



200 West Railroad Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO 80701
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www.morganconservationdistrict.com

Morgan Conservation District 2020 Annual Report

Overview:

During 2020, Morgan Conservation District continued operations as usual until the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, many of the planned projects, workshops, and events were put on hold due to the circumstances at hand. However, the District was still able to continue with its mission of encouraging the conservation, preservation, and best utilization of natural resources.

Finances:

The District's primary source of income is in the form of the annual conservation tree seedling and tree planting supplies sales. Additional income sources include assistance from Morgan County Government and the Colorado State Conservation Board. In 2020, the District also gained income from the sale of equipment and the baling twine recycling program.

The primary expenses for the District in 2020 included trees and tree planting supplies, payroll and associated payroll expenses, contracting expenses, and office operations.

Grants:

The District applied for a grant opportunity with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to continue with and expand operations of the baling twine recycling program. Unfortunately, the District was not awarded the grant.

The District applied for a Boot Brush Kiosk grant with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and was successfully awarded the grant. The grant assists with covering expenses associated with the installation of a Boot Brush Kiosk. The District did not install the Kiosk in 2020, but will be doing so in early 2021. The District is partnering with the City of Fort Morgan Parks & Recreation Department to install the Kiosk at Riverside Park in Fort Morgan.

The District did not apply for any CARES funding.

Projects and Programs:

The District sold 8,390 trees from the 2019-2020 conservation tree seedling sales, approximately 2,000 trees more from the 2018-2019 season.



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Unfortunately many of the other planned projects and programs were unable to continue in 2020 due to the circumstances at hand.

Community Outreach:

On January 15th, the District partnered with Centennial Conservation District to host a Salinity Workshop at the Gary DeSoto Building in Sterling. Approximately 42 attendees came. Speakers included Phil Brink from Colorado Cattlemen's Association Ag Water NetWORK, Mike Peterson, retired Soil Scientist & Agronomist, Mark Sponsler of Colorado Corn, Grady O'Brien of NEIRBO Hydrogeology, and Joe Frank of the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District.

On February 6th, the District hosted their Annual Meeting at Country Steak Out in Fort Morgan. Approximately 73 attendees came. Speakers included Lorrie Boyer of B106 and KSIR, and Senator Jerry Sonnenberg. The District held a vote at the meeting to amend the By-laws – the vote was passed.

On March 5th, the District donated auction items to the Weldon Valley FFA Hired Hand Auction.

The District also continued with their \$1,000 annual scholarship award from the 2019-2020 application process.

Other:

Other activities and operations of the District include the following:

- Ran the 2020 election for the Board of Supervisors. Two Board members, Larry Hoozee and Stephen Smith, had reached their term and did not run again. Two new members, Nate Northup and Kyle Kembel, ran for office and joined the Board of Supervisors.
- The Fall Newsletter was published in October 2020.

Upcoming Grants, Workshops, and Events:

The District is currently researching the following projects and ideas:

- Applying for Non-Point Source Mini Grants for water quality & quantity projects
- Partnering with the Fort Morgan CSU Extension Office to host a Farm Safety Day Workshop
- Implementing Soil Health incentives or cost-share programs
- Reestablishing County windbreaks and living snow fences