



Colorado First Conservation District
 970-329-3145
 145 Commerce Street Craig, CO 81625

Minutes 3/9/2021

Place: Moffat County Courthouse: Upstairs Conference Room

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

Attendance: Ken Bekkendahl – member, Bill Green – Secretary/Treasurer, Colton Murray – member, Jerry Magas – DCT, Rod Cook – member, Kacey Green – DM
 Virtual attendees: Kendall Smith- NRCS, Rebecca Burton – NRCS, Wayne Counts – President

Guest: Mike Camblin

Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order by Bill Green at 5:35 pm

Reading of Previous Minutes: Ken Moved, Rod seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed

Treasure's Report: Ken moved and Rod seconded to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills

Board Mileage and Time Report: none reported – (**fill in next meeting*)

Name	Miles	Time	Note
Wayne Counts			
Nick Charchalis			
Colton Murray			
Rod Cook			
Ken Bekkedahl			
Bill Green			
Jorgiea Raftopoulos			

Guest: Mike Camblin: Maybell, is involved in many water organizations around Moffat County. It has come to his attention that there may be an opportunity for the board to create a water coordinator position in this area. This person could help keep our area up to date on water issues, as well as help producers and the district write grants. He suggested that the position be grant-funded, or that this person would pay their own wage through the grants that they write. The board expressed an interest; particularly if this could be a way to carve out a niche service for us and possibly bring in more funding to the district.

Yampa Over-appropriation. Mike and Ken gave an update on a 3/8/21 meeting regarding a designation from The Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the Yampa River (upstream of its confluence with the Little Snake River) as over-appropriated. The board expressed concern about several things: The timing – due to Covid and not being able to get tech-limited producers involved in the conversation, the lack of time to get augmentation water in place, the fact that we have not been able to see the report/ numbers that the recommendation was based on as it is not public yet, and conflicting data regarding water use on the river. The land use board had many of the same concerns. Ken moved and Rod seconded to draft a letter from the district with our concerns. Kacey will coordinate with Jeff Comstcok and draft a letter in opposition of the timing of this decision, and expressing the concerns we have. (See attached)

NRCS: Kendall Smith gave updates on new deadlines for snowpack levels and NRCS programs: EQIP, CSP, EWIP-WME and CIC. There was no news on the selected candidate for a summer intern soil conservationist, but he will keep us updated as that develops. Kendall also announced that he had accepted a new position and would be leaving the Craig office in mid-May. A replacement has been hired and he will work with the new person to make a smooth transition with no gap. The board expressed that he will certainly be missed and thanked him for his good work. See attachments

DCT Report: Jerry Magas reported that the wildlife escape ramps were completed by the FFA. He picked them up and we already have an order for 15 of them. He has been working on approved NRCS projects.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green gave updates on annual meeting, and projects she has been working on. The district was awarded a SIPA grant in the amount of \$2250.00 to build a website. The NACD urban ag grant was turned in and we should hear back on that by the end of the month. Kacey, Bill and Wayne met regarding the budget and pin-pointed some areas to look at. Annual meeting attendance was: 35 in person and 23 online which was slightly down, as expected with the hybrid format. Overall, the meeting was well-received. Thank you letters for the annual meeting were signed and will be delivered.

The CSCB has updated their Board Member Certification Program. The board will set aside 30 minutes at each meeting to start working through the certification program together.

250 Weed brochures were printed and available at the office.

New Business:

- Soil Health Initiative updates: Nick was unavailable, but Kacey gave a brief overview of the soil health initiative that is coming through Colorado Legislation. Nick will get more information and details as this progresses
- Land Use Board update: Ken – in addition to the concerns with the Yampa over-appropriation, Ken gave a brief update on prop 114. Stakeholder meetings are continuing to take place regarding the details of wolf introduction. Currently, many of the discussions revolve around where funding will come from for livestock damage claims.

Old Business:

- Budget
 - As revenues continue to fall, and costs increase, the district is looking at making some difficult decisions regarding budget. Two things that could be considered are Directors and Officers Insurance and Scholarships. The board is not liable individually for any decisions made by the board, as they are elected officials under Colorado law (*see CSCB reference manual Page 93*). In addition, scholarships are good, but we may not have the excess funding to provide those at this time. Ken moved to drop the D&O insurance, Rod seconded, motion passed. The board would like to still take a look at scholarship applications, and if there is a severe financial need of a worthy applicant, then they would consider possibly donating personally to the fund, or we can look at that time where we are on funding.
 - Kacey has been looking at several options for funding, including grants to cover the DCT matching obligation, but has mostly found funding for projects not positions. The board should start working toward building projects that we can go after matching grant funding for. The goal to renovate CRP and rangeland is an option, or we could also take a look at the projects Jerry is working on through the NRCS and look at getting some grants to match that federal funding.
 - Kacey and Jerry sent a letter to the NRCS to ask to increase their portion of the DCT position, but have not heard back on that yet.
 - Kacey will set up a meeting with the commissioners regarding budget and see if they would be willing to increase their yearly funding of the district.
- Review of Annual Meeting
 - Sign thank-you letters

Next Monthly Meeting: April 13th, 6:30 Moffat County Courthouse conference room

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned