



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, EXT 4

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**Minutes**  
**Quarterly Meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors**  
*July 7, 2021*  
*Noon*

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86485564390>

**Call to Order:** 12:12 pm by Deb Wood

**Attendees:**

Deb Wood (President)  
Justin Fosha (Sec/Treas)  
Brien Rose (Member)

John Longhill (Member)  
Katlin Miller (DM)  
Mark Volt (DCT)

Kara Vigneau (NRCS)  
Stephen Jaouen (NRCS)

**Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (Dec 2020 & March 2021):** John moved to approve the December 2020 and the March 2021 minutes. Brien seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved when called for a vote.

**Partner Reports**

NRCS Report/Introduction of Kara Vigneau:

Kara Vigneau was introduced as the new NRCS Soil Conservationist in Kremmling. Kara just started this week and will be full-time in the Kremmling Field Office.

Stephen reported that there are 2 new EQIP contracts: 1 sage grouse project and 1 irrigation project. There are also 6 to 7 RCPP projects. Stephen also spoke about the NRCS EQIP sign up initiative and that we should help advertise that. Katlin agreed to put it in the Summer newsletter.

CSFS Report: None

CSU Extension Report: None

**MPCD Reports**

DCT Report: Mark has been staying busy with field work on EQIP projects as well as ETF site visits. He plans to help get Kara settled and out in the field.

DM Report: Katlin has been staying busy with the East Troublesome Fire EWP program and miscellaneous topics to be discussed under New Business.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was presented to the group. John moved to approve the financials (January thru June 2021). Justin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved when called for a vote.



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## Old Business

**East Troublesome Fire EWP & HPP Seed:** Katlin and Mark both reported on their activities with the East Troublesome Fire. MPCD is one of the 5 primary partners on the East Troublesome Fire EWP group that also includes Grand County, Northern Water, Colorado River District, and the Three Lakes Watershed Association. Because of this Katlin and Mark have been involved in weekly meetings all year to help with the success of the ETF Watershed recovery. Mark has taken a more specific role with technical assistance on the Grand County side of the EWP project area.

Additionally, Katlin and Mark worked with the Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) to supply \$20,000 worth of seed to 9 ag producers impacted by the East Troublesome Fire. HPP also paid MPCD for Mark's time evaluating the properties (38 hours worth \$950). These hours were NOT included in the hours counted toward or reimbursed as part of the DCT program.

## New Business

**Election of Officers:** Justin moved to maintain the same officer positions for 2021-2022 (Deb as President, Jay as VP, Justin as Secretary/Treasurer). Brien seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved when called for a vote.

**Annual Dinner & LWG Meeting/Survey:** Katlin notified the Board that the Stockgrowers Board wanted to postpone the Annual Dinner until at least this Fall and then decide in October if we should have a Fall gathering or wait until next year. The MPCD Board concurred.

Katlin next asked Stephen if he had heard anything from the state NRCS regarding the need for a Local Working Group meeting this year (given COVID). Stephen said that he had not heard anything about LWG meetings from the state. Accordingly, because our 2022-2024 Long Range Plan is due this year, Katlin suggested we do an online Community Needs Survey to achieve both a LWG "meeting" and gain insight on what is needed for our Long Range Plan. Katlin will put the survey in our Summer Newsletter.

**Summit County Soils/Carbon Sequestration:** Katlin, Mark, Stephen, and Kara have all been invited to a meeting with the directors of Friends of the Lower Blue River this July to discuss their desire for a Summit County Soils and Carbon Sequestration study. All of them plan to attend and will provide updates after the meeting.

**Drought \$:** Katlin notified the board of an unexpected \$15,000 grant that the Conservation District will be getting from CDA. Thanks to Senate Bill 21-234, all Colorado conservation district will receive a one-time \$15,000 payment from CDA to build capacity and help landowners with drought resilience.

**Healthy Soils Grant:** Katlin informed the Board about a new Healthy Soils Initiative by the Colorado Department of Ag called "S.T.A.R.". The Colorado Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources (S.T.A.R.) Program is a free and voluntary tool to educate producers, give bragging rights, and structure conversations around soil health. S.T.A.R. is a practice-based rating system that assigns points for the following soil health practices: cropping, tillage, nutrient application, and other best management practices based upon a 10-minute form that producers fill out



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about each field. As a result, the farmer or rancher receives a S.T.A.R. rating from 1-5 stars that help them understand how well they are doing in promoting soil health and upholding the 5 principles of soil health: Soil Armor, Minimize Soil Disturbance, Plant Diversity, Continual Live Plant/Root, Livestock Integration.

**Conservation Districts are permitted to apply for the S.T.A.R. program, so Katlin is looking into it to see if it is a good fit for our district.**

**2022 Matching Grant App:** The deadline for the 2022 CSCB Matching Grant Program is approaching. Thus, Katlin asked the Board if they wished for her to apply for the grant. In the past, we have used it for Irrigation Cost-Share Programs and a Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program spearheaded by the Grand County Wildfire Council. While the Board felt that both programs were good and needed, they felt that priority should be given to the Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program right now due to the East Troublesome Fire and the need to determine Mark's workload availability for an irrigation cost-share program. Thus, Justin **moved to proceed with a Matching Grant Application for the GCWC Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program. Brien seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved when called for a vote.**

**2022 DCT App:** Mark reported to the Board that he would be willing to continue his DCT role in 2022 if the Board wanted to apply for the DCT program again. Everyone gave a big resounding "YES". Thus, Justin **moved to the 2022 DCT Application. Brien seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved when called for a vote.**

**2022-2024 Long Range Plan:** As mentioned above under the LWG and Survey section, the 2022-2024 LRP is due at the end of this year. We will do an online survey to assist with making plans for the next three years.

**Closing Round Table:** none

**Adjourn:** Adjourned at 1:34 with a motion from Brien and second by Justin.