DECEMBER 11, 2025
12:00 PM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
MINUTES

Bill Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 12:14pm.

1. **ROUTINE ITEMS:**
   - **A. Call Meeting to Order & Roll Call of Attendance:**

     Bill Wilkinson, President—present
     Joey DeGarbo, Vice President—present
     Doug Taylor, Treasurer—absent
     Tami Tamburelli, Member—present
     Bob Porter, Member—present
     Nancy Monteleone, Member—present
     Gaylene DeCristino, Member—present
   - **B. District Employees & NRCS Staff in attendance:** Zoe Moffett, Keith Mantelli, Sammie Molinaro, Lori Chatterley, and Garth Schaefer
   - **C. Introduction of Guests—**Randee DeCristino
   - **D. Approval of Minutes:** November 6, 2025

Motion by Joey DeGarbo to approve the minutes as presented. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

- **E. Approval of Treasurer's Report/Financials:** November 2025

Motion by Tami Tamburelli to approve the Treasurer's Report/Financials as presented. Second: Joey DeGarbo. Motion carried 6-0.

- **F. Recording of Time and Mileage:**

MEMBER	Previous total	Trips since last meeting	YTD TOTAL
Bill Wilkerson	**15**	2	**17**
Joey DeGarbo	**14**	2	**16**
Doug Taylor	**18**	-	**18**
Tami Tamburelli	**73**	1	**74**
Bob Porter	**12**	1	**13**
Nancy Monteleone	**12**	1	**13**
Gaylene DeCristino	**4**	1	**5**

- **G. Public Input (limited to 3 minutes)—**None

The board elected to go into Executive Session at 12:18pm pursuant to the below mentioned statutes. Motion by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Bob Porter. Motion carried 6-0.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
   - **A. §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.,** Personnel matters: District Weed Technician position
   - **B. §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S.,** Personnel matters: District Conservation Technician applicants
   - **C. §24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S.,** Matters that may be subject to negotiations: Parking lot paving project.

Motion to return to open session at 1:25pm by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Nancy Monteleone. Motion carried 6-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. DELIBERATE AND ACT: USDA Lease Renewal Rate

After some discussion of rising utility rates and the going rate per square footage for rentals/lease of business buildings in our area, the board asked Lori Chatterley to contact Jared Tortorelli for some research before deciding. No action was taken.

B. DELIBERATE AND ACT: CACD 2026 Membership Extension offer

Lori explained that the CACD 2025 Dues had a bookkeeping error and the district was not able to vote at the annual meeting. CACD offered to extend those dues into the 2026 payment.

Motion to accept the offer by Joey DeGarbo. Second: Tami Tamburelli. Motion carried 6-0.

C. DELIBERATE AND ACT: Acceptance of 2026 DCT Award from CSCB

The CSCB has fully funded the DCT "Farmbill District Conservation Technician" for 2026 at $50,806.00 which is slightly less than 2025 due to Keith Mantelli's retirement and wage rate for a new hire. Lori confirmed that the district may hire someone new to replace Keith. Motion to accept the grant by Tami Tamburelli. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

D. PUBLIC HEARING: 2026 Final Budget

No one was present for the budget hearing.

E. DELIBERATE AND ACT: 2026 Final Budget, Mill Levy Certification, and Budget Attachments Adoption

There were some questions regarding insurance costs which had been separated out to be more specific versus the prior year when they were lumped together. Also there was some clarification on the two mileage reimbursement categories. Lori explained that payroll—mileage was for trainings, etc. Trips to Branson-Trinchera meetings were in NRCS vehicles and did not charge mileage. There was also some explanation regarding the DCT and Weed Programs being adjusted back to full amounts in anticipation of hiring full time employees. Tami Tamburelli made a motion to approve the budget as submitted with the document attachments. Second: Joey DeGarbo. Motion carried 6-0.

F. DELIBERATE AND ACT: Gas meter protective barrier estimate

Item was skipped. The city already replaced the bumpers as it is their gas meter.

G. DELIBERATE AND ACT: Admin Authorization Letter for Quickbooks

Lori presented the letter with the request to remove all other names besides her on the Quickbooks account, particularly removing Gillian Maria as the Primary Contact. It was clarified that the contact email will now be directly to the district spprcd@gmail.com. Motion to approve the letter by Joey DeGarbo. Second: Bob Porter.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**—

The Paving Project was added to old business: The board discussed the desire to send a letter to Rock 'M Inc stating that the other half of the payment will be made with a reference to the 2 year warranty in the contract and that it would behoove them to sealcoat the parking lot within a year at their cost per Mike Morgan's suggestion to Lori Chatterley via phone that the District do that within a year on November 10, 2025 after the meeting to discuss defects. Lori is to draft the letter and send a draft to the board as well as prepare payment asap. No finance charge will be paid. Lori also reported that she is taking ongoing photos to document the condition, particularly after weather events. Lori asked about any inspections. The board decided not to take action on an official inspection. Motion to pay the balance due on the invoice (the remaining half) by: Joey DeGarbo. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

5. **REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/ETC.**

A. **DISCUSSION:** Exemption from Audit

We had an inquiry from someone from Divide, CO via email. The bookkeeper can also do it for less cost. It is difficult to find more options. Maybe one in Colorado Springs if needed. This discussion will come back in January. No action was taken.

B. **DISCUSSION:** CDA Grant

The board expressed belief in the noxious weed program and the good it has done under Donna's stewardship. Even though Donna was not able to attend due to a conflict, she had sent in a budget for the 2026 CDA Grant application. There was some discussion about continuity moving forward with the District Manager needing to know more about the grant that is submitted. There was a brief discussion about Donna's retirement. Joey DeGarbo volunteered to be present on her last day to thank her. The board would like to do a gift certificate for her to be discussed in January. Motion to approve the submission of the 2026 CDA Grant by Joey DeGarbo. Second: Bob Porter. Motion carried 6-0.

C. **REPORT:** District Manager

Lori presented her report and gave a brief overview of anything that had not come up in the meeting such as correspondence and grant publicity pieces. Branson-Trinchera CD did pay their part toward wages. The 2025 CSCB MG report is due the 20th. Tami asked about the parking lot after snow removal. Lori reported that most snow was pushed where we asked and that some pavement that came up is not the fault of Leone's. Keith explained how the corners in certain areas around the lot would probably do the same.

D. **REPORT:** District Weed Technician

Donna was unable to be there but submitted her report to the board via email and it was also in the packet. Lori reported she had already increased the herbicide and district cost share for noxious weeds line items. The only reason they had been decreased in the

draft budget was when the board was unsure about hiring someone full time or at all. Herbicide is now at $30,000 which is more than what we spent in 2025. The cost share was budgeted at $30,000 which is above what was paid out in the 2025 calendar year. There was a discussion about not having a lot of additional chemical on hand because we don't know what will happen with who is hired moving forward. Although the board is hoping to hire someone, the program may look different in the future depending on what happens. There was one new sign up, Able Benevidas, that Keith presented. Chemical sales should be limited to the current cost share participants for now. In terms of sales after Donna leaves, there should be a book that has sales recorded and prices are usually on the boxes. Lori was asked to see if there were any more herbicide outstanding on account. The board reviewed the position description and advertisement Lori made. The board reviewed the position description and advertisement in Executive Session. Motion to approve the position description and the advertisement by Tami Tamburelli and Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

E. REPORT: District Conservation Technician

Keith presented his report of activities for November at the end of the meeting as it had accidentally been skipped. Jerry Olsen and Frank Sciacca were moved to the District Cost Share. Ramon Zamora was moved to the CSCB Supplemental. He did a lot of check outs. Two remain on the district cost share that are due Dec. 19. One should be complete by tomorrow and the other may not complete due to delays. There are two more on the CSCB Supplemental that may complete by the end of December. The board expressed gratitude and appreciation for all Keith has done through the years. Keith said if anyone has questions or concerns or needs help, they are welcome to call anytime. He is happy to be involved a little if needed. There was a discussion about if NRCS work was still part of the DCT position since CSCB has been funding the DCT since the end of September. Sammie was going to find out more from CSCB as Lori had been told the DCT was fully funded for 2026 and she was approved to hire by CSCB. Funding was listed for the "Farmbill DCT Program" by the CSCB. Garth thought it was for both NRCS and DCT work. Keith said usually NRCS pays 75%, CSCB pays 20% and the district pays 5%. Either way NRCS will still help train someone new and Joe/James can also help wrap up existing projects with final checkouts.

F. DELIBERATE AND ACT: Cost Share completions

Keith presented 17 cost shares that had been completed and to be approved as listed below:

- CSCB 2025-26 Supplemental Matching Grant Cost Share: Nick Sciacca (pumping plant) $1350.00; OK Ranch (fence) $2033; Tracie Falduto (fence) $2033; Ramon Zamora (fence) $2079; Robert Campbell/Lillian Provenza (fence) $1855.70
- CSCB 2025 Matching Grant (fencing) Cost Share: Phyllis Blasi $2033; Veltri Land and Cattle LLC $2033; J&B DeGarbo Farm LLC $2033; Jim Dunford $2033; Keith Mantelli $1524.60

- 2025 District Cost Share: James Duran (solar pumping plant) $5000; Frank Sciacca (fence) $2033; Jerry Olson (fence) $2033; Joe Amato (irrigation system) $1181.25; Jessica Dalrick (livestock shelter structure) $3128.30; Bill Wilkinson (fence) $4736.04; Brent Tamburelli (fence) $4065.60

Motion to approve the cost shares completion payments by Joey DeGarbo. Second: Tami Tamburelli. Motion carried 6-0.

G. REPORT: NRCS Staff

Zoe reported on the status of the 3 forestry projects in the 2025-26 CSCB Supplemental Matching Grant cost share. Two are making progress and the other is about to begin. Sammie gave his report. There was a 5% loss for Las Animas County forage production for 2025. He gave updates on the USDA/NRCS staffing and a new regenerative Ag program. January 15 is the tentative deadline for new NRCS conservation practices. He is getting the word out on the Las Animas County Wildfire Protection Plan community meetings. We are 50% of normal on precipitation since July 1.
CRP Applications for Jason Marques, Tracie Falduto, Williams Land & Cattle, Winter J. Cross Ranch have to be signed by the board per Ramon Zamora. Motion to sign the CRP Plans by Nancy Monteleone. Second: Gaylene DeCristino. Motion carried 6-0.

H. ITEMS FROM THE BOARD

There was a discussion about selling herbicide moving forward. Tami offered to come by and help Lori if they set a specific day/time for anyone inquiring. Keith also discussed advertising the District and CSCB cost shares which usually happens in January and will get with Lori to explain. Lori will also forward any DCT applicants via email so the board can think over them before the January meeting. Anyone who calls for the weed program or DCT will be told we had some retirements and are transitioning. NRCS can help with finishing up the current projects for the DCT. Garth Schaefer from CSCB reported that there were new officers elected for CSCB. Maggie Hanna is President and our representative. They are releasing a new urban Ag grant which will be food consumed close to where it is produced. Tami will write a letter of support for Zoe who is working on a grant for outreach to landowners with forestry projects.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION –held earlier

5. NEXT BOARD MEETING – Next meeting January 15, 2026 @ 12pm (Tami will not be present); The February meeting will be February 12, 2025.

7. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:38pm by Joey DeGarbo. Second: Tami Tamburelli. Motion carried 6-0.