

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE

Board of Directors and Advisors

November 12, 2008

5:30 PM

South Routt Community Center, Oak Creek



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CALL TO ORDER

The Community Agriculture Alliance Board met November 12, 2008 at the South Routt Community Center in Oak Creek. The meeting was called to order by co-chair Medora Fralick. The group ate a light supper during the course of the meeting.

Roll Call -- Present were:

Board of Directors:

Barry Castagnasso
Medora Fralick
Vonnie Frentress
Diane Holly
Lori Jazwick
Charlotte Kuntz
Brett Mason
Lyman Orton
Sandra Sherrod
Kathy Smith

Advisors:

Christy Belton
Tammie Delaney
Carl Herold
Terry Huffington

Staff:

Marsha Daughenbaugh

Guests:

Lisa Gamber
Lynne Garell

Not present were Katie Brown, Rod Hanna, Pete Kurtz, Tommy Rossi, Adonna Allen, Chad Bedell, Geoff Blakeslee, Terry Jost, John Kerst, Nick Metzler, Nancy Merrill, CJ Mucklow, Wanda Redmond, Nancy Stahoviak, Jo Stanko and Rich Tremaine.

ADMINISTRATIVE

It was moved by Sandra, seconded by Kathy and unanimously approved that the **minutes from the August 13, 2008 meeting be accepted as written.**

It was moved by Lori, seconded by Barry and unanimously approved that the following **Sexual Harassment Policy** be approved for the Community Agriculture Alliance:

The Community Agriculture Alliance does not condone and will not tolerate sexual harassment in any form by any member of the staff or on the part of any board members, committee members, or volunteers while engaged in Community Agriculture Alliance activities. Such conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal and/or expulsion from further activity within the organization.

For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature when:

- 1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or volunteer participation*
- 2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or participation*
- 3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.*

Medora distributed a copy of the **Board of Directors/Advisors contact list** and asked everyone to review and update their information.

Tammie reported that the **Vision 2030** community meetings are being well attended throughout the county: Lyman, Carl and Terry have each attended a meeting and they felt the programs were well done. Vision 2030 data and comments have been reviewed by 12 different focus groups, each reading comments and suggestions sorted to a particular area. The interim report was released in September and the final report will be completed by March 31.

Marsha reported that the Executive Board approved a job description for an **administrative assistant** position and that four people have shown an interest in the job, which will be filled as soon as possible.

Brett reported that an **orientation for our new directors and advisors** was held October 30. Diane, Christy, Terry Jost, Medora, Brett and Marsha attended.

Marsha reported that at the urging of the Executive Committee, she accepted a position on the **Steamboat Springs Economic Development Council** and is looking forward to the opportunities that this will present. She has resigned from the SS Chamber Marketing Committee.

Carl reported that the **Annual Ag Gathering** on November 9 was well attended and recommended that it be continued. Community Ag Alliance, Routt County CattleWomen, Routt County Cattlemen, Routt County Conservation District, Routt County Farm Bureau and Tri-county Farmers Union co-sponsored the event with most of the organizations having their fall meetings prior to a dinner.

DIRECTOR AND ADVISOR UPDATES

Medora and Barry – the horse market is in flux, from non-existent to exorbitant sale prices for all types of horses. This is due to both the current economic crisis and to the slaughter ban

Carl – pressure from animal rights groups continues to mount with some states passing issues that will seriously impact how confined animals must be treated and disposed of – in particular animals, such as dairy cows, chickens and swine, that are raised in confinement. Colorado legislature addressed and defeated an issue early this summer that would have forced an annual \$25 per horsepower fine against any tractor manufactured before 2003. Farm Bureau has stayed active with their research and lobbying efforts as these and other issues arise.

Marsha – it was a good summer in the Lower Elk River Valley: good hay, water and cattle gains

Lyman – he was able to hay his property on Emerald Mountain this year for the first time and was pleased with both the yield and the ambience

Tammie – their garden did very well this year, producing melons and pumpkins in addition to the normal vegetables

Diane – hunting has become her major source of ranch income and the results have been varied between the seasons due to warm fall weather and last winter's elk losses

Lori – NRCS is busy trying to decipher the 2008 Farm Bill and will be presenting educational forums next spring. Nationwide, NRCS failed an OIG audit so each local office is going to be reviewed during November and December

Kathy – their hay crop was good, the cattle gained well and the prices were good for them. Hunting successes have been limited.

Lynne – her garden did very well this summer with bumper crops of garlic and potatoes

Lisa – she was involved with a Community Supported Agriculture venture this summer that brought fruits and vegetables from the Palisade area and is becoming involved with a Front Range CSA that will deliver dairy product to Routt County. Both endeavors have waiting lists of people who would like to participate

Christy – served as a Colorado delegate for 2008 Legislation Fly-in to Washington DC sponsored by Rocky Mountain Farmers Union and was able to visit with most of the Colorado delegation addressing lots of ag issues, including water and the new farm bill. Routt County agriculture land sales are due mostly to recreational opportunities and many new landowners are providing job opportunities to local young ranchers.

Charlotte – their hay crop was good and the calves gained well this summer, the fishing has been great, bear numbers are up and the elk numbers are down

Terry – they improved the irrigation system on their property and produced their best hay crop. They are constructing a large greenhouse to begin a commercial vegetable operation but have encountered a lot of county planning issues. They have lots of elk and bear

Vonnie – good hay and wheat crop this summer. Wheat prices fell during harvest and they are storing most of their crop. Calves gained well and their garden did great – they discovered neither they nor their cattle like turnips.

Sandra – a new show at the Artists' Gallery of Steamboat will feature boots and should be entertaining to everyone regardless of what type of boots we wear

Brett – their hay crop was good and the kids did well with their swine program at the county fair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Sandra Sherrod, Chair

Financial Update:

Community Ag Alliance at Wells Fargo	\$13,428.26
YVCF Endowment Fund	<u>\$13,013.80</u>
	\$26,442.06

2008 Membership to Date = \$23,198.16 from 127 individuals/businesses
 2008 NWCP Membership = \$1,250 from 21 producers + 2 retail

Sandra has reviewed and balanced the following accounts:

Community Ag Alliance General Operating Fund	Wells Fargo Bank
Endowment Fund	Yampa Valley Community Foundation
North Western Colorado Bull Sale	Alpine Bank

Checking Account has been opened at Mountain Valley Bank for the CHT funds

Status of Grants

Received:

Wells Fargo	\$ 250	NWCP
CO Sheep and Wool	\$ 250	Ranch Tours
Steamboat Ski Corp	\$ 1,000	Land Stewardship Courses
Steamboat Chamber	\$ 1,642	Ranch Tours

Applied:

Routt County	\$10,000	General Operating Funds
City of Steamboat Springs	\$ 8,000	GOF + NWCP
Yampa Valley Community Foundation	\$10,000	GOF + NWCP
Hayden EDC	\$ 2,500	NWCP
Impact 100	Unspecified	GOF

Confirmed but Pending:

Colorado Cultural Heritage	\$33,000	CHT
Matching Regional Funds	\$23,650	CHT
CO Sheep and Wool	\$ 250	NWCP

Cayuse Classic

June 21, 2008 hosted by Sidney Peak Ranch
 Total Income = \$35372.73; Expenses to Date = \$15,808.27
 Catering Bill is still outstanding
 2009 = June 13

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Report by Lori Jazwick, Co-chair

Routt County Agriculture Newsletter – Edition #16 Goes Out Nov 20, 2008

Community Ag Column – continues as scheduled

Yampa Valley Almanac – airs on KQZR (97.3 M) at 1:34 PM Monday through Friday

Bark Beetle Task Force Seminars

“Local People – Local Wood: Making The Connection”

May 15 was the last of four seminars – included a tour of the Rogue milling operation

Approx 50 people attended that seminar – others had attendance between 80-100

Water Forum – June 6

9 speakers – 80 participants

RCCD served as host organization – Ag Alliance served on committee with four other sponsors

Cow Town Ranch Tours

Tour on: July 3, 17, 24

86 Participants,

Elk River Valley with stops at Belton Ranch and M&M Elk Ranch

Elk River Valley with stops at Carlson Ranch and Brown Ranch

Twentymile Park with stops at Shoemaker Ranch and Hogue Ranch

July 10 Tour was cancelled

Gross Income for winter and summer tours = \$4637.00; Total Expenses = \$4381.41

Net (split 50/50 with Extension) = \$ 255.59

Heritage Ranch Family Awards at Steamboat Ranch Rodeo – July 6

Lazy J Quarter Circle Ranch (Long Family), The Monger Family and Jerry & Judy Green

Ranch Rendezvous – July 26

Court House Back Parking Lot

25+ Booths/Activities

Partnership with Steamboat Ski and Resort

Horse Shoe Pitching Contest – August 16

11 community teams and 5 business teams

Gross Income = \$445.00; Expenses = \$274.33; Net = \$170.67

Steamboat Smoke House and Klauzer & Tremaine helped sponsor

Annual Fall Ag Meetings and Dinner – November 9

100+ people attended

Co-sponsored by Ag Alliance, RCCW, Cattlemen, RCCD, FU, FB

Vision 2030

Tammie is project manager and Marsha is co-chair of Citizens Committee

Tammie and Marsha met with the Orton Foundation – July 10

Data Processing of 1500 surveys and +7500 comments is completed

13 Focus Groups have completed recommendations

Karen Kowakowski and Marsha served as co-chairs of the Open Space and Ag Group

Community Meetings are currently being held

Final Report Will be ready by March 31, 2009

Western Heritage Partnership

Diorama at the Transit Center has been installed: Heritage work will be done this winter

“The Spirit Endures” statuette is available

Community Indicators – New report to be printed by February 2009

Marsha and CJ serve on the agriculture & environment group

Ag Alliance will have an ad in the report

Groups Marsha has Spoken to:

Steamboat Springs Kiwanis – September 29

Leadership Steamboat – November 5

Meetings Marsha Attended:

Monthly Bark Beetle Information Task Force

Monthly Chamber Marketing Committee – resigned as of November 1

Monthly Steamboat Springs EDC – appointed October 22

Pinnacle Assurance “Back Injury” Seminar – May 21

Steamboat Springs Economic Summit on Transportation – May 21-22

Cultural Heritage Tourism meeting in Craig – July 22

Judge (with Lori) for the Outstanding 4-H Member – August 13

Beef Field Day in Grand County – September 16

Judge for Chili Cook-off at “West meets the South” – Sept 13

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council Symposium – Sept 19 (Ag Alliance and NWCP had booths)

Non-profit Political Engagement Seminar – September 25

Colorado Water Symposium (with Lori) in Vail – October 1-2

CMC Historic Preservation Update – October 15

YVCF Seminar on new IRS Regulations for 501(c)3 organizations – November 5

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS COMMITTEE – Report by Tammie Delaney and Carl Herold, Co-chairs

Northwest Colorado Products -*Encompassing People, Places and Products of Northwest Colorado*

Report prepared by Nancy Kramer

Membership: 22 Producer members and 2 Retail members

Marketing and Development:

- Membership brochures designed and distributed (200) throughout summer. Thank you to the Natural Resource Conservation District for printing them!
- Initiated new website for NWCP - www.nwcproducts.org initiated 11/08/08. Update will occur over the next two weeks
- Presentation to Craig Economic Development Partnership
- October report to Hayden Economic Development Council and request for 2009 funding of \$2,500. Funding level will be confirmed in December after their budget meeting.

Special Events:

- Co-hosted display and information booth at Steamboat Farmers Market throughout summer.
- Hosted display and information booth at 10th Annual Sheep Wagon Days in Craig October 4th and 5th.
- Hosting Hometown Holiday Shopping Gala featuring 34 vendors (16 NWCP members) including artisan, crafters and food producers on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at the Steamboat Springs Community Center. This event is co-hosted with Routt County Woolens, the originator of the event.
- Working with Terry Brown on producer survey to direct us in providing preferred technical assistance workshops and forums. Draft survey questions will be presented to NWCP Board in December.

Deep Roots of Northwest Colorado Local Food Trust

Report prepared by Nancy Kramer

Mission: *Deep Roots Community Food Share believes a thriving and sustainable local food economy is a critical element of our healthy Northwest Colorado community.*

Vision: *Northwest Colorado is a place where local sustainable food production is abundant !*

- Ongoing facilitation of organization development including incorporation and by-law documents, committee structure and initiation of policies and procedures.
- Ongoing assistance in training volunteer staff to organization.
- Participating in community projects concept developments.
- Assist in identifying funding sources for organization and projects.
- Initial discussion and development for *What's in Our Foodshed II* – keynote speaker and breakout sessions.
- Assisting local group interested in developing a greenhouse supported by cogeneration energy from the Hayden power plant to grow local produce with proposal development and funding options for feasibility and capital.

Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism Project

Report prepared by Nancy Kramer

Northwest Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism Project (NWCCHT) is an initiative under the fiscal agency and guidance of the Community Agriculture Alliance. The NWCCHT includes Jackson, Routt Moffat and Rio Blanco counties and 13 communities.

- Assisted Marsha in bringing proposal to Community Agriculture Alliance Executive Board to accept the fiscal agency for the NWCCHT to allow for grant application for \$50,000 to Colorado Cultural Heritage Tourism program. Kramer is volunteer project grant writer and coordinator.
- Hosted State CHT program Director and convened regional representatives for discussions regarding state grant award possibility that would rejuvenation the NWCCHT project.
- Completed grant proposal and oral presentation requirement.
 - Recruited 30 organizations and 6 individuals as regional partners
 - Solicited and confirmed 14 funding partners for a total of \$23,650
- \$33,000 grant awarded to NWCCHT
- Kramer attended Governors Tourism Conference on scholarship
- Ongoing collection of matching funds
- State CHT office is drawing up grant contract. Anticipate contract will be signed and monies will arrive in December.

Northwest Colorado Bull Sale

Ag Alliance Letter is written and signed by officers

Bull Sale Committee will meet November 18

Lisa Gamber and Lynne Garell visited with the Directors and Advisors about the **Deep Roots** organization, explaining that it started as a result of the “What’s In Your Foodshed” forum hosted by Ag Alliance, NRCS and Routt County Extension on March 29, 2008. They are developing programs to bring together community members, local producers of agricultural products and civic leaders to implement strategic and educational projects that cultivate local, sustainable food systems. The organization has been fostered with Nancy Kramer and plan to stay with Community Agriculture Alliance/NWCP until they achieve their own organizational success. They would like to partner with Ag Alliance whenever applicable so that a better understanding of the local needs and institutional knowledge can be achieved. They will maintain their own finances and board of directors.

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Report by Lyman Orton, Chair

Land Stewardship 202 Course
September 16, 23, 30; October 7,14,21
14 participants
Net Income = \$1300; Net Expenses to be Determined

Land Stewardship 101 Course
January and February 2009

The Land Stewardship Committee met October 30, nine people attended, developing two proposed advocacy positions:

Proposed Advocacy #1

Support the Deep Roots Local Food Trust of the Yampa Valley under the Community Agriculture Alliance Northwest Colorado Products Program

Proposed Program Development

Review any agricultural land use policy changes when proposed by Deep Roots
i.e: HOA prohibition of home gardens, county ag tax status for commercial nurseries
Develop better understanding between traditional ag producers, home producers and consumers
Assist Deep Roots with venture capitalism process

Proposed Advocacy #2

Protect current water right appropriations that exist in the Yampa Valley, including but not limited to Agriculture, Municipal, Utilities and Recreation.

Proposed Program Development:

Ascertain all agencies, organizations and groups within the Yampa River Basin that have water interests
Develop a contact database for the groups
Convene all groups to start discussions
Develop a partnership with a wide variety of water agencies, organizations and groups
Determine specific resources and interest levels
Determine Yampa Basin Roundtable acceptance of said partnership
Develop a community-wide water education program
Research “Out-of-the-Box” Concepts
Offer community-wide input opportunities
Develop a Northwest Colorado Advocacy Statement regarding water quality, quantity and use
Be pro-active with regional, state and national water issues

The Board of Directors and Advisors discussed both of the proposals at length. It was moved by Lyman, seconded by Sandra and unanimously approved that the Community Agriculture Alliance endorse and accept the Land Stewardship Committee report.

Ag Alliance congratulated the Deep Roots organization for their enthusiasm and forward-thinking on local food issues and encouraged them to keep us informed on their progress and their needs as they continue to develop their programs.

The Board instructed Marsha to convene interested Ag Alliance Board and Advisor members, develop a business plan and begin work as soon as possible on the water issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Medora presented a thank-you gift to Tammie for her long-standing service to the Community Agriculture Alliance Board. Jo Stanko received her thank-you gift at the Annual Ag Dinner on November 9. Marsha will deliver gifts to Rich Tremaine and Greg Brown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Vonnie Frentress
Secretary

Marsha Daughenbaugh
Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:
February 11
Noon
Steamboat Springs**