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

Minutes 9/9/25

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 - Steve Hinkemeyer, Jorgiea Raftopoulos, Doug Davis, Rod Cook, Colton Murray CFCD Staff - Kacey Green, Nicky Boulger, Cassie Lamb, Mark Lowrey NRCS - Nakayla Lestine
Call meeting to Order: Meeting was called to order by Jorgiea at 5:01 PM
Reading of Previous Minutes: Steve moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting, changing the word “were” to “weren’t” in old business regarding Moffat County Fair. Colton seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed
Treasure's Report: Steve moved, Colton seconded to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion passed. There was some discussion regarding an audit and the necessity to amend the budget. Kacey will turn in the amendment once most of the grant money transactions have been completed for the year. Steve asked if Troy has done any work in Sandwash - Kacey will touch base and ask.
Guests: Rebecca Burton, Michael Blank - Colorado Parks and Wildlife HPP. Michael gave updates on HPPs efforts for reclamation on the Lee and Elk fires in Rio Blanco County. They will be working to rebuild stockyards, fencing and water infrastructure. They are planning winter and spring seeding, and anticipating the need for 3-4 years of the need to control invasive plants. Colton mentioned that there will be so much work ahead to help control erosion, etc. Michael asked if he could add CFCD to a list of collaborators, and if we have any needs to let him know. All were in favor of collaborating across county lines.

Board Time Report:

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	n/a	
Nick Charchalis	n/a	
Colton Murray	6	
Rod Cook	5	
Stephen Hinkemeyer	12	
Doug Davis	10	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	5	

NRCS UPDATE: Nakayla and Nicky have been working on CSP certifications, which is new for Nicky. All EQIP is obligated (5-6) contracts - 2 beginning farmer/ rancher. The USDA has obligated $8 million for Forest Health Resiliency Project for 5 projects nationwide. 1 is in Moffat, Routt and Carbon County, WY. This is new, so Nakayla is unsure of the process. She will get more clarification, but anticipates that maybe there will be new funding pools for this.
-Steve mentioned that Headwaters of Colorado will be giving a presentation at the next Yampa, White Green meeting, and there will be a tour on September 17th with an update on the fires.
-Doug asked if there is enough support due to staff shortages. Kacey suggested drafting a resolution regarding NRCS Staff for the watershed meeting. All supported the idea.

DCT Report: Nicky Boulger finished EQIP and will start focusing more time on District demonstration plot.

District Manager Report: Kacey Green
Grant Updates

–ATB - Colton moved to approve (Ashbaugh, Lyons, Lyons and Weber). Steve seconded. Motion passed. There was some discussion regarding Kerste - he wanted to hold off, so there may be a little more $ in the pot. With the approval of the 4 projects, that leaves $2678.38 in project funds. Kenny Kawcak turned in an application and will work with Mark to set it up before presenting at October meeting.

-Producer Cost Share - Colton moved to approve (Counts, Counts) projects. Steve seconded. Motion passed. This obligates all of the Producer Cost share funding for 2025. Kacey will start following up with landowners for completion.

-USFW Sagebrush BIL - no new updates

-Waiting to hear regarding YVEA Fiscal Management Opportunity and NFWF Rocky Mountain Rangelands grants. The Pankey project was discussed at the Sage grouse meeting (see notes below) for spray only, and the rest of Pankey project will be determined on the outcome of RMR Grant in 2026.

Old Business:
Land Use Board

Steve updated that there was discussion regarding unspent NFWF powerline mitigation funds. It seems as though there is pressure to get this funding spent, and the BLM presented the BOCC with ideas they would like to see. These include but are not limited to: road inventories, wild horse round-ups (the BOCC was very opposed to using mitigation money for this). Kacey will work on the proposal to increase CFCD NFWF funding to review at the October board meeting.

-The conversation is open with the department of energy to explore a nuclear waste storage facility, although much work and discussion still needs to happen to see if this is an option. The department of energy is cautious, as a project in New Mexico was supposed to happen but after $40 billion, the communities vehemently rejected the facility. Discussions need to happen regarding NIMBY attitudes, land values, etc.
-There was also discussion regarding not being able to shoot prairie dogs on state land. Colton was unaware of this, so more info needs to be gathered.

New Business:

County Notices

The dates for comments have passed for these requests. Kacey will ask Candace to email as they come in and she will forward to board

-Surety Reduction Request, Subdivision: JJ Scott Minor Subdivision, Subdivision: Powell Minor Subdivision

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement - NRCS.

Colton moved to approve with the change of President from Wayne to Jorgiea. Doug seconded. Motion passed

Watershed Meeting

September 17th 11:00 AM at the Moffat County Extension Office

-Resolutions for support for staff and funding for non-lethal wolf management will be presented.

Annual CACD Meeting

Will be held In conjunction with Regional Meeting will be held **September 7-11th** Golden, CO. This will include the Pacific AND Southwest regions :11 states. The Annual business meeting will still be online with Resource Committee Meetings - online October 20-24

Committee Report: NFWF Sage Grouse

Colton presented projects that passed approval from committee

-K. Kawcak - Doug moved to approve with an additional $500 to collect soil samples. Colton seconded. Motion passed unanimously

-T. Bellion - Colton moved to approve Option C. Doug seconded. Motion passed unanimously

-Pankey project was discussed regarding some differences in the project that was presented to the sage grouse committee, vs the project that was submitted for the RMR grant. Depending on the funding source, will determine the project as it progresses. Currently the option for funding from sage grouse NFWF is approximately $5500. Colton moved, Doug seconded. Motion passed unanimously

-Cole - Colton moved to approve option A with substituting wood straw bales in place of alfalfa bales which tend to mold and break down faster . Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously
-Tallent project was tabled in committee

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 Time: 5:00pm

Adjourn: Colton moved to adjourn meeting. Steve seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM