



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](http://www.middleparkcd.com) [middleparkcd@gmail.com](mailto:middleparkcd@gmail.com)

---

## Minutes

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

November 3, 2015

The November 2015 meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors was called to order by President Deb Wood at 6:17pm. Other attendees included Jay Yust, Vice President; Justin Fosha, Secretary/Treasurer; John Longhill, Member; Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; Mark Volt, NRCS; Ron Cousineau, CSFS; and Karen Wolf, CSCB.

The group first went around and introduced themselves. Karen is the new CSCB Western Slope Field Specialist. She started in July and replaced Natalie MacSalka. Karen's job is to assist districts with anything we need to be successful.

We then continued with Partner reports from the CSFS and NRCS. Ron Cousineau from CSFS reported that they will be starting pile burning on state lands north of Kremmling. The timber market, according to Ron, is also starting to slide. The CSFS has begun hazard tree removal on Hwy 125 from Granby to Rand. Apparently, the CSFS has recently secured the contract with CDOT to be their official foresters. Lastly, Ron and Katlin told the board that they plan to work together on an insect and disease workshop in the spring.

Mark Volt, with NRCS, next reported that he and Donn have been working on the MPCD Cost-Share Program and EQIP projects for Linke Cattle Ranch, Jodi Hill, Jay Yust, Pinto Valley Ranch, Mike Ritschard, and the Mathesons. He has also been answering many landowner and seed questions. Mark also spoke briefly about the frustration he has with the State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation because they are holding up EQIP projects. Apparently, there are so many projects that need archeological clearance to move forward but there are not enough resources within the Office of Archeology to get the clearances done in a timely manner. Mark urged the CSCB, CACD, and the District to voice their concern over the hold up because good projects are not getting done. Lastly, Mark told the board about some study steel slide gates Dennis Pratt is making for irrigation pipes. These pipes are much stronger than normal slide gates. Dennis told Mark he can make the gates for a comparable price to toggle gates and might be willing to work a deal with the District to sell them to local ag producers. The Board members discussed it and were interested in the idea but asked Katlin and Mark to get more information prior to making any final decisions.

Katlin then presented the board with the DM and Financial Reports. She mentioned that during the formulation of the draft 2016 budget, she found an issue with the QuickBooks reporting. Because she could not find the source of the reporting error, Katlin met with the accountant that did our Exemption from Audit last year. Together, Katlin and Tim discovered that the discrepancy was due to the way we



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

---

## Minutes

### Monthly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Directors

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

November 3, 2015

were figuring our beginning and ending balances. We were figuring of numbers based on our cash assets (the sum of our checking and colotrust accounts). According to Tim, we should be using our "Total Equity", which accounts for our cash assets AND our total liabilities (unpaid bills, open invoices, sales tax payable, etc). When we changed the way of accounting and added liability accounts for tree seedling and seed liabilities, the books and budget then balanced. Katlin showed the Board that the Balance Sheet and 2016 Proposed Budget both illustrate these changes.

Under Old Business, Katlin and Mark spoke about the 2015 Cost-Share Program. Since the last meeting, Lazy T Rocking K Ranch dropped out. Mark has also inspected and approved all projects except Duane Scholl's and Allan Wheatley's. Katlin has given both of the landowners a drop dead deadline of November 15<sup>th</sup>. Katlin also spoke to the board about current cost-share budget figures. **The Board approved the inclusion of Mike Ritschard's project into the program.** With that inclusion, we are on track to meet our budget figures pending the completion of Wheatley's and Scholl's projects. To make it fair to all landowners, Katlin suggest that we pay out 54% of materials to all, with the exception of those landowners that spent over the max material match of \$3000 or those landowners that do not have enough landowner labor to meet 50% cash match. For those landowners that spent more than \$3000 material match, Katlin suggested paying out 50% of the cost of materials up to our budget max. Katlin noted that if the board were to approve this move, Drowsy Water would need to reimburse the board \$106.45 because they were initially paid out for 60% of the materials rather than 54%. The board that that an appropriate action. Accordingly, **Dave moved and Jay seconded a motion to pay 54% to all, with the exception of those landowners of \$3000 or those that don't meet 50% cash match. For those exceptions, we would pay out 50% or more as our budget allows. Motion Passed.**

Moving on, Katlin brought up the 2016-2018 Long Range Plan. As discussed in a previous meeting, the board wanted to maintain the same course of action that we've been doing with no change in the goals or objectives. As such, Katlin presented the board with the draft LRP to show the maintained course of action. Katlin also asked the board for input on two additions to the LRP. First, was the statement, "NOTE: The natural resource concerns depicted below are our main priorities for the district. Many of the goals and objectives remain the same from year to year. However, we plan to do annual surveys of our constituents to determine if we are still meeting their needs and/or if their concerns and priorities have changed. Our board's goals/objectives are adaptable and will change as deemed necessary according to our clientele feedback or emergency priorities that arise." Katlin explained that she added this statement to cover us when we deviate from the LRP and show that we intend to adapt as needed and that LRP is not set in stone. The second statement was "The Middle Park Conservation District



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

---

## Minutes

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

November 3, 2015

currently has a Colotrust Savings Account worth approximately \$57,000. Though it may seem like a lot of money, the Board feels it is important to retain these savings as an emergency fund for the District in case of economic downturn or a natural disaster in Middle Park. Katlin explained that we have been told in the past that our Colotrust account is too large and that we should spend it down a bit. Katlin felt it was important to outline the Board's reasoning for keeping the account at its present value in our LRP. The Board agreed to add both of these statements to the 2016-2018 MPCD Long Range Plan.

Also regarding the LRP, Deb also suggested that we add an objective regarding geese under our Wildlife Resource. Deb has spoken to many landowners that have been having issues with Canada geese during the summer destroying quality hayfields by eating all the grass in just a few days or weeks. Deb thought that the MPCD might have more sway in talks with Wildlife officials than individual landowners do. Katlin told Deb that she thought it could go in as a specific objective on the Annual Plan of Work rather than the general Long Range Plan. Mark also suggested that board consider doing a Demonstration Plot under Noxious Weeds for Rabbit Brush control. Kayo Scholl approached Mark about such demonstration plot and Mark thought it would be a good thing for the District to do. Karen also suggested the Board put more quantifiable objectives in the LRP (i.e. increased in 2% or 10 more attendees, etc). The Board agreed we could do that as long as we are conservative and not too lofty. Lastly, Katlin brought up a concern of hers regarding mapping the herbicide giveaways that is currently an objective in the 2015 APW. Despite countless attempts to get the data from Jen Scott, Katlin has yet to receive the information she needs to map the giveaways. Katlin questioned if this objective was needed or not. We do not do anything with the map, nor is the information sent to anyone. We could also be penalized for not completing an objective that is out of our control. The Board agreed that the objective was not necessary and should be removed in the future. Katlin will work on both APWs and the LRP this month and have them ready for approval at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. They are due to the state by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Next up, Katlin presented the board with 5 printed training modules and exams. She asked the board to please do them this month and bring them back at the December meeting.

Katlin then reported to the board that in September and October, we presented annual reports to both BOCCs. Deb and Justin joined Katlin at the Grand County BOCC meeting. Though the presentation went well, the BOCC said they are financially strapped and don't know that they support us at this time. John Longhill joined Katlin at the Summit County BOCC meeting. Summit County seemed more open to the



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

---

## Minutes

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

November 3, 2015

idea of financially supporting us and said they would look into ways to do a \$5,000 annual grant to us. Neither board has made any final decisions yet.

Katlin reported that the Wildfire Mitigation and Defensible Space workshop we co-hosted with Grand County Wildfire Council and CSFS went well. We started the workshop with a classroom discussion on wildfire, forest health, defensible space, the home ignition zone, and Ready, Set, Go! We then had lunch and went on a field tour up Ten Mile (Granby Ranch area) to test our Fire knowledge using the Fire Triage Checklist. We had 20 attendees and all the attendees were happy with the content we presented.

At the last meeting, Katlin told the board that our official MPCD boundaries exclude much of the eastern half of Grand County. The board asked Katlin to see if we can do a mass inclusion to incorporate the rest of Grand County into the District. Katlin checked with Nikki at CSCB, and Nikki said that mass inclusion would require a ballot initiative. Including individual landowners, though, is easy, if they wish to be a part of the District.

Katlin also checked with John Longhill regarding the Swan Center contribution letter. He verified that original letter stating that the check went to their hay bill was incorrect. Our donation was actually used for its intended purpose as a scholarship for a girl out of Summit County.

Under new Business, Katlin presented the board with a draft budget. Katlin told the board that we could not make any final decisions until the December meeting due to the public review period. However, we could go through and make preliminary changes as needed. See attached.

Also under New Business, **Justin moved and Jay seconded a motion to send Dave to the 2015 CACD Annual Meeting as our representative. Motion Passed. The board also agreed to reimburse him \$250 for the Annual Meeting, as stated in the 2015 budget.** The board then went through each of the 2015 CACD resolutions and gave Dave their input. As we did not pay full dues this year, we cannot officially vote on any of them. However, Dave said he would sit in on the committee meetings and give his/our input in the discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm** at the MPCD/NRCS Office.