

Teller-Park Conservation District

800 Research Drive # 160
Woodland Park, CO 80863

December 13, 2023**Supervisors:** Laurie Glauth, Wendy Dillenschneider, Mark Liverman, John, Rebecca Pruitt, John Vance**Partners:****NRCS:** Chris Smith, Greg Langer**Partner Biologist:** Kyle Deschenes**Staff:** Marisa Neuzil**Call to order:** Laurie called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM**Minutes and Financials:** John made a motion to approve the November minutes, Wendy seconded. Motion carried.

Wendy made a motion to approve November financials, John seconded. Motion carried.

NRCS- Chris told the board that the new cost list has been released for EQIP. All projects have been ranked and submitted. As of December 12, 2023, there had been \$1.4 million allocated in our resource team. There will still be the regular EQIP sign up. The NRCS is really pushing the Conservation Stewardship Program. They would like this office to have ten producers signed up before the Spring deadline. Each landowner will be eligible for a minimum of \$4,000 per year for five years. There may be a chance for renewal after the initial five years. Chris has spoken with some teachers at the WP Middle School and let them know that he will be available to bring the water trailer over for environmental classes. They are in the process of trying to bring on a new soil conservationist since Joslyn will be transferring to Florida in January.**Partner Biologist-** Kyle will know soon which projects he is working on will be funded. He has turned in the RESTORE grant application and we will get the results in the spring.**DM-**see attached. The board has made the decision to step out of the Star Plus Program. Greg made a motion to return the initial \$20,000 in capacity funding and withdraw from the Star Plus Grant. John seconded the motion. Motion carried. Marisa will follow up with CDA and work on the logistics of opting out of this program.**Old Business:** Marisa's review was completed, and the board offered her \$23.50/hour starting January 2024, 48 hours of paid time off for 2024, and a onetime \$2,000 bonus to be paid in the December 2023 paycheck. Greg has planned a Zoom call with Nikki Brinson, program manager of the Colorado State Conservation Board regarding bylaws. He will report back in January with what he learned. Greg attended a mining break-out session at the CACD annual meeting, and the board is still working on how to respond to mining requests. Marisa will make sure that the DRMS has our email so that we can get notifications electronically since we have only 10 days after the applicant has posted their intentions in the newspaper. We will focus on Bylaws and Mining in our Long-Range Planning for 2024. Marisa will provide some examples of scholarship wording for the next meeting.**New Business:** Greg made a motion to adopt the 2024 budget, John seconded. Motion carried. Greg made a motion to appropriate sums of money for the 2024 budget, Wendy seconded. Motion carried. Greg made a motion to set our Mill Levy amount of zero for the 2024 budget, Wendy seconded. Motion carried.**Supervisor Reports:****Laurie:** Laurie caught the board up on CSU Extension process. Laurie would like the district to invite John Geerdes, of CUSP, to our January meeting for a meet and greet. She would also like to reach out to Sean from Focus on the Forest,

so they know that we are still a partner. Laurie encouraged everyone to fill out the Wildfire Protection Survey before December 31, 2023.

Rebecca: Rebecca brought up concerns with the new burn ordinance in Teller County.

Wendy: Wendy was unable to attend the CACD conference because of the conflict with taking care of the animals. Next year, attendees will have hotel rooms to be able to get to the early morning meetings. Wendy asked us to be aware that some entities in the state are asking for mandatory fire mitigation. This could have unintended consequences down the line.

John: N/A

Greg: Greg attended a session at the CACD conference in which Rose gave a talk about Envirothon. They are still trying to get more teams involved state-wide. She has reached out to Park County as well as Cripple Creek with no interest. We are going to ask Rose to our January meeting for have a catch-up with her about the program. Greg and Wendy have been speaking with Patricia Bayne, the CTE Food Service Instructor, to ascertain how TPCD can help them in their food to table gardening endeavors. They will be the go-between to see what the school needs and how we can help. Greg gave the board a rundown of the sessions he attended. He suggested that we might want to investigate composting to make money for the district.

Action Items: The board will continue to investigate mining and bylaw issues; Marisa will invite John and Rose to next meeting. Marisa will have scholarship templates to look at for January. Marisa will give DRMS our email.

Meeting adjourned: 1:25 PM

Executive Session:

NEXT MEETING: January 10, 2024, 10:00 AM TPCD

Approve and: _____ by Rebecca Pruitt- Secretary/Treasurer