



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 Supervisors

106 S. 2nd St, Kremmling, CO 80459

March 8, 2017

The March 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by President Deb Wood at 12:05pm. Other attendees included Jay Yust, Vice President; Justin Fosha, Treasurer; John Longhill, Member (on the phone); Dave Abbott, Member; Katlin Miller, Executive Director; and Mark Volt, NRCS District Conservationist.

First up, Deb asked for a motion to approve both the December 2016 minutes. **Dave moved and Jay seconded to approve the December minutes. Motion passed.**

Under Guest Reports, Mark report that he has 3 signups for EQIP this winter. They included Jennifer Baker for irrigation, Mike Ritschard for irrigation, and Dick Linke/Sandy Baker for Range. Mark next reported that the Irrigators of Lands in the Vicinity of Kremmling (ILVK) RCPP application was approved as part of a larger Grand County application. The entire application was approved for 7.5 million dollars, 2.5 million of which is allocated to ILVK. The "Targeted Conservation Approach" application that Katlin applied for at the end of 2016 was also approved. Katlin applied for a special pool of money through EQIP that would go strictly to High Mountain Flood Irrigation projects. NRCS approved us for planning in 2017 and funding in 2018. Additionally, Mark reported that NRCS has developed a new initiative to be formally announced in May that will help fund Native Cutthroat Trout projects. Other projects Mark has been working on this winter include: spring developments on Rusty Spurr Ranch, and fertilizer economics on Coors Ranch and Colorado River Cattle Ranch. Mark has also done two snow surveys so far this year. Right now, Middle Park is at 143% of normal. Lastly, Mark asked the board for their input on staffing come June, when he retires. **The board agreed that they would like to see the acting DC be here a minimum of 3 days a week but preferably 5 days a week. They would also like to have a permanent replacement in place prior to the end of December (when our DCT position is done).**

Under MPCD Reports, Katlin told the board that she has just been working on the annual dinner and doing random office work and miscellaneous winter stuff for the past couple months. She also mentioned that she did not work as many hours in January and reduced her salary accordingly.

Katlin next asked if anyone had any questions about the financials she sent out prior to the meeting. Deb asked about the check to Stockgrowers for \$50. Katlin said it was for 2 stockgrowers members that accidentally paid their dues to the district rather than the Stockgrowers Association.

Under Other Reports, Katlin asked for comments on the annual dinner. She said that she had heard that some people were not very impressed with the food and that not everyone could hear or see the presentation. Jay said that he had heard the same. Moving forward, next year's dinner will be on the east end (according to tradition). The Stockgrowers BOD had suggested we look into Gateway Inn in Grand Lake, the old Grand Lake



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elementary, the YMCA, and Silver Creek Inn. Katlin asked if anyone had any additional suggestions. No one did. Katlin said that she intends to look into these options soon so as to reduce stress later on.

Next up, Katlin told the board that we had some success with the Priorities Survey at the Stockgrowers Meeting and the Annual Dinner. Water Quantity and Quality is still the number one priority. Katlin also said that she has since hung the Survey up in our office and will continue to collect data from our walk-in customers. **The board agreed to have this survey serve the role of our Local Working Group meeting.**

Also under Old Business, Katlin told the board that she applied for a grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture to fund the Old Park Herbicide Cost-Share Program that Amy Sidener and Katlin proposed in late 2016. We will not know the result of that grant application until later this month. On a side note related to noxious weeds, Katlin reported that Amy has agreed to expand Grand County's free herbicide giveaway to Kremmling on one Friday a month throughout the summer. Mark also reminded the board that the HPP herbicide voucher program for ag producers will begin on April 15th.

Moving onto New Business, Katlin told the board about a 3-way agreement between MPCD, NRCS, and CSCB that she received awhile back. She said that she has had Deb sign it, but in reading through the agreement, Katlin saw a potential concern. The agreement states that the District WILL host a Local Working Group meeting every year. Katlin's concern is that our priorities have not changed in many years and that having producers come to meetings year after year may cause these producers to withdraw and not come anymore. Katlin told the board that she had expressed this concern to Cindy Lair at CSCB, but Cindy said that we have no choice but to sign it. Otherwise, according to Cindy, we will not be able to use NRCS equipment or facilities anymore. Katlin was just frustrated that the district was not involved in writing the agreement and there was no room for compromise. **The board agreed with Katlin's concerns but elected to send in the signed agreement anyway to keep the peace. We will continue to hold LWG meetings in the means we see fit.**

Next up, Katlin told the board that she had Tim Day of Day & Associates do our Exemption from Audit again this year. Katlin next asked the board to sign the Exemption so that she could send it in to the State Auditor. The board agreed.

Moving onto Scholarship selection, the board discussed the applicants and their applications. **Ultimately, Dave moved to select Sydney Almgren as our recipient this year. Jay seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Katlin next asked the board to consider becoming members of the Kremmling Chamber. The cost of membership would be \$60 per year. Benefits would include having our information on their website, use of the Chamber building, and a discount on the Kremmling Days Booth Fee. The board discussed it and questioned whether we would need to become members of every chamber in the district. **In the end, Justin**



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moved to become members of Kremmling Chamber this year and consider membership in the other Chambers next year. Dave seconded. Motion passed.

Katlin next updated the board on the Upper Colorado River Watershed Group. She said that the group is still in its infancy stage. They are looking to be a central hub for all the conservation efforts in the county. Right now the group does not have a mission, a vision, or a board. Katlin and Mark are both concerned that it will replicate a lot of the efforts that the Conservation District already does and that such a group is not really needed. Katlin suggested that we not take an active role in the UCRWG at this point and just watch as see what happens. She and Mark discussed that they believe it will fizzle out, and we don't want the District to go down with it. **The Board agreed to take no action on the UCRWG group at this point.**

Moving on to the DCT program, the board agreed to advertise the position in the local papers, on our website, in our newsletter, and with the Grand County Career Center no later than April 25th. Applications will be due on May 8th and will be discussed at the May 9th board meeting.

Katlin next reported that Hay Day will be July 12th at Blue Valley Ranch. She has contacted Max Schmidt to speak about PAM, Zach Schwalbe to speak about CoAgMet, and Joe Brummer to speak on Rotational Fallowing. She also plans to contact Kelcey Swyers to speak on cattle and horse nutrition. Katlin next asked the board if they would rather have equipment demonstrations in the afternoon or a ranch tour. Katlin said that, according to Mark, we had a difficult time getting equipment operators to attend last time we held it. On the other hand, Sher (at Blue Valley Ranch) is concerned with the number of people that may attend and that it may be infeasible to have a tour with so many people. **The board agreed that we should contact equipment dealers first and see if they are interested in attending. If they are not interested, we will go from there and see what we can do about a ranch tour.**

Finally, Katlin noted that she will be doing several Save the Frogs Day programs in the month of April with Doreen Sumerlin of the US Forest Service. She said that they are also expanding the program to include Summit County. Katlin also said that she intends to do more with the Grand County 4-H Summer Camp program this year and may also try to do something with the Summit 4-H program.

There were no comments under Closing Roundtable, so the meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9th at NOON at the MPCD/NRCS Office.