

Agate Conservation District Annual Bulletin

2020



Agate Conservation District Board of Supervisors 2020-2022



- ▶ (From left to right)
- ▶ Robert Nelson: Vice President
- ▶ Karli Beuck-Golliher: Secretary/
Treasurer
- ▶ Buddy Johnson: Member
- ▶ Casey Craven: Member
- ▶ Dawson MacLennan: President
- ▶ Andrea Richardson – District Manger

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes : Introduction

- ▶ Agate CD Board President, Glenn Benjamin welcomed the board, partners, special guests and cooperators to the annual meeting.
- ▶ Agate CD Board VP, Joe Craven lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ▶ The following introductions were made by Glenn Benjamin:

Agate CD Board (including VP, Joe Craven, Sec/Treas., Karli Golliher, member, Casey Craven, and member Dawson MacLennan), Agate CD District manager, Andrea Richardson, Paul Billig Deric Clemons, and Benny Kitten of NRCS, Christine Mergelman and Kari Harr of FSA, and Double El CD District Manager, Heather Cross.

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes : Business Session of Annual Meeting (Part One)

- ▶ Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President, Glenn Benjamin at 3:12 PM. In addition to Glenn Benjamin, Agate CD Board members Joe Craven, Karli Golliher, Dawson MacLennan and Casey Craven were present. Agate CD District Manager, Andrea Richardson and Paul Billig and Deric Clemons of NRCS were also in attendance.
- ▶ Visitors included: Christine Mergelman and Kari Harr of FSA, Benny Kitten of NRCS and Double El District Manager Heather Cross.
- ▶ The 2019 Agate CD Report was presented by Andrea Richardson.

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes : Business Session of Annual Meeting (Part Two)

- ▶ Minutes from 2018 Annual meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion was made from the floor to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as written. Motion was seconded by Fred Beuck; motion carried.
- ▶ The financial report from 2018 was distributed and reviewed. A motion was made by Casey Craven to accept all approve all expenditures and accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dawson MacLennan; motion carried.
- ▶ 2019 NRCS Report was delivered by Paul Billig.
- ▶ Agenda Additions: None

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Old Business

- ▶ 2019 Matching Grant Program: 12 landowners took part; nearly \$25,000 in assistance was awarded
- ▶ Long Range Plan: Adopted last year – goes through 2021
- ▶ LSF: One installed in 2019; replacements to be planted for two in 2020
- ▶ Meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at Glenn Benjamin's: 7:00 PM

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting

Minutes: New Business (Part One)

- ▶ Agate CD Board Elections: Next election: spring of 2020 (3yr term). Beginning in 2023, elections will be held in odd numbered years.
- ▶ 2020 Budget: To be adopted December 9, 2019.
- ▶ 2020 Matching Grants: No matching grants for 2020. Cooperators were asked to submit proposals for projects they'd like to take on in 2021.
- ▶ Living Snow Fence Projects: 40 replacements in two LSFs in 2020; budgeted for one additional LSF in 2020
- ▶ 2019 CACD Annual Meeting: 2018 Farm Bill will result in changes to FSA and NRCS programs. Elections for conservation districts will move to odd years starting in 2023. The 2020 budget and Annual Report will be available to view on DOLA website.

November 22, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: New Business (Part Two)

- ▶ Correspondence: None
- ▶ Adjournment: Dawson MacLennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:43 PM; the motion was seconded by Karli Gollither; motion carried. Meeting adjourned.
- ▶ Door prizes were awarded.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Richardson
Agate Conservation District Manager

Karli Gllither
Secretary/Treasurer
Agate Conservation District
Board of Supervisors

2019 Financial Report

Beginning Balance		\$127,102.56
Revenue		
PERC and Dozer Rental		\$10,887.75
Donations		\$70.00
Interest Income		\$2,124.63
Grants		
Direct Assistance Grant		\$7,151.42
CSCB Matching Grant		\$24,721.74
Total Revenue		\$44,955.54
Expenditures		
Administration		\$4,919.67
Payroll Tax		\$380.24
Office Supplies		\$556.91
Equipment Maintenance		\$717.41
Legal Notices/Ads		\$23.11
Meetings		\$725.72
Insurance		\$1,185.50
Dues and Subscriptions		\$1,330.00
Donations/Bonuses		\$75.00
Special Projects/LSF		\$1,507.97
Travel		\$28.50
CSCB Matching Grant Expense		\$22,934.74
CoCoRaHS Gauge Cost Share		\$20.75
Sundry		\$70.16
Total Expenditures		\$34,475.68
Annual Net Revenue		\$10,479.86
Ending Balance		\$137,582.42

Agate Conservation District President's Report

2020



Living Snow Fence Partnership



Ed Butler Memorial Living Snow Fence



Replacements

- ▶ Replacement trees for two living snow fences will begin in the spring of 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023.
- ▶ The Agate Conservation District welcomes the opportunity to partner with counties in our district on future living snow fence projects.

Community Outreach



Local Work Group Survey

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, resource concern information was collected through a mail survey. Land use categories included non-irrigated cropland, rangeland and pasture land. Across all land use areas the major concerns were pressure from noxious weeds and pests, long-term protection of the land and livestock production limits. Thank you to all of those that responded to the survey.

Poster Contest:

Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?

The Agate Conservation District is proud to have renewed our partnership with the Agate School District. This year, Agate's fifth grade students participated in a poster contest sponsored by the district. Awards were given to recognize the top three posters; the top two posters were submitted to Colorado Association of Conservation Districts to be judged at their annual meeting. Top finishers there will go on to compete at the national level. Congratulations to all the competitors for on a job well done.

1st Prize - Dot Veatch

Where Would We Bee Without Pollenators?

Insects Pollenate

\$10 BILLION
Worth of food
Every YEAR!

Insects Pollenate

3/4
Of all flowering plants!

1 out of **3**
Bites of food
Would not exist

Without If pollenators went
exticnt man would
only have
4 years to live



2nd Prize - Brei Turner



3rd Prize - Ava Williamson



Other

The Agate Conservation District continues to support local programs; this year it was proud to be a Buckle Sponsor at the Elbert County Fair.

Programs and Services



Programs

The District is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board to assist landowners with projects designed to improve range health. Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021. Please contact Andrea Richardson at (719) 400-9733 for additional details.



Programs



The district is currently offering to cost share the purchase of CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow) gauges. Data reported to the CoCoRaHS system is used to help monitor drought conditions in our area. Parties interested in purchasing a gauge with the intent of faithfully reporting data are encouraged to contact the district for additional information.

Services Available

The Agate Conservation District is continuing its partnership with the Double El Conservation District to lease equipment to help mitigate prairie dog infestations. The Pressurized Exhaust Rodent Control (PERC) machine is available to landowners in the area for a rate of \$25.00/hour (\$100.00 minimum). For additional information or to reserve the machine please contact the Double El Conservation District at (719) 541-2359 x 180 or Andrea Richardson at (719) 400-9733.



Announcements



Agate Conservation District

Applications for the Rangeland Health Matching Grant will be accepted from January 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021. For additional information or an application, please visit the website at conservation4you.org or contact the district at (719) 400-9733.

FSA

- ▶ Fall plant crops need to be certified with FSA by November 15, 2020.
- ▶ FSA is currently signing producers up for CFAP 2.0 and LFP.
- ▶ For additional Information, please contact the Simla FSA Office at (719) 541-2358.

NRCS

In lieu of hosting an in person rangeland health workshop, information regarding range health projects and practices has been posted on the conservation district website (conservation4you.org). Please contact the Agate Conservation District or NRCS for additional information.

NRCS Annual Report (Part One)

Natural Resources Conservation Service Annual Report FY 2020
Resource Team 15 (Douglas, El Paso, and Elbert Counties)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) draws on a long history of helping people help the land. NRCS has worked in close partnerships with farmers and ranchers, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes.

Fiscal Year 2020 has been a year like no other. Even with the onset of COVID-19, it has been our mission to assist our customers in the safest and most efficient ways possible. Our Simla and Franktown offices are currently open only by appointment. Visitors in the office must wear a mask and offices are sanitized after each visit. We ask all visitors to abide by this as the safety of our customers and staff is our biggest priority.

NRCS Annual Report (Part Two)

Even with the challenges faced this year NRCS Resource Team 15 has met the programmatic goals below:

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP):

Contracts: 41 Acres contracted: 37,401.2 Funds obligated: \$1.6 million

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

Contracts: 3 Acres contracted: 15,315.2 Funds obligated: \$293,000.00

The NRCS has a multitude of programs aimed at working with ranchers, farmers, and other producers to conserve the resources on their land while helping to sustain their agricultural productivity. To find out more information please contact your local NRCS field office or email Blongshia “B” Cha at blongshia.cha@usda.gov

Acknowledgements



Thank you Veterans.

The Agate Conservation District would like to express their gratitude and appreciation to all members of the United States Armed Services. We appreciate your service and sacrifice.

Thank you retired board members.

Thank you Glenn Benjamin and Joe Craven for your many years of service and dedication to the district.

Thank you local partners!

▶ NRCS

- Blongshia “B” Cha - Resource Conservationist
- Benny Kitten - Civil Engineering Technician
- Lori Ellefson - District Conservation Technician
- Scott Nicholson - Soil Conservationist

▶ FSA

- Christine Mergelman - County Executive Director
- Kari Harr - Lead Program Technician
- Megan Dotson - Program Technician

Contact Information

- ▶ We can be reached via e-mail at agatecocd@gmail.com, or by phone at (719) 400- 9733* or (719) 541-2358 x 104.
 - * If you have difficulty reaching the cell phone from a land line, please try from a cell phone.
- ▶ Our office remains in Simla at 504 Washington Avenue; please call to schedule an appointment to meet with the district manager in the office.
- ▶ Please visit our website: conservation4you.org for information and announcements