



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

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Minutes

Monthly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Directors

106 S. 2nd St, Kremmling, CO 80459

September 3, 2015

The September 2015 meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors was called to order by President Deb Wood at 7:15pm. Other attendees included Jay Yust; Vice President; Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; Mark Volt, NRCS; Donn Slusher, RMBO; and Matt Schiltz, CSFS.

Dave moved to approve the May and June Board Minutes. Jay seconded and the Motion passed.

The group then went around and introduced themselves. Donn Slusher is the new Sage Grouse Initiative Biologist working out of the Kremmling Field Office. He will be working with private landowners on sage grouse habitat projects.

Next up, Katlin presented the board with the DM and Financial Reports. She noted some minor changes in the way wages and income taxes are shown in the profit and loss statements from QuickBooks. Wages are now shown as gross wages, and the employee's share of the income taxes are now shown as liabilities as opposed to expenditures. These changes now align with proper accounting standards. There were no other questions and the board approved the reports as presented.

Under Old Business, Katlin reported that she, Mark, Donn went together to Hay Day in Walden this year. Jay also attended, as did Crook and Dave from Coors Ranch. Hay Day was well attended by landowners from Walden, Steamboat, and Craig. The presentations by Joe Brummer on Hay Analysis and Derek Wyle on Soil Health were both very educational. Middle Park is set to host the 2017 Hay Day.

The Irrigation Cost-Share Program has not had a lot of activity since the last meeting. Skylark and Drowsy Water are the only two projects that have completed their work so far. However, now that haying season is over, Mark and Katlin expect that activity on the cost-share projects will pick up.

Katlin reported that we had a successful Noxious Weed Workshop with Summit County Weed Department on July 17th. We had 62 attendees, most of which were small acreage and town folk from the Silverthorne, Dillon, Frisco, and Breckenridge area. Katlin recommended doing the workshop again next year based on the attendee feedback and the Summit County Weed Department's interest.

Katlin next discussed the Fall Tree Seedling Sale. The sale began in late July and ran through August 24th. We had 12 buyers from Grand County and 6 from Summit County, totaling 800 seedlings or perennials. As a new program, this year's fall sale was a bit of an experiment. Katlin will contact buyers in the spring



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to see how their seedlings and perennials over-wintered and to determine if it is something we should do again in the future.

The board then moved on to discuss the price of Facebook advertising that was tabled from May. Katlin reported that you tell Facebook how much you want to spend (i.e. \$5 per day or a lump sum of \$50) and then Facebook advertising your business according to the budget. **Jay moved and Dave seconded to hold off on any Facebook advertising for now. Motion passed.**

Also under Old Business, Katlin told the board that she had received the NACD educational materials that the board voted to order at the last meeting. Katlin said that she has not reviewed all the materials yet but that she is impressed with the info she has looked at so far. She also asked the board if they were okay with making copies of specific pages out of the NACD materials for an upcoming Soil Tent presentation with the West Grand 7th Graders. She said that she will not be teaching out of the pamphlets but thought a couple pages of activities out of the pamphlets would be appropriate. The board agreed that she could make copies of those specific pages for the 37 seventh graders.

Lastly under Old Business, Katlin told the board that she had started working on the 2016-18 Long Range Plan and the 2016 Annual Plan of Work as discussed at the June board meeting. One thing Katlin discovered while working on the LRP was that the Middle Park Conservation District does not cover the entirety of Grand County. A large portion of East Grand is not included in any conservation district at all. Functionally, we serve all of Grand and Summit County; it is just that, technically speaking, only district only covers the West half of Grand County, all of Summit County, and a spattering of private lands in East Grand. The reason this is a concern is that if the board were to pursue a mill levy in the future, we would be losing out on a huge tax base in East Grand. **The board asked Katlin to find out the process for doing a large-scale inclusion of the remaining lands in Grand County into the Middle Park Conservation District.** Katlin said that she would work with Nikki from CSCB on that.

Under New Business, the Board discussed the Direct Assistance comments received last week. The board, as a whole, was disappointed that the DA review had seemingly heavily docked us on time spent accomplishing tasks by District Manager as opposed to Board Members. The Board felt that the hire a District Manager to accomplish tasks because they themselves don't have the time to do such tasks. Either way, the MPCD is getting more in Direct Assistance this year than we had anticipated, so we are happy about that.



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Next up, Katlin spoke to the board about the CSCB Board Training Modules. The Board had put on the 2015 APW that they would complete some of the training modules, so Katlin wanted to remind the board about them. She will email the board after the meeting with links to the modules and the correlating tests. The board would consider doing some of the modules at home and some of the modules at board meetings if needed.

Katlin then asked the board how they wanted to have her deal with Open Records Requests. She mentioned that she had received an Open Records Request in late June for purchase order information dating back to 2010. The request has since been withdrawn, but Katlin didn't know how the board wanted to handle future requests. **Dave moved to have requesting individuals come into the office with the request. Katlin will notify one or more board members about the request and she will only provide the information in a read-only format. Jay seconded the motion and the motion passed.**

Katlin then reported to the Board that she is working with the CSFS Granby District and the Grand County Wildfire Council to host a Wildfire Mitigation and Defensible Space Workshop on September 18th in Granby. This workshop will satisfy the Forestry Workshop objective in our 2015 APW. Katlin hopes that the Byers Canyon Fire a couple weeks ago will spur interest in this workshop.

Afterward, Katlin told the board that following the July Board meeting, at which time the Board voted to send check for \$125 to the Swan Center for a scholarship to the "Leadership with Horses" program, Katlin received a letter in the mail thanking the MPCD for their contribution to the "ongoing feed bill" at the Swan Center. The board mutually expressed concern regarding the misallocation of these funds to the feed bill instead of a scholarship. The board asked Katlin to contact John Longhill and see if this was a mistake. If it was not a mistake, they requested a reimbursement.

Next, Katlin told the board that a week or so ago she received an email from CACD saying that CACD, NRCS, and CSCB were collaborating to put out a Conservation Success Story publication. CACD was requesting District Partnership Success Stories for this publication. Katlin informed the board that she had responded with a detailed explanation of our Aerial Clover Seeding project. CACD then responded saying that the opportunity was only available full dues-paying districts. Katlin just wanted to inform the board that she had tried. ***Note: Since the meeting last week, Katlin contacted CSCB and NRCS expressing concern over the exclusion of non-full dues paying districts. NRCS requested that Katlin send the success story straight to them.



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Subsequently under New Business, Katlin told the Board that she had received via email the registration form for the 2015 CACD annual meeting. Per the Budget, **the Board moved to allocate \$250 to meeting expenses for the 2015 CACD Board Meeting. The allocation will go to Dave unless one of the other board members wants to also go.**

Lastly under New Business, Katlin presented the board with a Draft PowerPoint presentation for BOCC. The presentation speaks about the history of conservation districts, our mission, services we provides, revenues and expenditures, problems with our budget, and a request for long-term support of the District by the BOCC through a Block Grant. The Board liked the presentation and asked Katlin to see when we can get on the BOCC agenda.

Matt Schiltz, of the Granby CSFS Office, reported that his office has been very busy this summer. They have been working on Hazard Tree Removal Projects on Highways 125 and 9. They have also been working with Colorado-Big Thompson Project on a watershed assessment, as well as the upcoming Wildfire Mitigation Workshop.

Under NRCS Report, Mark said that he has been working on his 4 EQIP Contracts (Linke, Hill, and Yust x2). He plans to start working more the MPCD Irrigation Cost-Share Program more in the coming weeks. He has also been answering lots of seed/weed questions and doing follow up inspections on past EQIP projects including those on Pinto Valley Ranch and Ritschard Ranch. Mark also asked the board to provide input on the FSA Grazing Assessment. Everyone agreed that grazing in Middle Park this year has been outstanding and there is more grass than anyone has seen in a long time.

In the Closing Round Table, Dave brought up that Gary Moyer from CACD and Larry Sweeney from CSCB want to come talk to the Board about what CACD and CSCB do. Katlin also mentioned that Karen Wolf from CSCB wants to come as well. Accordingly, the Board agreed to make the November meeting a "visitors meeting" with a minimal agenda to accommodate our visitors.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 3rd at 6pm** at the MPCD/NRCS Office.