**Gunnison Conservation District**

216 North Colorado St, Gunnison CO 81230

(970) 707-3047

**Board Meeting Minutes**

November 19, 2024, Regular Meeting

Held at 216 North Colorado St Conference Room, Gunnison

**Board Members Present**: Bill Ketterhagen, Jan Coury, John Rozman, Dan Zadra, Jon Mugglestone

**Board Members Absent**: Brooke Vasquez, Jesse Kruthaupt

**Employees Present**: Tonya Carr,

**Employees Absent**: Ben Prior

**Others Present**: Katie Radavich, Tommy

**Call to Order: Bill** Ketterhagen called the meeting to order at 1:38

**Partner Updates:**

**NRCS—** Heather Miller discussed the fiscal year 2025 programs

The application deadline for Act Now projects and non-Act Now projects is December 13th. Non-Act Now projects include irrigation, seasonal high tunnels, and stream bank restoration. An application is required specifically for Act Now projects.

There will be application deadlines every month from December through March.

Additionally, the vacancy for the Program Support Specialist position for RT5 was announced back in September. This position will cover both the Montrose and Gunnison Field offices. We are currently waiting for Human Resources to complete the certification process so we can begin selecting a candidate.

**UGRWCD****—**The Gunnison Grant program is set to reopen its application cycle. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) will initiate a promotional campaign for the program beginning in December.

Applications are due on February 14th. An additional 300,000 is available, but the CAP on each project is 50,000 with a 50% match. Advertisements will be in the paper soon.

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District (UGRWCD) recently introduced Amanda as the new Wet Meadows Coordinator. Additionally, Bailey Friedman has been designated as the Water Resources Project Manager, overseeing various projects. The organization is exploring multiple avenues for funding, potentially through collaborative efforts with our Conservation Society (CS). Additionally, Amanda will be responsible for finalizing the Watershed Planning Process (WNP), which we have actively participated in for the past six years, marking a significant advancement in our ongoing initiatives.

UGRWCD is in the final stages of preparing the 2025 budget and is approaching completion.

A public meeting is scheduled for Monday to review the final processes associated with the wet meadows program. Amanda provided an update indicating that the end-of-season meeting was held on October 22nd, attended by 17 participants from eight different agencies.

During the 2024 field season, 71 restoration structures were established, contributing to the restoration of approximately 62 acres of sage grouse habitat. In addition, maintenance efforts were conducted on 67 existing structures, which supported around 38 acres of habitat.

UGRWCD successfully secured funding from The Nature Conservancy earmarked for the acquisition of a UTV and a flatbed trailer to enhance the program's operational capacity.

Wet Meadows Program entered into a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and was awarded funds for planning, capacity building, education, and outreach over the next five years. Additionally, they established a Good Neighbor Authority agreement with the BLM to maintain infrastructure at five existing wet meadow sites. They are also in the process of finalizing an additional funding agreement with The Nature Conservancy for the Antelope Creek Wood Meadows.

**CBLT—**The recent updates from the CBLT focus on our upcoming stewardship initiatives. As we transition into the winter season, there's a notable shift in Land Trust property utilization, moving from livestock grazing to Nordic skiing activities. With the Allen family ranches vacating their cattle from the Slate River Valley, we can now partner with Crested Butte Nordic to facilitate winter recreation access on this previously grazed land. This collaboration aims to enhance winter sports opportunities while ensuring sustainable land management practices. As part of this transition, we are dismantling our laydown fences and decommissioning the river fencing along the Slate River. This initiative is part of a broader, ongoing project. As we move forward, we are evaluating potential enhancements for the fencing system in the upcoming year, requiring focused attention. CBLT has been reflecting on the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Grant, specifically in relation to last year's funding allocations, and preparing for next year's initiatives, will be eager to collaborate with stakeholders to strategize on effective weed control measures in the Crested Butte area.

# Another point of interest is a ditch project we completed this fall in partnership with Rudy Rozman on the Rozman Ditch. We moved a relief valve causing some spring blowouts, hopefully easing Rudy's work along the ditch.

# Approval of Minutes

October 2024, meeting minutes

***ACTION:*** Moved to approve minutes

Moved: Bill

Second: Dan

Approved: Board unanimously

# Treasurer’s Report

November, treasurer's report

***ACTION:*** Moved to approve treasurer's report

Moved: Jon

Second: Bill

Approved: Board unanimously

**Gunnison Conservation District Business**

Discussion of 2025 Adoption of Election Resolution and Designation of Tonya Carr as Election Official.

***ACTION:*** Motion to approve 2025 Adoption of Election Resolution

Moved: Bill

Second: Dan

Approved: Board unanimously

***ACTION:*** Motion to approve 2025 Designation of Tonya Carr as an Election Official.

Moved: Jan

Second: Bill

Approved: Board unanimously

**Old Business**

**DCT**

Finishing final report for CDA/USFS grant. The CDA/USFS Disaster Mitigation grant will conclude at the end of November. Currently working on the final report. Once the final report is submitted and reviewed, the district will be

reimbursed with the remaining grant funds.

Still working on Brittain and Wegert CSP projects. Field inventory is mainly done for both,

working on their applications for FY25 CSP ranking. Wrapping up the Pinecrest Ranch (Ute

Mountain Ute Tribe) grazing EQUIP contract and the Tomichi Creek Preserve Wetland Reserve

Easement’s Cooperative Use Agreement. Attended Area 1 Programs Rollout in Grand Junction.

This meeting overviewed all the NRCS program changes for FY25. Today, Ben is attending the Stewarding the Working Wild conflict reduction training. This training will cover planning range riding, carcass management, and fladry practices to help with conflict reduction between wildlife and livestock. These practices will be available for NRCS contracts.

The hiring committee's top candidate for the cheatgrass coordinator position has accepted the offer and will start her role in Gunnison in January.

**DM**

The 2025 Budget Draft was submitted to the board for evaluation October – December. The board highlighted the expense item labeled contract fees, and the income item labeled herbicide sales, and proposed to exclude herbicide sales and contractual fees from the financial plan.

# The GCD reviewed the revised project list for the BOR grant proposal, including a detailed budget discussion. Katie Radovich from LJS Engineering provided an update on the status of the proposal. Additionally, the possibility of UGRWCD serving as a sub-awardee for the grant was proposed, contingent upon their willingness to accept the role.

# New Business

**DM**

The discussion focused on Bill Ketterhagen’s upcoming opportunity with Freshwater Trust and its potential impact on governance as president of the board at GCD. Key points included a thorough analysis of the bylaws pertaining to the allowable number of board members classified as land managers or producers. Although this aspect of the dialogue remained fluid, it was established that Bill plans to resign following the completion of his current term.

**Next Meeting**

 GCD Board Meeting: January 21, 1:30 PM

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

GCD Meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm