Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District
3590 E. Main Street Trinidad, CO 81082
(719) 497-3118 SPPRCD@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

1. **ROUTINE ITEMS:**
   - **A. Call meeting to order:** Joey DeGarbo called the meeting to order @ 12:09pm
   - **B. Roll call of attendance:**

Bill Wilkinson, President—absent	**Joey DeGarbo, Vice President**—present
Doug Taylor, Treasurer—present	**Tami Tamburelli, Member**—present
Nancy Monteleone, Member—present	**Bob Porter, Member**—present
Gaylene DeCristino, Member—present	

   - **C. District Employees & NRCS in attendance:** Keith Mantelli, Donna Albertson, Lori Chatterley, Sammie Molinaro
   - **D. Introduction of Guests/Audience:** Julie Knudson
   - **E. Recording of Time and Mileage:**

MEMBER	Previous total	Trips since last meeting	YTD TOTAL
Bill Wilkerson	**12**	-	**12**
Joey DeGarbo	**8**	1	**9**
Doug Taylor	**12**	2	**14**
Tami Tamburelli	**66**	1	**67**
Bob Porter	**6**	2	**8**
Nancy Monteleone	**6**	2	**8**
Gaylene DeCristino	**1**	1	**2**

2. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION and/or ACTION**
   - **A. Approval of Minutes:**
     1. August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting (Action Item)
     2. August 25, 2025 Special Meeting (Action Item)

Motion to approve both minutes by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Doug Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

   - **B. Approval of Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills & Salaries** (Action Item)

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Doug Taylor. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

   - **C. Building Report**
     1. USDA Lease renewal: no update
     2. T&T Electric Co. Inc—3 light replacements on garage; no charge for labor
     3. Alarm system/Wireless receiver/Cameras(Action Item)

Discussion about the need 2 more cameras for surveillance in the parking lot and lobby, how the cameras operate and backup and if the monthly cost would increase. Lori will find out on monthly cost. No action was taken.

     4. Parking Lot drainage improvement; additional drainage proposal (Action Item)

Discussion of additional drainage project involving 3 more gutters on the building to connect to the drain. Discussion of future change order needed for covered parking drainage that will need a special meeting. Motion to approve the change order for $7000 to connect 3 building gutters by Doug Taylor. Second: Nancy Monteleone. Abstain: Tami Tamburelli. Motion carried 5-0.

     5. PRWC Lease

Discussion of keeping the same rate. Lease expires in November. No action was taken.

   - **D. Outgoing Correspondence:** none
   - **E. Incoming Correspondence**

1. Fair Sale thank you cards: received from Paisley San Roman, Mariah McGraw, Conner McGraw
2. 2025 CO Poisonous Menace (horse noxious weed) booklet
3. Cultivating Colorado 2025-26
4. Upper Arkansas Watershed Meeting Sept. 18/virtual delegate (Action Item)

The board requested a reminder email on Sept. 17 with the virtual link. No action was taken.

5. San Isabel Electric Annual Meeting Sept. 20
6. DCT position

One person expressed interest in part time work as a DCT. The state has paused all hiring due to budgetary concerns and delay. Keith was asked if the position could be part-time. He said without the farm bill work, it could possibly be done 2-3 days/week once someone is trained. After some discussion, the board decided to wait until after October 15 to discuss the position at which point the federal government may have made some decisions that affect state funding.

F. New Business

1. Southeast CO Regional FFA Range Contest sponsorship (Action Item)

The board voted to match B-TCD with $750 for the range contest. Great event for the kids. Motion by Nancy Monteleone. Second: Doug Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Parking Lot Paving bid notice (Action Item)

Discussion of project. Lori should move forward on getting bids to pave the entire lot with milling of the old surface. Prefer if bidders visit the site. Need to find out if they will pave up to the building edges. There was also some discussion about the Hoehne bus drop off and pick up that causes dangerous traffic situations at the lot entrance. We will contact the movie theater owner also to discuss the liability. No formal action was taken.

3. Insurance policies & Commercial General Liability/Environmental Liability coverage renewal (Action Item)

Lori reported that Ed Greigo has tried to save money through consolidation of the policies, but the cost would rise. Motion to approve the Commercial General Liability/Environmental Liability and Notice of Terrorism coverage by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Nancy Monteleone. Motion carried 6-0.

4. 2026 Mill Levy & Budget:

Lori presented the Mill Levy info from the counties and last year's budget. The 2026 draft budget is due to the board by Oct. 15. Must publish a legal notice and have a public meeting. Final vote by Dec. 31 and due to the state by January 31, 2026.

5. Coffee Chat: Sammie will bring info to the next meeting.

G. Old Business

1. Edward Jones Account signers (Action Item)

Motion to approve Joey DeGarbo and Tami Tamburelli as Edward Jones account signers made by Nancy Monteleone. Second: Doug Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Draft MOA with Branson-Trinchera Conservation District (Action Item)

Branson-Trinchera CD agreed to support the District Manager with $5000 (adjusted for 2025 with the 3.5 months with no DM). It was also noted that if SP-PRCD has to pay for the DCT position on their own, the contract would be revisited. Motion to accept the MOA with B-TCD by Doug Taylor. Second: Tami Tamburelli. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Safety deposit box access @ InBank (Action Item)

Lori reported that the safety deposit box keys were located and the district needs to appoint signers/those who can access and/or close the box. Motion to remove the old signers and add Doug Taylor, Joey DeGarbo, and Lori Chatterley as those with access to the Safety Deposit Box at InBank and close it if necessary made by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Bob Porter. Motion carried 6-0.

4. Virtual Fencing Workshop Oct. 10 sponsorship (Action Item)

The workshop will be Oct. 10 in Walsenburg at the Community Center. Sammie was asked to bring back an official request for sponsorship to the October meeting. It would most likely be for coffee/donuts. No action was taken.

5. Commercial Spraying discussion

Lori researched several sources. No other conservation districts are doing commercial spraying. General recommendation is to contract with a sprayer. Further discussion postponed until the October meeting.

H. From the Board nothing reported

I. Las Animas County Planning and Zoning nothing reported

I. Weed Tech Report/Updates

Donna presented some weed contracts for signature. She has enough hours left in the CDA grant to finish the 2025 final report and write a grant for next year, if desired. The grant comes out in November, is due in December, is noticed in Spring and will backdate up to 90 days of expenses. She announced her retirement and suggested the district have a new employee in place by December 15 for training purposes. Without a replacement to spray and manage the weed program, the chances of receiving the grant are low. There is a lot to learn. She has certifications: Qualified Supervisor, Crops, Pasture, Range, Aquatic, and Right of Way. She gave a brief history of the program and how she started. The 2024-25 district cost share has 44 landowners with 14,019 acres and has paid out $11,848.00 with 11 left to complete paperwork. The 2025-26 district cost share has 39 landowners so far with 75,218 acres and has paid out $11,504.28 so far. She also reported that zebra mussel was found in the Colorado River and the Colorado Weed Management Association annual winter training is Dec. 10-11 in Pueblo.

J. District Technician Report

Keith presented his report.

- *2025 CSCB Matching Grant (fence) completions: Jeff Montoya, Doug Talbot (Action Item)*

Motion to approve the project completions by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

- *2025 District Cost Share completions: none*
- *2025-26 Supplemental Matching Grant Awards (Action Item)*

Keith presented a ranked list of the projects. Motion by Tami Tamburelli to approve the projects that fell within the budgeted funds. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

K. NRCS Report

Sammie reported that Zoe continues to work on the forestry cost shares, FSA approved 10 CRP applications, NRCS is done funding programs for the year, the Trinidad staff is supporting Walsenburg and Springfield and one Springfield staff member will be working a lot from Trinidad. A few satellite offices did not have leases renewed but so far none of them were USDA Service Centers. If hiring does start again in October, they expect only 1 of every 4 retired/lost positions will be replaced. Snotel Report shows precipitation average is 77% of normal.

L. Anything from the public

Julie Knudson reported on some potentially harmful but unlisted ornamental grasses planted at the Hilton. She offered to help with ideas for collaboration and grants for the weed program when Donna retires, but the district prefers to take the lead on anything moving forward.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Pursuant to §24-6-402 (4)(f), C.R.S., Personnel matters: District Manager 90 Day Evaluation

Motion made at 1:41pm to go into Executive Session pursuant to above statute made by Doug Taylor. Second: Bob Porter. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to return to open session at 2:03pm made by Doug Taylor. Second: Nancy Monteleone. Motion carried 6-0.

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4. ACTION ITEMS from Executive Session (as needed)*:*

1. District Manager 90 Day Evaluation

Lori was commended for her good work and given a significant wage increase. The board stated she should expect only small future cost of living increases. She was also given direction on rearranging the agenda, omitting some items, and the board's desire for meetings to be shorter, ideally 1-1.5 hours.

5. NEXT BOARD MEETING – Next meeting October 2, 2025 @ 12pm

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 2:12pm by Tami Tamburelli to adjourn. Second: Doug Taylor. Motion carried 6-0.

Signed: Lori Chatterton Date: 9-5-25

SP-PRCD District Manger