

Colorado First Conservation District

145 Commerce Street Craig, CO 81625 Phone: 970-824-3476 ext. 101

Minutes 1/12/2021

Moffat County Courthouse Conference Room

Attendance: Bill Green: Secretary/Treasurer, Wayne Counts: President, Ken Bekkedahl: Member, Rod Cook: Member, Jorgiea Raftopoulos: Member, Jerry Magas: DCT, Kacey Green: DM
Via Zoom: Nick Charchalis: Member, Kendall Smith: NRCS, Laural Dietch: NRCS, Rebecca Burton: NRCS

Guests: Colton Murray

Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:33 by Wayne Counts

Reading of Previous Minutes: Rod moved and Ken seconded to approve minutes from December 8th, motion passed

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

Kacey expressed concerns about the upcoming budget year. Although DCT and Moffat County funding has remained the same, revenue from sales and management fees has decreased gradually over the last few years. Jerry mentioned that we could draft a letter to the NRCS requesting an increase in funds for the DCT position. Kendall supported this idea, but had doubts about it being approved. Kacey suggested that we could also approach the county commissioners about increasing funding to cover the district's 20% obligation for matching DCT funding, which will be \$5,895.00 in 2021. Kacey will explore more grant opportunities and try to increase sales through promotion of products. Bill and Wayne will meet with Kacey to discuss budget in more detail.

Board Mileage and Time Report:

Name	Miles	Time	Note
Wayne Counts		2	meeting
Nick Charchalis		6	meetings , water, soil health
Bret Grandbouche		N/A	
Rod Cook		2	meeting
Ken Bekkedahl		3	meeting, land use, wolf issue
Bill Green		2	meeting
Jorgiea Raftopoulos		2	meeting

NRCS: Kendall Smith - see attached report

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- Kendall has met with the Peroulis family regarding their award for Conservationist of the Year, and gathered information regarding their projects.
- Jan 8th was deadline for CSP and EQIP
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- NRCS is funding a new civil engineer position for Meeker, which should free up a little time for Jerry and Arjun
- Moffat County is currently at 65% of average annual snow-pack

DCT Report: Jerry Magas reported that wildlife escape ramps are cut and bent, we are only waiting for FFA to attach the hooks and we will have 40 new ramps available.

The river trailer is ready to be painted, and the FFA will bill us upon completion.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green has been starting on plans for annual meeting, completed 4th quarter billing and reports, budget transmittal and began work on annual report which is due Feb 15th. Mailed letters regarding the Wolf Creek Reservoir & CPW Commission on wolf re-introduction

New Business:

- Jorgiea Raftopoulos took the oath of office. She will fill the remainder of the term for Ray Owens (2020-2023)
- Colton Murray is interested in joining the board. Bret Grandbouche has offered to step down if a replacement is found.
- Annual Meeting – February 16th
 - With covid restrictions, we are allowed to have 50 people in the pavilion with distancing and masks in place. We will move forward with the option of in-person or virtual attendance.
 - Confirmed speakers:
 - Live speakers: Marlon Winger - NRCS soil health *MAIN SPEAKER*, NRCS – Kendall Smith - NRCS, Jeff Comstock - MOCO, Gena Hinkemeyer-IWMP, Greg Peterson –CAWA
 - In the interest on time, written updates will be provided in a packet from:
 - CSU Extension – Jessica Counts, MCWP – Jesse Schroeder, Wolf Creek Reservoir project – Alden Brink, RLSP – Ben Beal/ John Husband, Moffat County Cattlemen – Chad Green/ Mike Camblin
 - Kacey will extend an invitation to the Moffat County Commissioners and provide a time for them to be introduced.
 - Laurel had the suggestion of a panel-type discussion with local producers discussing projects they have done through the NRCS. The board was open to this idea, but thought it would be better as a separate workshop at another time.
 - Conservationist of the year award options were discussed and Kacey will contact the Peroulis family to see what their preference would be: An outdoor metal sign or a small indoor option. Rod moved and Nick seconded to spend up to \$100.00 for the award. Motion passed

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- Meal: Board members offered to make brownies or cookies and have them individually wrapped for safety. Kacey will coordinate drinks and paper goods.

- Kacey will gather door prizes from local businesses. If winners are attending virtually, they can pick up their prize at the office.
- Board will meet at 4:00 on the 16th to set up the meeting room.

- Worker's Comp exemption: Ken moved and Rod seconded to adopt the resolution for exemption from worker's compensation for board members. This needs to be voted on annually if the board will not be taking coverage. Motion passed. (See attached)

Old Business:

- Goals and Objectives 2021
 - After attending a meeting with the Moffat County Tourism Board, Kacey suggested to set a goal for increased public outreach and education. It seems that there is a perception (by some) that the conservation district may be an environmental activist group. In an effort to increase awareness of who we are and what we do, the board adopted a 3rd goal for 2021: See Attached
 - Ideas on how to accomplish this were: getting in the local newspaper and sending out newsletters to our email list, utilizing social media/website, working with schools to implement conservation education, and exploring urban agriculture grants
 - Goal 1: Colton suggested that we could pull together a resource guide (*similar to what we did with the weed control brochure*) for landowners looking to renovate CRP and other land in need of renovation. He also has access to equipment that can be used for these types of projects and has ideas on where to find grant funding to pull together a program. Kacey will follow up with Colton on his ideas.
- Ken provided an update on land use board where many discussions have been happening regarding wolf delisting and introduction in Colorado. They are urging the wildlife commission to use as much time as possible and engage all stakeholders in the introduction plans. The commission has until 2023 to complete introduction.

Next Monthly Meetings:

February 16th, 2021 – annual meeting

March 9th, 2021 at 5:30

April 13th, 2021 at 5:30

Adjourn: Rod moved and Ken seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM. Motion passed

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