

**Delta Conservation District**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
March 14, 2011

**Supervisors Present**

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

**Supervisors Absent**

Jim Blankenship – Vice President  
Gayle Ware – Supervisor

**Others Present**

Kristie Martin – DCD District Manager  
Brian Sorenson – NRCS District Conservationist  
Wes Boyce – NRCS (partial attendance for NRCS report)  
Jim Currier – CSCB  
Kevin Parks – North Fork Mosquito Abatement District  
Rosemary Bilchak - North Fork Mosquito Abatement District  
Michael Soule - North Fork Mosquito Abatement District  
Joli Soule - North Fork Mosquito Abatement District

**Meeting called to order at 2:04pm**

**Agenda Presented:** Add discussion on Contractors List to Old Business. James Schott moved to accept agenda with addition, Ralph D'Alessandro seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Minutes presented:** Thelma Starner moved to approve minutes as presented. Mark Schaffer seconded. **Motion carried.**

James Schott moved to amend Agenda, Old Business to include letter submitted by Susan Raymond. Ralph seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report presented**– Need to add check to Ralph D'Alessandro for Irrigation Water User Series supplies for \$89.88 and to Susan Raymond for Mesa County Water Association meeting for \$20. Thelma Starner moved to accept additions to bills to pay. James Schott seconded. **Motion carried.** . Thelma Starner moved to accept the financials and bills to pay as presented. James Schott seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Board Absences** – Jim Blankenship and Gayle Ware notified board that they could not attend this board meeting due to illness. James Schott moved that we accept absences. Michael Cleary seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**North Fork Mosquito Abatement District presentation** – Kevin Parks

Handouts were given on an overview of program needs and the Small Acreage Irrigation Audit brochure from Colorado State University. NFMAD would like collaboration with the Delta Conservation District to reduce the mosquito habitat. James Schott moved that the DCD Board support the efforts of the NFMAD to cooperate with them in anyway we can to mitigate the mosquito problem in conjunction with our goals of mitigating salinity and selenium. Ralph D'Alessandro seconded. Michael Cleary would like to add the Wildlife Habitat programs available through the Salinity programs be included. **Motion carried.**

**ACTION:** The Land Use committee will collaborate with NFMAD.

**NRCS Report** – Brian Sorenson

EQIP application deadlines are coming up. March 15 is deadline for general EQIP. The High Tunnel Program deadline has been extended for Organic producers to April 22, 2011. NRCS have several sizable EQIP applications submitted. Any contracts \$150K or above have to go to Regional Assistant Chief (RAC) for approval. There is a \$300K maximum program payout in EQIP. The Monitoring and Evaluation report is currently being done by NRCS. It is a recap of meeting Salinity objectives over the last year. That report will be presented next month and can be integrated into the presentation at the DCD Annual Landowner Meeting. There are BSP applicants waiting for the funding and application process to open up.

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**CSCB Report – Jim Currier**

The state is closer to getting the Basin States contract signed with BOR. This year the Technical Assistance (TA) funding account received a \$700K reduction from BOR to NRCS which is then paid to CSCB. The shortfall has been split between NRCS and CSCB. Other BOR funds have been considered to backfill the gap for the state.

James Schott moved that the DCD write a draft letter, to be reviewed by board and then sent to various parties to include the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in Grand Junction and Salt Lake City and the Colorado River District, having to do with water conservation, management, salinity and selenium entities supporting the idea of watershed-wide planning and funding projects. Susan Raymond seconded. **Motion carried.**

**ACTION:** Michael Cleary agreed to write the draft letter. The board is to develop a final mailing list for this letter.

**NRCS Report - Wes Boyce**

NRCS is working with an EQIP applicant who has reached the maximum EQIP funds. This applicant plans to treat additional acreage with a BSP funding and proceed with a BSP application. This applicant is drafting a letter of waiver to the DCD requesting the ability to commence a practice prior to having a contract in place without penalty. This applicant is requesting a prompt decision by the board.

Ralph D'Alessandro moved that the Contracts Committee be given the authority to issue a letter of waiver (of the requirement that work must not begin until a contract is granted to this applicant for a potential BSP project to commence construction (practices) prior to award of a contract) subject to the understanding that the BSP program must materialize between BOR and CSCB, and the project must rank out and be selected for funding. James Schott seconded. **Motion carried.**

**Employee Reports** reviewed from packet

- **Ditch Mapping**
- **SCT**

Break called at 4:15pm

Meeting called back to order at 4:25pm

**Subcommittee Reports**

1. **Contracts** – Review of letter to BOR written by Cleary.

**ACTION:** Michael Cleary will re-address this letter to Kib Jacobson and Terry Stroh and drop the reference to turn-key projects in the letter.

2. **Planning** – Six County applications reviewed. Two had irrigated lands, neither had EQIP/BSP projects. A letter will be sent to County Planning.
3. **Policy and Procedures** –
4. **Education & Outreach** – Irrigation Series review
5. **Budget** –
6. **Employee** – IWM position filled, Mike Martin

**Old Business**

- Soil Health conference review – James Schott.  
Main message of conference was sell the plow, spread the compost, and sprinkle.
- DCD Annual Meeting Update – April 9, 2011
- District Amended By-Laws review/vote – Petition  
Ralph D'Alessandro moved that we accept the By-Laws with presented changes. Michael Cleary seconded. **Motion carried.**  
**ACTION:** The next step in the By-Law amendment is to get 50 signatures on a petition.
- Contractor's List - Ralph D'Alessandro moved that we assemble a contractor's list, without endorsement or recommendation for use by producers, to be available to landowners. Susan Raymond seconded. Thelma Starner dissented. Mark Schaffer abstained. **Motion carried.**

**ACTION:** List in newspaper and publicize the opportunity for contractors to be listed.

**New Business**

Shavano District Annual Meeting review

Host Gunnison Dolores Watershed Annual Meeting and Tour (held July 15, 2010)

**Meeting adjourned 5:45pm**

*Minutes respectively submitted by Kristie Martin, District Manager*