



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

Minutes 7/13/2021

Place: Moffat County High School Ag Shop

**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, Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Ken Bekkedahl, Bill Green, Colton Murray, Nick Charchalis; Jerry Magas-DCT, Kacey Green-DM, NRCS: Laurel Dietch, Arjun Thapa

Guests: Tate Severson – 2021 Scholarship recipient attended to thank the board and take a photo.

TOUR OF MOFFAT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ACRE-IN-A-BOX: Shelby Massey, Moffat County High School ag teacher and FFA advisor provided a tour of the Acre-In-A-Box, an enclosed hydroponic system growing kale (soon to diversify into other crops).

Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order by Wayne Counts at 7:15

Reading of Previous Minutes: Colton moved and Jorgiea seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed

Treasure's Report: Jorgiea moved and Ken seconded to approve the treasurer's report and pay bills. Motion passed

*Kacey will add the email vote for a transfer of \$1000 from the general account to the payroll account.

- **New Bills for approval:**

Charter Internet	\$ 79.99
Moffat County Fair	\$ 30.00

Board Mileage and Time Report: Board members spent many hours discussing drought, soil health legislation, pests and weed control.

Name	Miles	Time	Note
Wayne Counts		18	
Nick Charchalis		50	
Colton Murray		15	
Rod Cook		N/A	

Ken Bekkedahl		15	
Bill Green		15	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos		15	

NRCS: Laurel briefly discussed the new program: EQIP-CIC, and distributed a fact sheet. The deadline to apply for this program is July 21st, and will allow enhancements on select fields with a 5 year contract requirement. It is possible that funds may be left over because of the tight deadline, but that is unknown at this time. Arjun announced that he has been accepted into a PhD program in North Carolina and will be leaving the NRCS Craig Field Office this fall. No new staffing has been announced.

DCT Report: Jerry Magas announced that he will be retiring this fall, and is no longer taking on any new projects with NRCS. He does not have a date yet, but will wrap up any current projects that he is working on. The board agreed that Kacey should continue working on the DCT renewal for 2022 that is due August 20th. She will be in touch with the grant administrator to make sure they are aware that we may be having a staffing change within that position. Kacey will also meet with Nakayla to discuss what this position should look like moving forward, and what skills will be necessary to fill the position.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green

CSCB Matching Grant for cost share program (pests, grazing, habitat) is due July 16th, (grant application available upon request)

DCT and Moffat County quarterly requests have been sent and that money should arrive soon.

Kacey has been gathering landowner testimonies on the impact of the drought and will send a compiled report to the CDA State Drought Task Force, which meets Thursday, July 15th. However, as more testimonies come in, she will add to the document (See attached report)

The re-enrollment for the DCT position is due August 20th. (*note corrected date from agenda) Kacey asked for time off for Moffat County Fair, to which the board agreed.

Old Business:

- Land Use Board – Ken reported that the land use board had Pat O’Toole as a guest speaker. Pat discussed the positive impact of flood irrigation on bird habitat, and solar projects that are being implemented on his land. CFCD is still in the discussion regarding the Transwest deal, but it seems to be on hold right now.
- HPP proposal update – Colton reported that the HPP has a new director and new admin. He is on the agenda for the August meeting. CPW also has a new seed

drill available for use. Landowners can contact Colton if they are interested in using available equipment.

- Schedule for upcoming NRCS tours:
 - July – Nick will reschedule with NRCS
 - August 13th – Wayne
 - September (tbd) – Jorgiea
- Tri-state letter – There was a bit of confusion regarding what the district was asking for regarding Tri-State's water rights. Kacey and Nick will be in touch with Jeff Comstock to draft a letter stating that CFCD would like to have input into the management and decisions regarding these rights, not actually hold the water rights.

New Business:

- Moffat County Fair – Nick moved and Jorgiea seconded to have a table at the Moffat County Fair on Friday and Saturday, and to spend \$30 for the booth
- Stimulus Money from state legislation dedicated \$15,000.00 to every Conservation District in the State that is in good standing. The ACH email has arrived and the money should be in the account soon. Discussions will have to happen regarding what that money will be used for.
- The Community Ag Alliance is organizing a Northwest Colorado Drought Tour in Routt and Moffat counties on August 11-12th. Kacey is helping coordinate the Moffat County tour, and asked for volunteers to speak at the ranch/producer stop. Nick volunteered to speak regarding drought impacts on ag production.
- Guest speakers at meetings
 - August/ September – Laurel
 - August/ September – Rebecca
- Kacey and Jerry stepped out for the board to complete employee evaluations.

Next Monthly Meeting: August 10th, 6:30 pm – Location TBD

Adjourn: Colton moved and Jorgiea seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM