

**Delta Conservation District**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 13, 2010**

**Supervisors Present**

Jim Cazer – President  
Jim Blankenship – Vice President  
Thelma Starner – Treasurer  
Michael Cleary – Supervisor  
Ralph D'Alessandro – Supervisor  
Susan Raymond – Supervisor  
James Schott – Supervisor  
Mark Shaffer – Supervisor  
Gayle Ware – Supervisor

**Supervisors Absent**

Eric Jessen – Supervisor

**Others Present**

Michael Zeman – District Employee  
Brian Sorenson – NRCS District Conservationist  
Paul VanRyzin – NRCS (Painted Sky)  
Dave Dearstyne – NRCS Soil Scientist  
Connie Willis – Earthteam Volunteer

**Meeting called to order at 2:06pm**

**Absences**, Jim Cazer reiterated approval of excused absence. Three unexcused absences in a row constitute automatic dismissal from board by statutes.

**Agenda Presented**, addition made of Fire Mountain Ditch Board Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> time Farmers Iowa Group WFAN; Soil Health (Uncompahgre): Jim Blankenship moved to accept agenda with addition, James Schott seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes presented:** James Schott moved to approve minutes as presented. Ralph D'Alessandro seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report** - Profit and Loss report reviewed. Bills to be paid modified with addition of: Hotchkiss Memorial Hall, \$70 for Small Acreage workshop facility rental; Susan Raymond, \$26.64 for coffee, cookies for Small Acreage Workshop, Ralph D, \$54.46 for supplies for Small Acreage Workshop. James Schott moved to pay bills as presented, Mark Schaffer seconded. **Motion carried.** Jim Blankenship moved to approve financial statements as presented, James Schott seconded. **Motion carried.** Discussion: Thelma asked about any questions about the financial report. Mark asked about the account receivables. Thelma reassured that this will be addressed shortly but the audit is not completed and balance sheet cannot be presented until this is received. After audit District should have the totals and, respectively, the balance sheet.

**NRCS Report** – Brian Sorenson

Brian complimented on the Small Acreage Workshop success. He offered congratulations on a record attendance. He said that there has been a lot of interest from the public sector in the programs available; he even got interest in the wildlife programs.

**EQIP Report** - funding dates set January 30, February 29, and March 31. The last day due is April 1, 2011 to apply. Contract count is down but the amount of the wildlife contracts are up.

**BSP Report** - No new information on BSP. Jim Currier is working on letter to the producers that would go thru the district to outline deadlines to phase out old contracts. Cutoff date Dec 31, 2011 and all funding paid by Dec 31, 2012. BOR looking to hire a coordinator to pull together information with the ditch companies, landowners on the projects. Program rules and processes have not been determined yet. Brian says there is a lot of interest. Applications that are coming in are dependent upon the BSP program going through.

**Soil Health Report** – Paul VanRyzin/ Dave Dearstyne

Paul went to a soil health workshop in the San Luis Valley where three alternatives to grass waterway were presented: cover crops, crop rotation, manure management/compost to build soil health. A 2011 initiative to improve soil health and supportive practices were presented. He is assessing whether it is useful to use this technology around here.

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Dave Dearstyne, Soil Scientist for 25 years, said Salinity issue is present. Nitrogen waste issues may also play an important part in the soil health. Area is facing the sweet corn not having the production or the quality which ties into soil organic material content. His suggestion is to get the same group to come in and lecture. Carbon Sequestration is another topic. Need to improve the bottom line for the producer and feels very strongly that this workshop would have an impact. Soils in the valley have less than 1% organic matter. Paul said that the group from North Dakota would be looking at the end of February and would cost in the neighborhood of \$3000. Soil Grants (CCPI- Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative) may be available. James feels that we should be proactive in helping obtain the funding for this program. James Schott moved that the Delta Conservation District cooperates as a partner in developing this soil health program. Ralph seconded. **Motion carried.** Discussion: Mike brought up theory that the mass use of fertilizer may have boosted production the easy way. Now, it is determined that we need to increase organic matter. Transportation of manure is an issue. Dave states that the Foster Farms chicken doesn't use it locally; it is currently being shipped to California. Brian states that we need to use the current production of organic material on the farm. Dave states that the integration of the crop rotation along with livestock intervention is making the bottom line better. James Schott, Jim Cazer, and Gail Ware want to part of a committee to further this agenda for the soil health program. James Schott is designated of Point of Contact for the board.

**Employee Reports –**

- **Ditch Mapping** – report included in packet. Mike Zeman states that Cedaredge area has become very complicated and difficult. He states that there would be no way to finish by the end of December. James asked detail of what they do in the mapping. Mike said just mapping where the path of the ditch is located. No elevations or soils are involved. The harder part is how much water is being used by the landowner. Considering the storage and runoff really complicates the data. Ralph said that the existing maps are not always accurate. Mike has been working with the water commissioner in the Cedaredge area. BOR requested that we map the Bostwick Park Colona area with the additional funds. Ralph wants to finish our valley 1st and then look into using Randy Kramer to help in the Shavano district. Ralph met with both Mike and Toni to outline a training plan. Toni is coming up to speed (to understand irrigation methods, etc.). Mike Baker wants to keep the data consistent therefore using the same person to input data. Toni will be used to make preliminary contacts to producers. Connie Willis volunteered to give information on ditch that she was ditch rider for up on Cedar Mesa. Mike thinks he is looking at 2-3 months to complete. Now that Mike has computer access, his input time has improved.
- **SCT** – report included in packet. John Miller is an employee of the district with his salary and payroll expenses paid for by the Technical Assistance that passes through the district from the Colorado State Conservation Board. His day to day supervisor is the NRCS district conservationist, Brian Sorenson.

**Break called**

**Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Contracts** - Michael Cleary asked about status reports from NRCS on current projects. A spreadsheet of projects is requested by James Schott and will be provided by Brian Sorenson. Mike asked if John Miller could administer the Contracts Questionnaire. Ralph D gave report on Clipper Ditch Special Shareholder meeting. Clipper Ditch has submitted the funding opportunity for piping with the BOR with 100% financing. Doug Perkins, engineer from Utah, gave information on this project. Clipper Ditch would like a rep from the Conservation District and NRCS at their meeting Jan 29, 2011. Clipper Ditch has three lawsuits filed against them. Protocols for dealing with ditch projects need to be established and checklist followed.
  - a. **ACTION:** Brian to provide contracts list to committeeJim Cazer stated that the contract committee must sign the confidentiality agreement! Ralph states that the MOU covers this confidentiality situation and that possibly another agreement does not have to be signed. Master MOU, NRCS, FSA, Forest Service is reference in the document that Brian gave to the board to sign. Larry Sweeney and Jim Currier had said to Susan Raymond at the workshop that the other NRCS districts don't request this form. Ralph read the statement on the back of the MOU between the NRCS and DCD Addendum E, Records Management. This will be followed up by Ralph. Jim Cazer states that we are here to review the contracts, come up with a recommendation, and then be voted on by the board. Jim Cazer stated that Mike's signing Susan Raymond's modification was not correct. Mike stated he was requested to stay behind at the

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meeting and sign the modifications. Cazer states that board members must read the bylaws. President is to sign all agreements as representative of the board.

2. **Planning** – James presented a subdivision review. Jim Blankenship went over steps to take in review. A request was made that John Miller help to review if there are any contracts involving the lands covered in subdivision reviews.
3. **Policy and Procedures** – Board Policy discussed as being passed down from state with only a few changes. James Schott moved to accept previously presented Board Policy, Ralph D'Alessandro seconded. **Motion carried.**
4. **Education and Outreach** – Ralph gave report on the Small Acreage Workshop and its success. Thelma and Ralph found another \$200 plus that was not utilized last year. Ralph said the sign boards into Hotchkiss from both directions were helpful. Email list should be updated with the e-mails obtained from this workshop.
5. **Budget** – Thelma is working with Kristie on 2011 budget.
6. **Employee** – IWM position, seven applications on hand. These will be reviewed by Executive Committee next week.

**New Business**

1. Annual Plan of Work (APW) needs to be completed. Kristie will be involved with development.
2. CACD Resolutions Finalized- sent in email
3. Hydro Fire Mtn. Canal – Discussed the Micro-Hydro potential. Hubbard Creek has 200+ fall to river. Sub-station at river. Motion entertained that Susan Raymond be contact person with FMC- Ralph D moved that Susan Raymond be authorized as contact person and representative of District. Michael Cleary seconded. **Motion carried.**
4. Board Resignation – Eric Jessen submitted his resignation via email. Jim Blankenship moved that we accept his resignation. Ralph D seconded and asked that a letter of appreciation with certificate be sent to Eric. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned 5:17pm**

*Minutes respectively submitted collectively by Susan Raymond, Thelma Starner, Supervisors & Kristie Martin, District Manager*