



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

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Special Meeting of the MPCD Board of Supervisors

Thursday, Aug 10, 2023 – 5pm, Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83841221153?pwd=VUMyOFFhZG8yaThORlhSmUyTlFudz09> One tap mobile

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Call to Order: 5:15 pm by Deb Wood

Attendees Present:

Deb Wood, President	X	Kara Vigneau, NRCS Resource Con	X
Jay Yust, Vice President	X	Stephen Jaouen, NRCS Team Lead	
Justin Fosha, Sec/Treas	X	Brianna Osbourne, CSU Extension Grand	
John Longhill, Board Member		Dan Schroder, CSU Extension Summit	
Brien Rose, Board Member	X	Ryan McNertney, CSFS Granby Office	
Katlin Miller, District Manager	X	Guest: Paul Bruchez	X
Mark Volt, DCT			

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: <i>Approve agenda as written.</i>		
Motion Made By:	Second Made By:	Vote Outcome
Brien Rose	Jay Yust	Approved

New Business:

OLRT Discussion

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Open Lands, Rivers, and Trails (OLRT) fund. Katlin was recently made aware of an effort to propose a ballot initiative on the November 2023 election ballot for the reauthorization of the OLRT fund and had concerns she wanted to bring before the board. Katlin’s concerns are that the presumed definition of “conservation” under the OLRT fund limits its scope to (a) to acquire lands or interests in lands that conserve and protect water in the Colorado River and its tributaries for agriculture, ranching, and outdoor recreation, and that conserve agricultural lands, natural areas, scenic open lands, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and river access; (b) to acquire less than fee interests in real property for permanent conservation easements, future interests, covenants, development rights, subsurface rights and contractual rights, either on an exclusive or nonexclusive basis, or; (c) to acquire fee title interest in real property.

The Middle Park Conservation District’s mission is to conserve private land in Middle Park and none of the methods the Conservation District uses to conserve land include acquisition of lands, rights, or interests from landowners. MPCD and NRCS refer to a list of the [47 resource concerns](#) during the conservation planning process. Once the resource concern is identified, our technical experts choose from a variety of proven “conservation practices” to create tailor-made conservation plans that meet each landowner’s unique goals, concerns, and property characteristics.

Katlin asked the Board to consider whether they wanted to take an official stance on the topic and ask the Board of County Commissioners to modify their OLRT initiative before it goes to the ballot. Suggestions included asking the BOCC to do one or more of the following:

- 1) **Broaden the definition of conservation under OLRT to include conservation practices and allow projects that would implement conservation practices to apply.**
- 2) **Broaden the list of the eligible applicants to include the Middle Park Conservation District and other non-profit organizations that have the capacity to implement conservation practices/projects.**

3) **Postpone the ballot initiative until 2024 to allow time for more discussion on the topic.**

After much discussion, the Board supports Katlin's concerns and agrees that the OLRT ballot wording should be changed. Rather than making a public statement right away, the Board asked the following of Katlin.

Board Directive:

Katlin should talk with Ed Moyer, County Manager, prior to the BOCC meeting on Tuesday, 8/15/23, and see how the county can work with the MPCD to make the suggested changes listed above. After speaking with Ed, the Board asked Katlin to provide an update to them.

Adjourn: 6:30pm with motion by Justin and second by Brien.