual Clover Seed Giveaway, spring developments (tire tanks) for Duane Deepe and Kelly Farrell, and Pond Cleaning for Jay Yust. The board spoke about the Clover Seed Giveaway and agreed that HPP should tell us how they would like it packaged (25lbs vs 50lbs) and how to handle multiple requests from one landowner.

Also, under the NRCS report, Mark reported that, as of March 1st, snow pack in Middle Park and statewide is about normal. Finally, Mark asked the board to consider hosting a Local Working Group meeting. The new State Conservationist, Clint Evans, is really pushing this to get better feedback on the EQIP program. **The board agreed to host a Local Working Group Meeting on April 19th at 6pm, followed by our regular business meeting.**



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Moving on to District Reports, Katlin reported that she worked 72 hours in January and 78 hours in February. Her time was mostly spent on tree sales, the annual dinner, the newsletter, articles for the newspaper, meeting with High Country Conservation Center, Wildfire Council, and general office work. Under the Financial Report, Katlin reported that we lost \$148.32 on the Annual Dinner due to extra fees that popped up at the last minute (large room fee, food delivery fee, cash bar fee). Katlin told the board that she was not informed about these fees when she initially contacted the entities, so she could not plan for them. She also reminded the board that the loss would have been more substantial had she and her mom not baked the desserts. Katlin also informed the board that our projected tree income/expense will not be as substantial as budgeted. Blue Valley cut there order in half. However, Katlin believes our budget should still be fine, but we won't have as much of a cushion as we initially projected.

Under Old Business, Katlin asked the board what they thought of the Annual Dinner. Everyone seemed happy with it. They liked the food and the location (being the most central place within the County it could be). The one complaint was that people in the back had a hard time hearing. Katlin said that she now knew the more specific questions to ask when booking (i.e. added fees).

Also under Old Business, Katlin told the board that there were no Self Nominations for Office other than the 3 board members that were up for election (Deb, Jay, and John). Accordingly, Justin signed the Resolution to Cancel the Election. Katlin has already sent the Notice for Cancellation of Election to the newspapers for publishing. Because we will not be having a May meeting, the Oaths of Office will be done at the June Meeting (along with officer elections).

Next up, Katlin informed the group that she has put several ads in the Sky-Hi, Summit Daily, and Grand Gazette for tree seedlings. She is staying within the allotted budget. As a result of the ads, Katlin feels like she has received more phone calls from random people this year than she has in the past. The ads will change from tree seedlings to seed sales and workshop promotions as the year progresses.

Under New Business, Katlin told the board that the Colorado River Watershed will be holding a meeting on April 26th in Glenwood in combination with a Weed Board meeting that is already scheduled. Katlin was told that the Watershed portion of the meeting is going to be minimal. The board asked Katlin to see if we could call in. Katlin said she thought that was an option and would verify it with Karen Wolf.

Also under New Business, Katlin told the board that the MPCD Exemption from Audit is with Tim Day right now and that it should be done soon. It is due to the State Auditor's Office by March 31st. Once



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the Exemption is completed, Katlin said she would get with each Board Member to get their signature on the Exemption.

Next Up, Katlin told the Board that she has been working with the Summit-based High County Conservation Center (HCCC) on their water conservation programs. Katlin first heard about HCCC from the Summit County Commissioners. They recommended Katlin contact HCCC and collaborate with them. She has been going down there for monthly meetings and will be working with them on their 6th Grade Water Warriors program during the last week in March. Water Warriors is a program where students learn about the water needs of different constituents (i.e. ag, towns, industry, etc...). After learning about these different constituents, the students are broken into groups and assigned a constituent to represent. They then must debate why their constituent needs water more than the others. Katlin will be representing Ag during the Water Warriors Program. Katlin also told the group that HCCC applied for some grant funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and included our Water Law in a Nutshell Workshop in the grant application. If the grant goes through and is funded, Katlin said that we will be hosting the Workshop in Summit County again this year. Katlin said that HCCC felt confident that we could get the minimum number of participants (20) to come. Katlin will keep the board posted.

Katlin next confirmed what Matt had said earlier about Forest Insect/Disease and Noxious Weed Workshop on April 22nd. With regard to the Weed portion of the workshop, Katlin said that it will resemble the format of the Summit workshop we held last year. Amy will cover weeds and their look-a-likes as well as means of control. Katlin will cover reseeding. We will also do a sprayer calibration exercise at the end of the workshop. CSFS and Grand County DNR plan to seek funding for refreshments so that the workshop can be free for the participants.

Katlin then reported that she has received confirmation that we are getting the 2016 Matching Grant for our Irrigation Cost-Share Program. The contract should be here soon, and Tammra said we could start soliciting applications. Katlin asked the board if there was anything they would like to change about the program this year. **The board agreed that the percentage of cost-share reimbursement should be strictly enforced at 50% (up to \$3000), rather than a fluctuating percentage based on Mark's time.** This change will make the bookkeeping much easier for Katlin. Otherwise, the board was happy with the program guidelines and administration. *The board decided to set the initial application deadline as April 1st with an anticipated extension to April 15th. Applications are to be reviewed at the April 19th board meeting.*



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Finally, Katlin told the board that she would be mailing them more Certification lessons and exams.

Under Closing Roundtable, Katlin told the board that she had received quotes from 4 different seed companies. She asked the board how they wanted her to proceed. **They agreed to divvy up the seed between the different seed companies so as to keep good relations with all.**

Katlin also told the board that Bill and Diana Matheson had come to the Annual Stockgrowers Meeting to express concern about their BLM grazing permit and restrictions the BLM was trying to enforce. Stockgrowers decided to support Bill and Diana by writing a letter to BLM. Katlin asked the Board if they, too, would like to support Bill and Diana by writing a letter to BLM about the importance of grazing on the landscape and proper grazing management. **The Board all agreed that we should write a letter in support of the Mathesons.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th, at 6pm at the MPCD/NRCS Office at 6pm. It will begin with a Local Working Group discussion.