



## **Annual Dinner Minutes**

**March 10, 2018**

**Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, CO**

The Annual Diner Meeting of the Middle Park Conservation District was called to order at 5:25pm. It was held at Snow Mountain Ranch (YMCA of the Rockies) near Granby. Sixty-seven people were in attendance. Members of the MPCD Board who were present were: Deb Wood (President), Jay Yust (Vice President), John Longhill (Member), Brien Rose (Member), Katlin Miller (District Manager), Mark Volt (DCT), and Ryan McNertney (CSFS Ex-Officio).

First up, the guests were welcomed to the dinner and thanked for their attendance. The board members from both the Conservation District and the Middle Park Stockgrowers Association were thanked for their help in organizing the event. The royalty from the Middle Park Fair and High Country Stampede were also introduced and thanked for their attendance.

Katlin then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2017 accomplishments and 2018 planned activities (see the attached presentation and report). Katlin also gave a financial report from 2017.

Mark Volt gave a short presentation about our 2018 Conservationist of the Year, the late Dave Abbott. He then presented Nancy Abbott with a plaque in memory of Dave.

Katlin next introduced our guest speaker of the night, Dr. Zeb Gray. Zeb spoke about ranch profitability.

Alas, the group was fed a delicious dinner of Slow Cooked Roast Beef, Kahlua Pork, Garlic Red Mashed Potatoes, Oven Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, Salad, and Dessert. Water, Coffee, Lemonade, and Soft Drinks were also included.

Halfway through dinner, the Royalty and Katlin drew tickets for door prizes. Fifty-seven door prizes and five raffle items were given away. The raffle profits went to the Stockgrowers Scholarship Fund.

The dinner and meeting were adjourned at 8:45pm.

### **Local Working Group Meeting**

The Annual Dinner Meeting also served as the Local Working Group Meeting. The way in which the Board of Supervisors elected to hold its Local Working Group discussion was via a Conservation Priorities Survey. Attendees at the event were asked to review our Conservation Priorities Survey and select their choices for the top priorities within the district. Participation in the survey was voluntary. We have since hung the survey up in our office and continue to gain input on District Conservation Priorities by asking walk-in customers to complete the survey at their discretion. We have included a photo of the survey that shows the input so far. You can see that Water Quantity and Quality is still our number one priority by a long shot.



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

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## 2017 MPCD Annual Report

2017 proved to be another successful year for Middle Park Conservation District. Perhaps our most successful accomplishment of the year was our Mountain Meadows Hay Day held at Blue Valley Ranch on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The day-long educational event included talks from 4 guest speakers and 2 equipment demonstrators. In total, the event brought in 60 attendees and the sponsorship of 17 vendors from near and far.

In addition to Hay Day, MPCD also co-hosted 4 other workshops in 2017. These workshops included: a Tour of Blue Valley Ranch with Colorado Society of Range Management, a Weeds and Herbicides Workshop with Summit County Weed Department, a Defensible Space and Firewise Landscaping Workshop with Colorado State Forest Service, and a Water Law in a Nutshell Workshop with High Country Conservation Center.

Workshops are only one way in which MPCD educates the public on conservation and natural resource management. Each year, we publish five electronic newsletters that go out to approximately 500 subscribers. These newsletters include a variety of educational articles on a variety of topics including noxious weeds, grazing management, forest health, snow and water, wildlife habitat, and animal nutrition, amongst other topics. MPCD also published two booklets in 2017 with the help of Grand County Natural Resources and Summit County Weed Department. These publications were the Weeds of Grand County and Weeds of Summit County guides.

2017 was also a year for youth education programs. Over the last few years, the Middle Park Conservation District has been growing its youth education program through partnerships. This year was no exception. We assisted the USFS with its "Save the Frogs Day" in Kremmling, Granby, and Frisco and worked with Grand County Water Information Network on their "Bug Week" programs in both West Grand and East Grand schools. The District also collaborated with West Grand and East Grand on a sixth grade Water Warriors program. Alas, Grand County 4-H and Fraser Valley Rec District partnered with the Conservation District on a "Mud & Muck" day for its summer day camp series.

On top of our education efforts, Middle Park Conservation District strives to assist with on-the-ground conservation practices by providing cost-share opportunities to landowners. In 2017, MPCD worked with Grand County Natural Resources and the Colorado Department of Agriculture to provide a 50:50 cost-share to landowners in Old Park to help control noxious weed in the subdivision. We also worked with Grand County Wildfire Council to host 4 Community Chipping Days and implement a Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program. Finally, the District applied for and received approval for a TCP program through NRCS for High Mountain Flood Irrigation Improvements.

At last, MPCD supports itself almost entirely on the sales of seed, tree seedlings, polyacrylamide (PAM), and tire tanks. In 2017, we sold nearly 16,000 pounds of seed; 6,000 seedlings; 250 pounds of PAM; and 18 tires.

Sadly, the Middle Park Conservation District also said goodbye to our longest serving board member, Dave Abbott, in 2017. Yet, we also welcomed our newest member, Brien Rose, to the Board. We also welcomed Mark Volt to the District staff as our District Conservation Technician. Though Mark has served as our NRCS DC for as long as most of us can remember, this was the first time he got paid by the district for all his hard work.

***Looking toward 2018, the District will carry on with our current programs and sales. We will also continue to explore new opportunities to benefit the landowners and ag producers in Grand and Summit Counties.***



## Middle Park Conservation District

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## 2017 Education

- Co-hosted 5 workshops
  - Mountain Meadows Hay Day, BVR Tour, Weeds & Herbicides, Defensible Space & Firewise Landscaping, Water Law in a Nutshell
- Distributed 5 e-newsletters
  - 502 subscribers, 30% open rate on average
- Partnered on 4 youth programs
  - Water Warriors, Bug Week, Mud/Muck Day, Save the Frogs Day
- Published 2 Noxious Weed Books
  - Noxious Weeds of Grand County
  - Noxious Weeds of Summit County



## 2017 Financial Assistance Programs

- Old Park Noxious Weed Cost-Share
  - Partnership Grand County DNR
  - 7 participants, total funds spent: \$3,000
- Fuels Reduction Cost-share
  - Partnership with Grand County Wildfire Council
  - 28 participants, total funds spent: \$81,500
- TCP High Mountain Flood Irrigation
  - Partnership NRCS
  - 3 participants, total funds requested: \$50,910
- RCPP: ILVK
  - District support & NRCS planning/cost-share



## 2017 Product Sales

- Grass & Wildflower Seed
  - Total: \$56,729; 15,922#
- Tree Seedlings & Perennials
  - Total: \$16,207; 5,962 seedlings
- Tire Tanks
  - Total: \$12,836; 18 tanks
- Polyacrylamide (PAM)
  - Total: \$1,572; 250#



## Looking to 2018

- Continue with current activities
- Look for new opportunities to benefit landowners and ag producers
- Retain Mark Volt as DCT
- Welcome Brien Rose as our new Board Member

