9

**Minutes 3/25/2025**

**Special Meeting to discuss Sage-grouse Committee project recommendations**

**12:15 PM**

**Place: Online - ZOOM**

***\*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:** CFCD Board members – Wayne Counts, Steve Hinkemeyer, Colton Murray, Nick Charchalis District Staff – Kacey Green, Mark Lowrey, Cassie Lamb

(Proxy Votes by Jorgiea Raftopouos and Bill Green)

**Call meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 12:15 by Steve.

Project Discussion:

* Peroulis – Approved by Sage-grouse Committee 3/13/25; Mark updated that Peroulis had pulled out of the demonstration project due to conflicts with grazing. The board is still in favor of having a demonstration site, and discussed other possible locations. Mark will see if any interest comes back from the landowner letter sent, and will go from there.
* Vermillion – Rejected by Sage-grouse Committee 3/13/25; Mark is following up with landowner to make necessary adjustments and incorporate committee suggestions in order to re-submit application.
* ZC Livestock (White) – Approved by Sage-grouse Committee 3/13/25; Mark updated that the map is in draft form, as there has not yet been a site visit. Colton clarified some boundaries, and the map will be updated (including already seeded portions) after site visit. Steve mentioned that he didn’t have access to the project files, so Kacey will send again. Nick suggested that all associated BLM be diligently mapped and excluded from project. Wayne was concerned about the seeding rate and seed mix, and suggested that more alfalfa be added to the initial mix, mainly due to concerns about landowners following up with more legumes down the road. Nick agreed and expressed concerns that it may need adjusting. Both were concerned about the cost of the seed and if there

should be a limit on how much the grant pays out, and that possibly BLM and CPW need to be consulted on the mix. It was suggested that there be a higher ask from the landowner to help pay for the cost of seed. Referring to the approved application, Kacey pointed out that the committee and board agreed on a 5% landowner match, and the White project was contributing 15%. It might me a bad look if the board came back at this point and asked for more. Also that the seed cost is within the budget range for native seed mix of $69.00 - $156.00/ acre. Colton will get the seed mix documents and add those to the project packet – this is a CPW and HPP approved mix. Mark asked if we should have a list onhand of pre-approved mixes, and everyone agreed that it would be a good starting point, but that the landowner should have flexibility to adjust the mix based on location, project type, preference, etc. All agreed.

It may be asked at committee if there should be an upper pay limit per practice.

There was discussion around timing and type of treatments. Frontier Station will be the licensed applicator on this project, and the landowner has consulted with them. The landowner has also agreed to defer grazing until July 2026 or later.

Wayne moved and Nick seconded to approve the application at the asking rate of $76,000. Motion passed.

* Hamill – America the Beautiful. Jake Hamill application to use Rejuvra on 250 acres/ up to $11,000.00 to control invasive annual grasses. This application was approved at State (CDA) on 3/18/25. Wayne asked how much is still in this budget, and Kacey reported that there has been $49,808.00 allocated, $9,598.40 spent. Remaining working budget is: $58,192.00. Nick moved and Wayne seconded to approve. Motion passed.

Follow up conversation: Steve suggested that all Sage-grouse applications include which Biologically Significant Unit (BSU) the property falls within, a legal description of the property and distance to power line corridor. Mark will include this information in future summaries.

This first application and process is a little “clunky”, but moving forward, most applications will be presented to the committee in summary form, including all maps, timing of treatments, seed mixes, etc. The committee will have all this information and in-depth discussions, so by the time it gets to the board, all the details would have been worked out.

**Adjourn:** Nick moved and Colton seconded to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm