

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE

Board of Directors and Advisors

February 13, 2008

11:30 AM

Steamboat Smoke House



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Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477

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www.communityagalliance.org

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Agriculture Alliance Board met February 13, 2008 at the Steamboat Smoke House. The meeting was called to order by co-chair Rich Tremaine.

Roll Call -- Present were:

Board of Directors:

Greg Brown
Katie Brown
Barry Castagnasso
Tammie Delaney
Vonnie Frentress
Rod Hanna
Lori Jazwick
Pete Kurtz
Charlotte Kuntz
Sandra Sherrod
Kathy Smith
Rich Tremaine

Advisors:

Adonna Allen
Chad Bedell
Carl Herold
Nick Metzler
Nancy Merrill
Nancy Stahoviak

Guests:

Claire Sollars
Karen Kosakowski
Michael Bye
Don Downing

Staff:

Marsha Daughenbaugh
Nancy Kramer

Not present were Medora Fralick, Lyman Orton, Terry Huffington, Terry Jost, John Kerst, Mike Lomas, Brett Mason, CJ Mucklow, Colby Townsend.

ADMINISTRATIVE

It was moved by Adonna, seconded by Tammie and unanimously approved that the **minutes from the November 14, 2007 meeting be accepted as written.**

It was moved by Kathy, seconded by Pete and unanimously approved that the following **amendment to the bylaws** of the Community Agriculture Alliance be adopted:

A. Committee Meetings.

The meeting schedule of the Community Agriculture Alliance shall be:

Executive Committee = Meeting Dates to be Selected at the Convenience of the Committee to be held in January, April, July and October

Board of Directors and Advisors = Second Wednesday in February, May, August and November

Committees: As needed in March, June, September and December

A sheet was passed among the Board and Advisors allowing them to sign for **2008 Volunteer Opportunities.**

The following lists were distributed to the Directors and Advisors:

Board Contact List (attachment #1)

2008 Calendar of Community Ag Alliance Events and Meetings (attachment #2)

Community Ag Column Assignments (attachment #3)

Tammie reported **Vision 2030** is continuing its efforts to gather input from Routt County residents. New co-chairs have been elected (Marsha Daughenbaugh and Kathy Stokes) and new committee chairs have been appointed for 2008.

Thank you note from the Routt County Conservation District (donation of items for a “local basket” their state meeting) was read.

ROUND TABLE BOARD UPDATES

Tammie – Hayden EDC is discussing the direction of future commercial ventures by analyzing the value of local assets, cultural asset, agri-tourism and “big-box” stores.

Karen – Current participant of Leadership Steamboat and has chosen Ag Alliance as her research organization. She lives in North Routt, raises alpacas and is interested in local products.

Carl – the US Humane Society has filed letters of concern regarding hog, dairy calves and chicken confinement operations. Many state legislatures, including Colorado, have introduced bills dealing with these issues including the hunting of confined wildlife.

Pete – they have spent much of the winter in a rural area of Texas and are discovering how progressive Routt County is with our varied organizations and scholarship programs.

Nick – their family continues to be active with the Humble Ranch program, which utilizes horses and llamas with training programs for disabled people. The connection between agriculture and other programs has great potential that is proving successful in many ways.

Nancy S – the Routt County Board of Commissioners have approved the 2008 donation to Community Ag Alliance and feels that the money is well spent. The PDR Board will soon be providing a report of all PDR properties, which will detail full use of the public’s resources under the program.

Nancy K – NWCP is an exciting venture that continues to move forward. She is busy planning the March 29 annual meeting and the Foodshed Program.

Marsha – the current LS-101 course is going well and the 25 participants have been interactive with the presenters, many of whom are Ag Alliance Board members.

Sandra – The First Friday Art Walk is a great success with more people attending each month. One reason for the success is that it is allowing people to get to know each other and our community better. Sandra recently read “The Coming China Wars” and highly recommends it if you are interested in local products and local people.

Greg – the snow level is above sheep level.

Chad – Marabou’s infrastructure was completed in 2007 and he will focus on the agricultural components of the LPS development, including farming, haying, grass feed beef, access to private property, bird inventories, weed control and a disabled program.

Charlotte – lots of snow shoveling this winter.

Rod – the Steamboat Art Museum has a wonderful exhibit by EW Gollings and everyone should try to attend. Sidney Peak Ranch is dealing with water right issues that are proving to be complex.

Vonnie – because of the late fall they were able to plant lots of winter wheat and prepare ground for Coors barley plantings this spring. They have increased their weed enforcement efforts that become more difficult as more development occurs in their area.

Kathy – lots of snow and wind this winter. They are dealing with both water and access issues on their ranching operations.

Barry – “Draft Horses are Green” and environmentally friendly. His horses did very well at Stock Show but unfortunately ag economics continue to downturn because of the high cost of doing business.

Nancy M – will be involved with weekly birding walks at the Carpenter Ranch this spring and is working on a project to update the Breeding Book Atlas which is an inventory of selected properties. Their property is currently facing two separate issues: litigation filed against the members of Walker Ditch and an IRS audit of their 2003 conservation easement.

Lori – the latest snow survey puts moisture content at 114% above average. RCCD is coordinating the water forum to be held on June 6. Congress still has not passed the 2007 Farm Bill so USDA continues to operate with temporary funding.

Adonna – lots of snow and her husband wants a new tractor to move it.

Claire – serves on the PDR board and they are dealing with access, water and IRS issues. She is concerned about the long-term effects of water issues in NW Colorado including the proposed pipelines.

Katie – Intrawest, new owner of Ski Corp, has a “do-no-harm” policy and will continue the previous policies of heritage protection and family-friendly resort.

Rich – water is an issue that is catching everyone’s attention – the NY Times had two articles in today’s edition that discussed Colorado’s water, the I-70 corridor and Colorado River Basin water studies. He recommended everyone read “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle” to better understand the issues of buying our food locally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Report by Rich Tremaine for Medora Fralick, Co-chair

2007 End of Year Report

Financial Balance on December 31, 2007

Community Ag Alliance at Wells Fargo	\$ 3647.50
YVCF Endowment Fund	<u>\$37,888.56</u>
	\$41,536.06

2007 Membership = \$42,440.00 from 136 individuals/businesses

2006 Membership = \$29,875.00 from 90 individuals/businesses

Status of Grants

Received:

Routt County	\$10,000	General Operating Funds
City of Steamboat Springs	\$ 6,000	General Operating Funds
YV Community Foundation	\$ 2,500	NWCP
WSARE	\$ 250	NWCP
Daniels Business College	In-kind	NWCP
Steamboat Springs Chamber	\$ 4,000	Cayuse Classic Marketing
Steamboat Springs Chamber	\$ 2,000	Cow Town Ranch Tours Mktg
Colorado Council of the Arts	\$ 500	NWCP

Denied:

Yampa Valley Beef	Unspecified	General Operating Funds
El Pomar	\$10,000	NWCP

Cayuse Classic

Income	\$39,533.91
Expenses	<u>\$29,161.57</u>
Net	\$10,372.34

Special Contributions:

Never Summer Alpacas	\$500 from their spring yearling sales
Colorado Group Realty	\$1000 from the Community Appreciation Fund
Routt County Woolens	\$165.00 from their Hometown Holiday Gala
Artists' Gallery of Steamboat	\$1024.50 from their December Show
Dennis Kuntz	Photocopier

Sarah Hagenbuch = Admin Assistant

Time from March 1 thru June 30 = 72.25 hours @ \$14 = \$1011.59

2008 Financial Status

Financial Update (as of February 13, 2008):

Community Ag Alliance at Wells Fargo	\$18,243.46
YVCF Endowment Fund	<u>\$37,088.38</u>
	\$55,331.84

2008 Membership to Date = \$5584.50 from 16 individuals/businesses

Status of Grants

Requested:

YV Community Foundation	\$10,000	NWCP
Sheep and Wool Board	\$ 499	CowTown Ranch Tours
Sheep and Wool Board	\$ 499	NWCP
Steamboat Chamber	\$ 3,600	Cow Town Ranch Tours
Steamboat Chamber	\$ 1,500	NWCP Expo

Received:

Routt County	\$10,000	General Operating Funds
City of Steamboat Springs	\$ 8,000	GOP + NWCP
City of Steamboat Springs	\$ 7,500	BBITF

The Book: Todd, CJ and Marsha have made an initial selection of pictures

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Report by Katie and Lori, Co-chairs

2007 Community Relations End of Year Report

Routt County Agriculture Newsletter – Produced Quarterly with 1000 distribution

Partners include Extension, NRCS, RCCD, RCCW, HRC!, Vision 2030, USFS, CSFS, YVLT

Community Ag Column – Columns are Submitted Weekly

Partners include Extension, NRCS, RCCD, RCCW, HRC!, USFS, CSFS, TNC, DOW, RMFU,
RoCo Weed Board, RoCo Fair Board, RoCo Woolens, CWCB

Yampa Valley Almanac – record every six weeks with YV Radio

Ag Alliance provided a “Gift Bag” for:

2007 Wine Festival – August 11

2007 Colorado Conservation State Meeting – August 27

Keeping Agriculture Viable in Routt County (Community Leaders Meeting)– March 12

Partnership with Extension

12 people attended

Cow Town Ranch Tours

Tours on March 8, March 15, July 1, July 6 September 10

83 Participants

Ranches = Belton, Sand Mountain, Brown, Hogue, Shoemaker, M&M, Brenner, Green Creek

Depart from and Return to Artists' Gallery: Local Products on Show Floor

Total Expenses = \$5030.19

Total Income = \$2897.64 = Participant Fees + \$3000.00 = from Ski Corp and Steamboat Chamber

Net Income = \$867.45: split 3 ways between Extension, HRC! and Ag Alliance (\$289.15)

Cowboy Roundup – July 1

Heritage Family Awards presented at Ranch Rodeo to:

Herold Family from South Routt

Bruchez Family from West Routt

Chew Family from North Routt

Ranch Rendezvous – July 28

Partnership with Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp

Held on Court House lawn and Sixth Street in conjunction with weekly Farmers Market

Horse Shoe Pitching Contest – August 18

11 Community Teams + 5 Business Teams: 3 Pools

Total Expenses = \$305 Total Income = \$440 Net = \$135

Ag Alliance Open House – December 6

Meetings Marsha Attended:

Monthly Bark Beetle Information Task Force

Monthly Chamber Marketing Committee

Monthly Western Heritage Preservation

Monthly Vision 2030 Meetings + 5 Community Meetings in November

City of Steamboat Springs Watershed Protection Committee – January through April

Energy Summit – Sponsored by YV Partners - May 5

Economic Summit – Sponsored by SS Chamber - May 9 and 10

Ranch Days – Sponsored by RCCW - May 11

Western Colorado Congress Regional Board Meeting in Steamboat Springs – July 21

Dynamics of Growth Forum – by RoCo EDC – August 13 and 14

NW Colorado Group Meeting with Senator Salazar – August 23

Routt County Livability Index – Sponsored by RoCo EDC and SCORE - August through December

Tour of Hayden area with Vonnice and Tammie – September 12

NW Colorado Economic Review Breakfast with Gov Ritter – September 28

Leadership Steamboat – Ag Panelist – November 2

Annual Ag Dinner – November 3

Jon Schaller Branding Seminar – November 7

New Pioneers Awards – November 10

Colorado Ag Water Summit – December 14 in Denver

Annual RCCD Meeting – December 17

(COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE Continued)

Upcoming 2008 Events

Community Relations Committee will meet March 10 to plan 2008 events

Bark Beetle Information Task Force Seminars

Feb 21 – Understanding the Local Wood Industry

March 19 – Impact of the Bark Beetle Epidemic on the Economy

April 17 – Blue Stain Campaign

May 15 – Energy Possibilities + Tour of Local Industries

Cow Town Ranch Tours: March 20, 27 and July 3,10, 17, 24

2008 Water Summit – June 6

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Report by Rich for Lyman, Chair

Cooperative Land Program

Researched by committee

Stalled by costs and liabilities associated with use of the land

Networking Program

No Participation

2007 Land Stewardship 202 Course

January 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 13, 20

17 participants

Income = \$1500

Total expenses = \$39.75,

Net = \$1460.25 which was split 50/50 with Routt County Extension.

2008 Land Stewardship 101 Course

January 15, 22, 29 and Feb 5,12, 19

24 Participants

The Executive Committee is proposing to the Board of Directors and Advisors that the Land Stewardship Committee takes a new role within the organization. If approved by the full board, the Land Stewardship Committee would be reformatted and instructed to research and develop advocacy positions, policy initiatives, and public education that addresses and seeks answers to the following issues:

What are the greatest threats to the future of Routt County Agriculture?

What can/should be done to alleviate the threats?

What can Ag Alliance do?

Who should be our partners

What are we willing to sacrifice to assure that Agriculture will survive in North West Colorado?

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

2007 Value Added Products End Of Year Report

North Western Colorado Bull Sale

April 14, 2007

55 Bulls were consigned: 45 bulls sold for \$83,000

One pen of heifers was consigned and sold for \$5000

April 19, 2008

21 Consignors from Routt, Moffat, Jackson, Mesa, Delta

70 Bulls are consigned

Six pens of heifers (total of 25 head) are consigned

Agri-Tourism

Regional Meeting in Craig on May 5, 2007

Regional Effort is now un-staffed and stalled

Agri-Tourism Seminar in Saddle Back Ranch on January 25, 2008

(VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS Continued)

Northwest Colorado Products (NWCP) Program: 2007 NWCP Financial Statement:

Revenue Generated = \$4250	
Wells Fargo Bank	\$ 500.00
Anonymous Donation	\$1000.00
YVCF Grant	\$2500.00
WSARE Grant	\$ 250.00
Expenses = \$5136.43	
Postage	\$ 19.20
Event Supplies	\$ 201.16
Collateral Development	\$ 456.16
WSARE Conference	\$ 300.00
Daniel Business School	\$ 247.41
Nancy Kramer	\$3912.50

Northwest Colorado Products Program continues to grow in momentum. The following is an outline of projects and activities Nancy and the NWCP Board have completed or continue to advance over the past three months.

Organization/Operations

General

- Program now hosts 130 + data base of producers, retailers, government, resource and media partners.
- DU Integrative Challenge Program report and recommendations is being used to establish a NWCP strategic plan

Development/Fundraising

- Awarded \$5,000 grant from Yampa Valley Community Foundation
- Received \$500 Small Step award from Colorado Council on the Arts to initiate a GIS project that will result in mapping of regional producers and retailers participating in the NWCP program.
- Completed grant application to Colorado Sheep and Wool Growers to support lamb producers
- Completed special event funding application for marketing support of the fall NWCP Merchandise Mart – pending
- Submitted sponsorship request to Wells Fargo for support of the *What's in our Foodshed?* Examining the demand and potential of a growing product for the local marketplace -pending
- Membership solicitations will be mailed next week – goal is 50 producers and 10 retail members

Program Development

- Received DU Report and Recommendations at November 15th presentation in Denver
- Completed successful facilitation for the development of The Hayden Marketplace – a cooperative of 20 local artists and crafters
- NWCP is working with the CSU Extension - Routt County and Natural Resource Conservation District to host a dialogue on the demand and potential of increasing growing product for the local marketplace

Marketing

- Completed outline and format concept for web page on the Community Agriculture Alliance website

Special Events

- Hosted booth at November 16th Holiday Market at the Depot
- Hosted reception of local products at the Community Agriculture Alliance/Artist Owned Gallery event – December 7th
- NWCP hosted a table at the Downhill Cowboy, serving local lamb, wing sauce samples and assisting Routt County Woolens with product showcase
- Nancy K was a presenter at the January 25th Agri-tourism Conference at Saddleback Ranch.
- NWCP is working with the CSU Extension - Routt County and Natural Resource Conservation District to host a dialogue on the demand and potential of increasing growing product for the local marketplace

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Nancy and Marsha will attend the Governor's Conference on Agriculture February 27th & 28th in Denver
- NWCP Annual Meeting and *What's in Our Foodshed ?* Examining the demand and potential of a growing product for the local marketplace– March 29th at the new Steamboat Springs Community Center

NEW BUSINESS

The **2008 Budget** was presented, discussed and amended. It was moved by Lori, seconded by Tammie and unanimously approved that the amended budget be approved. (Attachment #4)

The Board discussed the **lack of a financial arrangement between Community Ag Alliance and the North Western Colorado Bull Sale Committee**. It was moved by Adonna, seconded by Lori and unanimously approved that a letter be sent asking for an annual compensation, exclusive of the memberships gained from the bull sale consignors.

Rich led a general discussion on the **future direction of Ag Alliance**. The Board spent considerable time discussing (plus a memo from Wanda Redmond was read) if Ag Alliance should change its course to become more public policy oriented, focus the educational component on actual agricultural issues and spend less time on some of the participation with events and community involvement. It was decided that the Executive Committee request to reformat the Land Stewardship Committee be approved and that the committee be instructed to research and develop advocacy positions, policy initiatives, and public education to address Routt County/Northwestern Colorado agriculture-related issues.

Further discussion of the **2008 membership and promotion drive** was delegated to the Executive Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Sandra Sherrod
Secretary

Marsha Daughenbaugh
Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting:
May 14, 2008
5:30 PM
Clark**