**MINUTES**

**WEBER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WCD) MEETING**

Regular Meeting, July 5, 2017

Location, Ogden, UT

**ATTENDANCE:**

Appointed Weber Conservation District (WCD) Voting Members:

**Kevin Stratford,** *Chairman*

**John Degiorgio,** *Supervisor*

**Matthew Peterson,** *Supervisor*

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF):

**Loralie Cox***, Resource Coordinator*

**Hannah Freeze,**  *Planner*

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

**Craig McKnight**, *Director*

**Jenny Cox**, *Planner*

**Leanne Fox**, *Planner*

**Brian Christensen,** *Planner*

**Clayson Cook,** *Intern*

Guest:

**Kelly Larkin**, *Producer*

USU Extension;

**Ron Patterson,** *Director*

**SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTION**

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**WCD MEETING- CALL TO ORDER**

WCD Supervisor Kevin Stratford called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. **A motion was made by Mr. John Degiorgio to approve the June 7, 2017 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Matt Peterson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**UDAC CONFERENCE REVIEW**

Per Jodi Mills, District Clerk, she was able to attend the UACD Conference on June 9-10. The main focus of the conference was the changes to UDAF funding, and that UACD dues are no longer reimbursable. Also discussed was the upcoming legislation that they feel will decrease the amount of input the conservation districts will have. UACD feels they are a valuable resource and encourages WCD to continue to pay their dues. Jon Degiorgio, Supervisor, expresses concern over lack of response when projects, ideas, or questions are sent to UACD, and asked Jodi Mills to draft a letter to UACD to express these concerns.

**REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES**

Per Loralie, Resource Coordinator, There are 27 Special Districts in Utah, and all but the Conservation Districts are set up on a reimbursement scale. Loralie is on the technical committee that is determining a list of reimbursable expenses. The WCD will receive the list of reimbursable expenses. UADC may be contracted for reimbursable services, but lobbyists will not be reimbursed. Loralie also pointed out that WCD is already working on a reimbursement scale for certain projects. Jon Degiorgio inquired about reimbursement turn around time. Loralie estimated it would be a fairly quick turnaround, generally taking a couple weeks.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Board reviewed scope of work for 2018. Matt Peterson, Supervisor, Will develop and maintain a WCD Facebook Page. Loralie will add AFO/CAFO info to the scope of work. Per Hannah Freeze, Planner, Commissioner Adams is very interested in working with the Conservation Districts regarding AFO/CAFO projects.

**NRCS UPDATE**

Per Craig McKnight, NRCS Director, CSP renewals are in progress. NRCS is encouraging WCD to think about projects in Weber County in need of strategic funding. Everyone that has applied has been approved and approximately three quarters of a million dollars has gone out in equipment funding. For example medusa head in Morgan County was stratigic funding, as well as sage grouse. A new state conservationist has been chosen, will start approx. August 8th. The name has not been released. USDA is still under a soft hiring freeze. A national number is being set, it is all being determined and restructured currently to fit into all needed requirements. Per Hannah Freeze, Planner, AFO/CAFO will be the biggest need for Strategic Funding. She is waiting to see what happens with Commissioner Adams. Limit for strategic funding is $500,000. Ron Patterson, USU Extension, suggested having a dedicated composting facility rather than have each dairy handle their own waste. Per Jon, the problem isn't the solid waste, it's the water that's an issue. Per Ron, the water could be used as part of compost. Or an anaerobic digester could be used. Loralie, might be able to partner with the counties. Cache County has a good model to follow. Jon expressed some concerns about the transportation costs. Per Hannah, looking into funding options, this may be eligible for a SERA grant or could qualify to partner with the counties.

**RESOURCE COORDINATOR UPDATE**

Per Loralie, Resource Coordinator, The EPA will rescind. She also presented the Weed Grant for modifications, and Kevin Stratford, Chairman, initialed the changes. Elections are coming up, and both Kevin Stratford and Kelly Wangsgard are up for re-election. Kevin will not be running for re-election. The nominating committee will be made up of Ron Patterson, Joseph Hill, James Ebert, and Kevin Stratford. They will need to find at least 3 people to run for each of the 2 positions. The nominating committee will meet after the 24th of July, names must be submitted by the first of August. The board reviewed current Voter List for updates. Loralie asked board for feedback regarding annual board training. She offered an online option, but the board decided to continue doing training during the meetings.

**PLANNER UPDATES**

Craig McKnight introduced new planners Leanne Fox, and Brian Christiansen. Loralie inquired about a 1619 Form for new planners, Craig will follow up on this.

**OTHER**

Loralie presented an Agriculture Protection Act. Board reviewed plan. **Motion to approve made by John Degiorgio, and was seconded by Matt Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.** Loralie will write letter and follow up with Kevin for signature.

Kelly Larkin, Producer, attended meeting to gain guidance and support from WCD regarding fines he has received for non-compliance of dairy regulations. Mr Larkin has received a 319 Water Quality Grant for $30,000.00, his current Heifer pen must be abandoned. The board discussed some options. Jon recommends they work towards compliance to avoid heat being placed on other dairies. There is some concern about longevity of the dairies. ground is being sold and dairies will no longer be able to operate. Hannah feels this needs to be addressed with Commissioner Adams. Kevin states they are nearing retirement so it doesn't make sense to invest a bunch of money. Regulations will force them out first, then development next. Board discussed protecting lands for younger farmers. Hannah feels it's important to keep moving forward. Take it one step at a time. National Milk is something every dairy in the Nation has to be in compliance with. Hannah will continue to work with Kelly to help him reach compliance.

UACD Representative Charlie Warr passed away. The Board will need to send letters to 6 boards to start a nomination process for the new rep.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Stratford to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Peterson and the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m..**