

10.28.2025

Chaffee County Common Ground Citizen Advisory Committee & BOCC Joint Work Session

Attendance:

Committee: Ben Lenth, Sydney Schnurr, Joe Stone, Dani Cook, Scott Gillilan, Jim LaRue (virtual), Paul Muelle (virtual)

Chaffee County Board of Commissioners: PT Wood, Gina Lucrezi, Dave Armstrong

Chaffee County Staff: Miles Cottom, Gabe Hobson

CCCF: Betsy Dittenber, Anna Hendricks

13:00 – CAC approves consent agenda. Regular CAC business is moved to after the joint works session between the CAC and BOCC. Joint work session begins. (See zoom recording for details).

14:59 – Regular CAC business resumes.

15:00 – Gabe H and Miles C gives an update on the County Initiatives. The County received responses to the Working Lands Coordinator RFQ from Guidestone Colorado, The Upper Arkansas Conservation District, and Maverick Solutions. An interview with the Upper Arkansas Conservation District was held on Monday, October 27th and interviews with Guidestone Colorado and Maverick Solutions will be held on Thursday October 30th. A discussion among the BOCC is expected to occur to determine how best to proceed. The Coordinator position will be funded with \$200,000 of Common Ground money over 2 years as previously identified.

15:10 – Gabe H gives an update on Chaffee County resource councils. Minor updates will be pursued for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Forest Health Council will likely move back to the old model of having quarterly Forest Health Council meetings with larger groups for information sharing and having Chaffee Treats meeting on the months in between for smaller groups to collaborate and plan projects. The Chaffee Treats meetings will use an opt in model and anyone will be allowed to attend. Meetings will be recorded. Rec Council will continue meeting, taking a month off in November. CAC members will be added to the resource council calendar invites.

15:13 – Betsy D gives an update on the policy review process. Feedback based on the work session is welcome and will be incorporated. Miles C notes that all county committees and their policies are being reviewed and likely to be complete and approved by the BOCC by the end of the year. The Subject Matter Expert plan is being developed and may be less prescriptive than in the original resolution was.

13:16 – A brief discussion on the Common Ground budget occurs and grant application timeline. The budget and timeline are largely expected to be the same as previously

discussed. Input from past applicants will tentatively be solicited through surveys with anticipated results in January.

15:22 – Anna H leads a discussion on grant reporting. The new reporting protocol will include reporting cash match and in-kind match. The CAC agrees that it would be beneficial for them to review final reports. Mini grant reports are only subject to a final report at the end of the year after receiving the grant. Betsy D suggests that there should be an assigned annual review of multi-year grants. Dani C suggests requiring that grant recipients submit project photos. The CAC agrees and also would like to see a map of Common Ground projects. The Community Planning and Natural Resources Department is working on developing a story map.

15:28 – Betsy D gives updates on pending grant updates. The Methodist Front Wildland Urban Interface Forest & Watershed Health Amendment Request is discussed before a vote. The committee adds the additional requirements for the amendment as the applicant submitting maps of new treatment area, signed document of support and authorization to conduct work from the landowners and land managers, an adjusted timeline, and a mitigation plan. The idea of requiring additional work on weeds monitoring and mitigation beyond their mitigation plan which is argued to not be feasible by the majority of those present. The CAC votes to recommend approving the amendment request with the additional requirements with a 5-2 vote. Joe Stone and Scott Gillilan voted not to approve.

15:44 – Meeting adjourns.