



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

Minutes 12/9/25

Place: USDA Office 145 Commerce Street Craig, CO

**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, Steve Hinkemeyer, Colton Murray, Rod Cook, Doug Davis Staff - Kacey Green (zoom), Cassie Lamb, Mark Lowrey, Nicky Boulger NRCS - Nakayla Lestina

Call meeting to Order: Colton called meeting to order at 4:33 pm

Reading of Previous Minutes: Steve moved, Doug seconded to approve minutes. Motion passed

Treasure's Report: Wayne moved, Nick seconded to approve Treasurer's report. Motion passed

Guests: Rebecca Burton

Board Time Report:

Name	Time	Note
Wayne Counts	5	
Nick Charchalis	6	
Colton Murray	4	
Rod Cook	2	
Stephen Hinkemeyer	6	
Doug Davis	8	
Jorgiea Raftopoulos	N/A	

NRCS Update: Nakayla Lestina reported that not much is yet known about 2026 deadlines, but have been getting a few applications coming in and have a meeting coming up this Thursday. Working on CSP. Doug - do districts weigh in on critical staff shortages? Nick - that would come through CACD resolutions. Usually western slope (range) has less staff than crops. Funding looks positive based on reports from Sec. of Ag.

DCT Report: Nicky Boulger helping with CRP and EQIP. District - annual meeting Palisade Insectary guest speaker secured and will bring examples. Food: will get bids on 2 types of meat - pork and beef. Working on a drought resistant pollinator mix with Jr. Kawcak

District Manager Report: Kacey Green reported that mostly end of year wrap-up and reports. 2026 budget - although a work in progress the final budget will look a little different. Revenue will be down based on grants sunseting, however, we are still in good shape moving into 2026. Less than 10% deviation means we won't have to do a revision, but will have to do an audit. Kacey is working closely with the accountant to make sure ready for this.

Wayne asked about America the Beautiful funding. That is funding that is obligated but not actually spent. Wayne moved to adopt a resolution to accept the budget. Steve seconded. Motion passed. Steve moved to put the legal notice in the paper for the budget. Doug seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Land Use Board – Steve; Battery storage operation granted conditional use permit in September. This storage will be working with state land, total area 19 acres, graveled and fenced. Should be ready 2028-2029 with some discussion on location.

Friends of the Yampa attended the meeting and presented the Yampa Scorecard project, and wanted to look at river health from South Beach to Brown's Park area section of the river. This would be a part of the integrated water management plan. Asked for a letter of support from BOCC and obtaining a grant from the river district. LUB will recommend to the BOCC to NOT support funding for this project. There were concerns about the "grades" given to other sections of the river, but unintended consequences to landowners along the river, that they may be on the hook for improvements. Kymm (BLM) was of the opinion that data collection was good, but most of this section would be BLM land and no meaningful product was produced in other areas. None of the river experts live in this area, and concern about voluntary improvements becoming mandatory. Doug - the science is "fuzzy" and based on much anecdotal and/or historic evidence.

Float legislation: Jeff Comstock is working with club 20, but no information was shared due to time constraints. No legislation is currently out there.

Roundtable meeting in November: \$100K along with funds from other sources to Rio Blanco fire rehab.

Nick: Can we look into helping our neighbors with cash (NFWF funding etc), since we are doing well as a district? Steve - there is time to do this and discuss further as projects start coming in and issues are assessed in the spring. There are other grants being applied for by the White River Conservation District.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting February 17th moving along, working on getting programs, speakers and details. Jeff Comstock to give a county update and let Kacey know if you want other speakers outside of the usual county updates.

Committee Report:

- NFWF Sage Grouse – Colton, Mark, Cassie, Kacey

One project tabled for January

Kacey proposal update - lots of unknowns about how much money has been allocated and how much is left. Website has no information, and there is concern that there won't be another RFP and the funding will be opened up to the whole state.

Wayne re: grass seed that is still there. Mark is following up with the landowner to see if that project will move forward. Doug wants to make sure we are ok and won't get in trouble with having it on hand. Kacey purchased through materials and supply, so it is not attached to a specific project - it will be ok to use elsewhere if the original project does not move forward.

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, January 13th, 2025 Time: 4:30

Adjourn Doug moves to adjourn. Steve seconded. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm