



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

Minutes 1/10/23

Place: 145 Commerce Street

**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 – Nick Charchalis, Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Bill Green, Wayne Counts, Colton Murray NRCS – Nakayla Lestina, Rebecca Burton DM – Kacey Green **Guests:** No guests were present

Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by President Wayne Counts

Reading of Previous Minutes: Jorgiea moved to approve the minutes and Nick seconded. Motion Passed.

Treasure's Report: Nick moved and Ken seconded to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills, along with expenses that will occur for annual meeting. Motion passed

- **New Bills and Donations for approval:**

Charter Internet	\$ 79.99	
Adobe	\$ 14.99	
Ag in the Classroom	\$ 150.00	Donation
Pinnacol Assurance	\$ 426.00	Workers Compensation
Elections Call for Nominations		
Annual Meeting Expenses		

Board Mileage and Time Report:

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	10	
Nick Charchalis	10	
Colton Murray	2	
Rod Cook	N/A	
Ken Bekkedahl	10	
Bill Green	8	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	4	

NRCS: Nakayla Lestina reported about upcoming deadlines for EQIP (December) and CSP (February). Currently there are no apps for RCPP but there is still time, so there

may be some. This program is for larger, more regional type projects that are typically carried out with 3rd party partners. The Snow Survey shows that the White/Yampa Basin is at 143%.

Local Work Group results have identified the addition of pest pressure and the removal of terrestrial habitat as priority concerns. There will also be an ACT NOW funding pool in EQIP in order to apply for faster funding. Accommodations are being considered for staff retention and added fund pools for urban ag and small acreage.

DCT Report: Chelsea Camblin was out of town, so there was no DCT report.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green

- Grant updates: CSCB Matching Grant was awarded for \$25,000.00. In 2023, producers can apply for up to \$2,500.00 per project. America The Beautiful – awarded \$80,000.00 to work on invasive annual grasses. The committee (Bill, Rod and Colton) will meet before the annual meeting so we have a better plan to present at the annual meeting. STAR Plus funding will continue in 2023 – with \$10k for district a \$5k to each producer in matching funds. There is a possibility that this program will expand in 2023 and we will be able to add more producers to the program.
- Kacey has been working on year-end documents and tax info as well as annual meeting planning and contacting speakers
- Kacey asked if she could purchase some equipment including: a scanner, projector, and new scale for PAM products. Nick moved and Ken seconded to approve funds for office supplies needed. Motion passed.
- Kacey and NRCS staff have been throwing around the idea of a Movie Night at the theatre. It would be a community outreach event to feature a movie related to natural resources and promoted as a “night out” for landowners and their families. It was consensus that we should give this event a try and see how it goes. Kacey will contact the theatre owners to see about a private event.

Old Business:

- Land Use Board – Ken reported that the major discussions have revolved around a recent land sale. The new owner has expressed interest in setting up a wild horse sanctuary. There will possibly be a request for changes in zoning. Many ideas were discussed, including sending a comment letter, recommending a conservation plan or support in creating one. While the board agreed that the district is not in the business of dictating private land use, it IS here to offer resources. Ultimately, it is just too early to know what is planned and what will happen. Ken will keep us up to date, and as a courtesy, the board would like to eventually invite this new landowner to a meeting to share his plans. Jeff will update on the wolf plan at the annual meeting, but it is always an ongoing conversation at the land use board meetings.

- Seed Share Program – Colton has received 2-3 applications, but with the amount of snow, no seed has been planted yet. There will be 3 drills available this spring.
- Annual Grass Control - Kacey will set up a committee meeting before the annual meeting.
- CACD – Nick reported that CACD has discussed merging struggling districts, and may apply for grant funding to provide a stipend to districts for District Manager salaries.

New Business:

- MOU w/ BLM Sage Grouse Management Plan was presented and signed. Kacey will send it this week.
- Goals and Objectives 2023 were reviewed, and after deciding that these were still relevant goals from 2022, they were adopted for 2023 as follows
 - Colorado First Conservation District will continue working with partners and collaborate on noxious weed and pest control.
 - CFCD will partner with NRCS to develop a program to renovate fields, pastures and released CRP lands to a more desirable mix of plants in order to benefit soil health, wildlife, and livestock.
 - CFCD will increase public awareness and education for the purpose of showcasing our mission and activities, and further develop community partners through urban ag and educational outreach.
- Scholarships – Updates to the scholarship application should include a larger emphasis on natural resources. Currently, the scholarship is open to all students enrolling in an ag related field, but in order to align with the mission of the district, natural resources will become the priority. The application will also be changed to allow applications from currently enrolled college students who are studying a natural resources related field. Kacey will send an updated draft and get the application to the school and extension office soon.
- Elections – Colton, Jorgiea, Rod and Nick all come to the end of their term in 2023. All 4 signed _____. Colton moved and Jorgiea seconded to adopt the resolution to hold an election. Motion passed. Ken mentioned that he is happy to continue serving, but would welcome a good replacement as well. Several names were discussed to see if there is interest for them to serve on the board.
- Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21st.
 - Board members volunteered to go to various businesses to ask for door prizes.
 - Jorgiea presented quotes for the meal and it was decided that we would have a Gyro Bar with sides and dessert catered by KS Creations.
 - Kacey will contact the Elkhead Wranglers 4H group to see if they can help set up tables and serve the meal. As well as Moffat County FFA to make a sign for the Conservationist of the Year

- Colton will work on speakers to address water and annual grasses issues
- Rich Thompson has confirmed that he will present the main topic of Energy and Ag – Changes coming in Moffat County, and other local agencies will also give updates.

Next Monthly Meeting: Annual Meeting February 21st, 2023

Adjourn: Colton moved and Ken seconded to adjourn. Motion passed, meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM