



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

Minutes 6/9/26

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 CFCD business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noted on this agenda.*

Attendance: Board members - Doug Davis, Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Steve Hinkemeyer, Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Rod Cook, Nick Charchalis Staff - Nicky Boulger, Kacey Green, Cassie Lamb, Mark Lowrey NRCS - Nakayla Lestina Guests - Rebecca Burton, John Callon, John Moore

Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order by Jorgiea Raftopoulos at 4:10 PM

Reading of Previous Minutes: Steve moved, Doug seconded to approve May minutes. Motion passed

Treasure's Report: Nick moved, Steve seconded to approve Treasurer's report and approve:

- \$2500.00 to Lance McMahon, CPA for ½ audit fee
- \$292.90 Nicky Boulger - travel reimbursement
- \$1018.50 HCPA Invoice 3839 for assistance on audit.

Motion passed

Guests: USDA Wildlife Services (APHIS)- John Callon, John Moore gave a presentation on services available. Currently they work with many organizations, such as counties, producers, state and conservation districts on cost-share agreements. They are working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on predator investigations when requested, and are working on an MOU with CPW. Currently 2 APHIS employees are in the Craig area and they are paid mainly through the Moffat/ Routt Woolgrowers. With fewer sheep producers, these positions are still crucial to maintain. The board thanked them for coming and may try to come up with a project to partner on - ground squirrels?

Board Time Report:

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	n/a	
Nick Charchalis	10	
Colton Murray	n/a	
Rod Cook	3	
Stephen Hinkemeyer	20	Help with audit
Doug Davis	8	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	8	

NRCS UPDATE: Nakayla Lestina reviewed the Local Work Group meeting held earlier today. Things went well, very efficient and really there were not many changes expressed in resource concerns. She will compile a report and share it with the board. Obligations by the end of June: CSP = 4, EQIP = 4 They are evenly split in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. Most of the summer is and will be spent following up on active contracts and new applications. They are caught up on engineering and cultural resources and fiscal year 2026 contracts are ready to submit.

DCT Report: Nicky Boulger updated on tree sales - all were sold and would like to consider having a Fall tree sale. Customers were happy with the new supplier and they were great to work with. She traveled to Montrose to obtain Certified Planner level 3, this way she has job approval authority. There is a new pollinator mix she would like to try in the demo plot.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green

ATB Applications - Colton Murray, Ken Bekkedahl.

Doug moved to approve: \$10,975 for Bekkedahl, \$1,800 for Muray. Steve seconded. Motion Passed (Colton Murray was not present for discussion or vote). Rod asked if ATB money can be used on BLM - no, this is all earmarked for private. This leaves a remaining balance in ATB budget of \$7,887.75

Producer Cost Share program was updated as approved by CSCB to address immediate drought relief. The budget is \$25,000 to go directly to landowners with district waving admin fees for 2026. 2027 Application for CSCB Matching grant was submitted.

DCT Application is due at the end of June. Kacey asked that Nicky's base salary be submitted as \$30,000 which would make the total DCT Budget \$39,558 with the district's portion \$7,912. This funding is still covered from STAR capacity funds. Nick moved, Doug seconded to approve the DCT application budget. Motion passed.

Abbey Grey from CACD asked that the board submit videos and updates from promo. Nick will work with Kacey on this.

A letter of support was requested from Headwaters of the Colorado. Steve wrote a draft and the board agreed to send it.

Old Business:

Land Use Board – Steve reported that LUB heard from Transwest Construction, working on pads for wind towers in Moffat County and Carbon County, WY. Wild horse roundups have been approved to align with HMA thresholds, where maximum numbers are being reached in all local HMA's. Data centers were discussed and LUB wants to see regulations and be proactive before being approached by projects. There will be a working group meeting on July 13 and it is open to all.

YWG Basin Roundtable update - Steve reported that the Colorado River district has secured 420 acre feet from Elkhead Reservoir to ag users in the valley. Surprisingly, even with the drought, Elkhead is overflowing

New Business:

- Doug asked the board to brainstorm over the next few months regarding CPW habitat funding. They would like to use AUMs as a focus, so landowners can feel benefits.
- Steve said Colorado Ag Water Alliance put out a new video on water in Colorado. It can be found on their website

Committee Report:

NFWF Sage Grouse - Cassie reviewed Doehling and Bekkedahl projects. Doehling has been tabled. Bekkedahl is a little complicated with acreage changing some, including some BLM but the spray project is in an ideal area and it's a good project. Total acres for Bekkedahl is 2301.

Steve moved to approve the Bekkedahl project, not exceeding \$150,598.43. Doug seconded. Discussion revolved around 5% match. As long as no other contributions are possible from the landowner, such as the case of aerial spraying, the minimum 5% is still fair. Cassie presented a matrix of dollar amounts and matching contribution requirements, but ultimately the committee decided that 5% was what has always been the minimum match, so will stick with this. (this does not affect how ATB funds are matched/ distributed). NFWF funds only.

Doug asked if there are ever funds approved to work across county lines. Kacey - while there have not been any requests for this, it would be considered as long as it follows guidelines of the grant language.

Adjourn: Doug moved, Steve seconded to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM