

Minutes 2-10-26

Colorado First Conservation District

Place: USDA Office 145 Commerce Street Craig, CO

**NOTE: Agenda subject to changes and additions. Please note that the Board may discuss any topic relevant to CFCO business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noted on this agenda.*

Attendance: Board members - Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Nick Charchalis, Rod Cook, Doug Davis, Colton Murray, Steve Hinkemeyer via ZOOM Staff - Mark Lowrey, Cassie Lamb, Kacey Green, Nicky Boulger

Meeting was Called to Order by chair Jorgiea Raftopoulos at 4:00 pm

Reading of Previous Minutes: Colton moved, Doug seconded to pass January Minutes. Motion Passed

Ratify email votes: Colton moved, Nick seconded to pass email votes for Nicky Travel, Staff Bonuses. (See attached)

Treasure's Report: Steve moved, Colton seconded to approve Treasurer's report. Motion passed

Mark reimbursement \$80.82 office supply - Wayne 1, Rod 2 pass

Audit Wayne, apply for waiver then exemption for audit if waiver approved, then use mcMahon if audit or exemption. Colton 2 pass

Guests: Rebecca

Board Time Report:

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	5	
Nick Charchalis	10	
Colton Murray	10	
Rod Cook	5	
Stephen Hinkemeyer	8	
Doug Davis	10	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	5	

Committee Report:

NFWF Sage Grouse – Colton, Mark, Cassie, Kacey

Committee presented 2 projects that were approved at committee:

Chesna - \$10,421.60 reseeding Terry - \$14,776 reseeding

Doug moved, Nick seconded to approve both projects. Motion passed

Gerber project was reviewed and after some confusion with the State HPP, and associated application, they asked for an additional \$20,000 for stock tanks, mesic meadows, etc. in order to match HPP ask. Wayne said it looks like a good project and HPP is in support. The additional ask was passed in committee Colton moved, Nick seconded to approve \$20,000 added to Gerber project - motion passed.

Certified letter re: Swartzell project - much discussion was had. Nick - it needs to be mutual release as the main line any way to describe not having a deal any more. NFWF needs to be aware and language may need to be run by a lawyer to include language, to be clear that we own the seed. Kacey already approved the change with NFWF and the budget was amended to purchased Materials/Supplies and is no longer in the contract line item. Wayne - we should be good to go on NFWF, Bub worried about delivery of the letter. The county sheriff's office may do this for us. Can NFWF sign a document stating such - that they are ok with us holding this seed as long as needed? Kacey has an email approving the budget amendment. To be clear the entire project was canceled - was there weed spraying done? Released from any pre-work. He can't get reimbursed for anything. Nick, we need to mutually sever all ties. Colton - does not have to be mutual, we can sever because he didn't uphold his end of the deal. Mark clarified that there was never a landowner letter of engagement signed.

Wayne - it needs to be polite, should we offer to re-apply? Consensus was no, we don't offer, but he can. The biggest question is: Do we need a lawyer or not? There was no contract. Kacey will reach out to a lawyer with a reworded letter. Doug - would be surprised if a lawyer wants us to do anything. Nick - worth a few hundred dollars if we have to pay them.

Mark revamped timeline - Mark talked to Ryan during shutdown to recommend a meeting. Then communication stopped - will print all text and email communication.

Colton moved to run it by attorney prior to delivery. Nick seconded. Motion Passed

River Trailer proposal - Yampatika offered to makeover River trailer and had volunteers and funding to do so. Kacey asked the board if they wanted to consider gifting the trailer to Yampatika since they use it most of any group. Wayne - are they an NGO, worried about education are they anti-ag? Worried about the message they may

be sending, but the trailer is also a burden financially. Nick - trailer is owned by watershed and represents a wider area, and it is a great tool to have. Fayanna is working on expanding this, and possibly working on educational programs. Just because we are short staffed at NRCS now doesn't mean we will always be. Kacey said the trailer is typically stored at the ag shop during winter for use in ag education classes. Yampatika can certainly continue to use this. Consensus - They are fixing it and we are keeping it. Steve, basin roundtable is working with Yampatika and they do a lot of good work, but getting large education grants. T

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, March 10th, 2025 Time 4:00

Steve - re: BLM LWC money - would we be willing to be the fiscal agent on a road inventory contract? Something to think about - would work similar to other BLM Contracts (weed and sandwash). Colton, are they doing this in order to map out for public closures or restrict access/ activity? Steve - not sure, but it does not seem like this. LWC roads have mechanical maintenance, so he sees this as a positive thing. If there is a road that bisects LWC polygons, then they fall off LWC inventory, treated as land with special management. Potentially parcels could be divided, could open more access than harm. We don't need to decide anything today, but if it's OK, Steve will advance conversations with Kymm. Currently the district takes 5% of BLM grants. NO idea how much money this is. All agreed for Steve to continue conversations.

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, February 17th at 5:00 PM door prizes, all will be there.

Executive Session:

Colton moved to adjourn to executive session for employee contracts and evaluations Wayne seconded. Motion passed

Nick moved to exit the executive session, Rod seconded. Motion passed

Adjourn

Nick moved to adjourn, Doug seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:53

Special meeting to follow up on employee contracts and evaluations

Attachment: Minutes 2/19/25