

4/16/2025 CAC Meeting
Chaffee County's Common Ground Program

Attendance:

Committee Members: Paul Muelle, Jim La Rue, Ben Lenth, Sydney Schnurr, Joe Stone

Guests: Cindy Williams, Envision, Jeff Zechman, CCFPD, Jessica Downing, GARNA

Staff: Betsy Dittenber & Anna Hendricks, CCCF, Dan Short & Don Reimer, Chaffee County

- Meeting Called to Order at 2:07 pm
- Consent Agenda - Unanimously Approved

2:09 PM: Agenda Item 1: One Year Partnership Proposals, GARNA

Jessica Downing, Interim Executive Director, GARNA reviewed the proposal that was submitted for consideration and offered the following clarifications to the committee:

- The wraps on the portapots are durables and are expected to last more than one year. Sometimes they need to be replaced and that is included in the budget expectations.
- The wraps are used for advertising space and donation asks to encourage support of the trails/public lands.
- A change this year is that they are using two different service providers for the portapots because the geographic spread between the sites and the south and north end of the county was too much of a travel burden on one service provider to cover the entire territory.
- Jessica clarified that the \$2000 contribution in the budget from GARNA includes time overages that GARNA absorbs into their budget as historically they always end up spending more than they budgeted for on this project.
- Jessica shared that they are looking for alternate funding sources as this is a critical project across the community. They are working on year round unit funding as a priority because the use demands it. BLMN, Salida Mountain Trails and BVSL currently fund year round portapots on high use trailheads.

The committee reviewed the rubric for partnership presentations and there was unanimous agreement that it was a "Yes to all categories of review". The proposal was approved for recommendation from the CAC. The next steps are to gain approval from the BOCC which will be fast tracked and on the agenda as soon as possible.

2:20 PM: Agenda Item 2: Funds Available for 2025

- Dan Short provided an explanation of the projections spreadsheet that was included in the meeting packet that this is forecasting and while has as much actual information as possible, is not set in stone but a tool to manage the funds.
- The committee inquired if their suggestion of allocation of \$300,000 from the NFF grant that was pushed to 2026 could be allocated to the 2025 competitive cycle. CCCF Administrators and County Staff clarified that on reviewing the cash flow numbers, they

did not feel comfortable allocating the \$300,000 because of the high level of partnership commitments in 2026 and cash flow projections. This would have dropped the balance to \$200,000 in the fund and so that suggestion was not advanced to the BOCC for approval.

2:27 PM: Agenda Item 1: One Year Partnership Proposals, Chaffee CHIPS, Chaffee County Fire Protection District, Jeff Zechman.

- Jeff gave an overview of the project and shared his role and history with the program. Jeff clarified that the originally scheduled April event was pushed to the Fall.
- The committee had questions about the budget, the portion of the CCFPD position that is allocated to the project, if value of the funds used to pay for the position as well the inkind representation was an accurate reflection of the time spent on the project. CCFPD agreed to provide more information at the next CAC meeting to clarify the cost allocation of the position.
- In the meantime, the committee approved funding for the other portions of the project so that the project could start, while more clarification was obtained. The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of funding the non CCFPD position portion of the proposal with a goal of advancing to the BOCC as soon as possible.

2:37 PM: Agenda Item 3: Update on Pending Grants: CCCF staff gave an update on the pending grants.

- Betsy gave an overview of all of the pending grants and their status.
- The Committee requested to review the reports that were submitted to gain more clarity on the financial status of the projects (how much has been spent, what matching funds were secured and status of the deliverables.)

2:51 PM: Agenda Item 4: 2025 Competitive Grant Application Update: CCCF Staff gave an update on the status of the 2025 competitive grants.

- Staff will review Pre-Applications as they come in and send a status report to the committee. Timely committee feedback will be needed on any applications that are not a clear Yes or No to advance to the full application. CCCF Staff will send these reports weekly once the application opens.
- The committee inquired about the promotional efforts for the grant process. CCCF shared how it was promoted and will follow up on if the Mountain Mail picked up the press release or not.
- The Committee confirmed the meeting times during the review process as well as upcoming meetings:
 - The May CAC Standing Meeting was moved to Monday May 19th from 2-4 pm.
 - The Review Meetings were scheduled for:
 - June 23rd 2-4 pm
 - June 25th 2-4 pm
 - July 14th 2-4 pm
 - July 16th 2-4 pm

- Committee Members Syd & Ben agreed to attend the Informational Webinar remotely on 4/17.

3:08 PM Agenda Item 5: Committee Vacancies

- County Staff reviewed the process for posting and appointment of CAC Committee Members: Vacancy Posting, Suggested Expertise Areas and Review Questions to be shared by CAC with the BOCC, Standard County Committee Application Process, BOCC to review and appoint.
- The Committee will determine a list of suggested review questions for the Commissioners at the May CAC Meeting.
- County Staff will move forward with posting the vacancy announcement
- County Staff will provide a review of term updates at the May CAC Meeting.

3:15 PM Agenda Item 6: Agricultural Initiative Scope Update. County Staff shared that unfortunately due to an unexpected last minute event, Commissioner Lucrezi was not able to be present for this meeting, but that progress has been made on the scope and an update via email is anticipated.

3:20 PM Agenda Item 7: Other Business

- CCCF provided an updated on GLM access and will send instructions on how to see past applications/reports in the portal

3:21 PM Meeting Adjourned