MINUTES

Branson - Trinchera

Conservation District

DATE: Monday, November 17, 2025
PLACE: Branson, CO (Online School)
TIME: 4:00pm

Harold Unwin called the meeting to order at 4:19pm

I. <u>BUSINESS MEETING</u>

A. Call meeting to order and roll call of attendance:

- Dale Yocam, President—absent
- Dick Louden, Vice President—arrived at 4:23pm
- Harold Unwin, Secretary/Treasurer—present
- Lori Green, Member—present
- Will Ward, Member—present

B. Introduction of Guests: none

C. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2025

Motion to approve minutes made by Lori Green. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 3-0

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Income:** mill levy check arrived today but hasn't been processed; approx. $150 a month for estimated budget purposes
- **Bills:** $50 for an ad in the Kim school calendar
- **Current Balance:** $36,385.39

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Lori Green. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 3-0.

E. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. CSCB 2026 Matching Grant Award $25,000 for Range Management Cost Share letter

Harold Unwin reported this is the last year for this grant due to the state pulling back severance tax. There was some discussion about virtual fencing as a potential fencing project for 2026, its costs and benefits and the life of a traditional fence. No action was taken.

Dick Louden arrived at 4:23pm and became the meeting chair.

2. Exclusion of Board Members from Worker's Compensation notification acceptance letter

This item was for board notification only. No action was taken.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on CACD Annual Meeting

Harold Unwin gave an overview of the resolutions passed and discussed the ones that might be applicable to the district/area such as CRP and grazing.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. 2026 Budget

The board discussed the budget deadline and various line items in the budget and suggested adjustments to several lines for 2026 including an increase in education scholarship money and removing the district cost share due to not enough income. There will be a cost share with the CSCB Matching Grant of $25,000 of which up to 10% can be used for admin. It's budgeted to use $1000 for the DM salary. These changes will result in a small annual net amount about $5,000. Adjustments will continue until we vote in the December meeting. No action was taken.

2. Long Range (3-Year) Plan

The plan is finished early and no further work was requested. Motion by Harold Unwin to approve the Long Range Plan. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 4-0. Everyone signed and Harold Unwin will get Dale Yocam's signature. The due date to the state is January 1.

3. CD Investment

The CD due date is actually March, so the district has some time to consider products and return on investment. Harold Unwin has been researching higher rates as the current rate is extremely low. Some banks in La Junta and Springfield have better rates. There was a discussion about using local banks and not foreign investment. No action was taken.

4. Climate Resilience Grant Program

The board spent a lot of time looking over the grant program and discussing the parameters. There is some concern about secure funding and "strings" tied to this type of grant. The timeline is also less than a week to turn it in. There is some advantage because the grant has not been awarded before in our area and no one has done a cost share with it, but it is highly competitive. The board discussed looking at it again next year if CSCB does not have a matching grant but are not interested at this time. No action was taken.

H. OTHER BUSINESS: none

I. NRCS REPORT : none

J. DISTRICT TECH. REPORT

Keith did not have a report as he just got back to work after the furlough. He has been working on close outs. There is one project left to close out after today.

- **Cost Share Completions:** Lexie Devie ($1947.12), Plum Valley Cattle ($1578.87), Lester Jackson ($1073.12), Tate Watkins ($2033) and Nancy Jackson ($TBD when receipts are turned in)

Motion to approve the cost shares by Harold Unwin. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 4-0.

K. **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be held on December 12, 2025 at 5:00pm at the Kim school so we can have a Zoom link for those unable to attend in person. There will be a public hearing and board vote on the budget at that meeting.

L. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned by Dick Louden at 5:05pm.