



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

## Minutes 4/12/22

**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: Wayne Counts, Nick Charchalis, Joriea Raftopoulos, Rod Cook, Ken Bekkedahl, Colton Murray, Bill Green. NRCS: Laurel Dietch, Rebecca Burton, Nakayla Lestina (via conference phone). DCT: Chelsee Camblin. DM: Kacey Green

**Guests:** Gena Hinkemeyer, Steve Hinkemeyer,– Yampa, White, Green Basin Roundtable Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP)

**Call meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Wayne Counts at 5:35 PM

**Reading of Previous Minutes:** Kacey noted a correction on the bills approved last meeting \$33.46 to Column for cancelling elections. Ken moved and Jorgiea seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed

**Treasurer's Report:** Ken Moved and Jorgiea seconded to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills. Motion passed

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

Charter Internet	\$ 79.99	Internet
Max Schmidt	\$600.00	PAM
Moffat County Fair	\$30.00	Booth
Reimburse Travel	\$458.47	Chelsee – STAR
Reimburse Travel	\$267.51	Kacey – STAR

Gena and Steve Hinkemeyer representing the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable and IWMP presented the idea of working with the district to create a water coordinator position for Moffat County. Currently, the Community Ag Alliance and the Basin Roundtable is conducting a pilot program. This person coordinates with landowners on water projects to help them with technical and financial assistance, as well as keeps abreast of needs and opportunities in the Yampa Valley. When the pilot projects ends, CAA has expressed that they will no longer continue these services for Moffat County, which is where this project will step in. Steve and Gena will write grants to fund the

position and take the lead on the project, but are asking that CFCD be the fiscal agent and back the project, as CFCD has a long standing reputation and trust among landowners. The board is in favor of the project and asks that as plans move forward, we have further discussions. Kacey will follow up with an email.

**Board Mileage and Time Report:**

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	4	
Nick Charchalis	4	
Colton Murray	10	
Rod Cook	4	
Ken Bekkedahl	4	
Bill Green	4	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	4	

**NRCS:** Nakayla Lestina joined by conferece call to discuss the NRCS activity report. Nakayla highlighted projects and deadlines, the current snow report and water supply outlook, as well as the civil rights agreement to be signed between the board and NRCS. A new opportunity for demonstration projects was announced – CACD and NRCS are working with districts who want to set up demonstration projects. The board agreed to follow up with Jr. Kawcak who had previously offered a plot of land on 1<sup>st</sup> street for just such a project. Ideas discussed: testing different varieties and mixes of native seed, amendmets, cover crops and weed control (specifically bulbous bluegrass). Kacey will start working on the application and contact Jr. to see if plot is still available.

**DCT Report:** Chelsee Camblin reported that she has been doing some training, including traveling to the STAR training at Chatfiled Farms. She is currently waiting to get her NRCS card in order to start working on projects.

**District Manager Report:** Kacey Green gave updates on the STAR program and trainings. John Miller will be coming to Craig to start working on consultation forms. It was discussed how to pay Kacey and Chelsee for their extra time working on this program. Reimbursements for travel costs can be made immediately, but time will have to go onto payroll, as employees cannot be on salary and 1099 at the same time. The board agreed to allow them to come up with what they think the best plan is. Both will track time spent on a monthly basis and will report next meeting with options.

One application has been received for the CSCB Matching Grant

Rod moved and Colton seconded to approve up to \$1,000.00 reimbursement for Ronnie and Stacy Crumpton fencing project. Motion passed. Ken moved and Colton seconded to move forward with applying to renew this grant for 2023. Motion passed. There was discussion regarding setting aside \$7,000 for STAR participants. Wayne expressed concern that it may not look good if board members received a large share of the Producer Cost Share Program funds, so he would like to ensure that all STAR participants would get their projects funded. Kacey mentioned that STAR participants were all given an application and told about the program. Also, because they were already receiving funding for projects, it might be the most fair to keep the applications on a first-come-first-served basis in order to possibly spread funds wider throughout the district. There was no more discussion on this topic.

CFCD was asked to host a Range workshop in conjunction with NRCS and CACD. The date of the workshop has been set for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. (See attached flyer). CFCD would need to commit to spending \$150 plus lunch costs. These funds can come out of money set aside for workshops in the STAR budget.

Kacey will look at dates in mid-June for Local Work Group meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- Land Use Board – Steve Hinkemeyer reported that major issues currently are Yampa River over-appropriation and augmentation. Great Northern Water Conservancy District received a grant to explore umbrella augmentations and has discovered that TriState currently holds augmentation rights in Elkhead Reservoir. CFCD has been discussed as a possible organization to run the augmentation program.
- BLM Mitigation funds – No updates
- Seed Share Program – Colton reported that all seed has been spoken for. Colton has been in communication with Ray Aberle about possible expanding the program and applying for funds from a larger grant pool. As more people know about available seed, it is quite possible that the seed share program could grow, and offer more choices for various seed mixes. Ken moved and Bill seconded for Colton to continue the program with HPP and look into the options with Ray. Motion passed

#### **New Business:**

- Goals and Objectives 2022 – will stay the same as 2021
- Soil and Water Conservation Society annual Meeting - Jorgiea has been asked to present at the SWCS meeting in Denver. She will be discussing how producers in our area are working with the NRCS for soil and water conservation.

It is an exciting opportunity to speak at an international conference. Laurel, Rebecca and Kacey will be working with and presenting with Jorgiea.

**Adjourn:** Bill moved and Colton seconded to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM

**Next Monthly Meeting:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM