

Shawn Vollertsen, President
Jeff Phillips, Secretary/ Treasurer

Richard Drake, Vice President
Will Shellabarger, Board Member
Francis Wilson, Board Member

**NORTHERN SAGUACHE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MINUTES**

February 9th, 2026

Location: Saguache Fire Station

7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 PM
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Completed
3. **DIRECTOR'S ROLL CALL:** All present Richard Drake, Shawn Vollertsen, Will Shellabarger, Francis Wilson, and Jeff Phillips by phone.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – CHANGES, ADDITIONS & DELETIONS:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED FOR
FEBRUARY 9TH, 2026, BY RICHARD DRAKE SECONDED BY
FRANCIS WILSON.**

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

5. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** District Chief Wesley Moores, District Secretary Juli Close, District Equipment Specialists Kendal Adolph, and please see the attached sheet for more attendees.
6. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 12, 2026, AS
PUBLISHED BY WILL SHELLABARGER SECONDED BY FRANCIS
WILSON.**

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. **READING & APPROVAL OF BILLS. (SUBJECT TO REVIEW OF EACH INVOICE & SIGNING OF CHECKS BY ALL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT)**
AGENDA ITEM 14: All bills read aloud by Shawn Vollertsen, Board President, and discussed with members present.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS REVIEWED AND READ ALOUD DURING THE MEETING BY FRANCIS WILSON SECONDED BY WILL SHELLABARGER.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. **PRESENTATIONS: Financial Report: Account balances, Bank Statement Reconciliations, Current Budget Report, mail review, and others as needed)**
- a. **Update on grant writing:** Yvonne spoke with the Rio Grande Round Table. They may have someone to fund both wells. Cadet grant on hold.
 - a. The District received \$359.27 for the pension fund and \$5,374.48 for the General Fund. I did not include the pension deposit in the reports in your folders; however, the General Fund deposit was entered.
 - b. SDA is due to receive the discount now, but I want to confirm that the board still wants to join.
 - c. The Moffat Xcel did not come before checks were done. It is an electronic check payment, so I will enter it when it comes, and it will be corrected next month.
 - d. I have an engagement letter for the Wall Smith and Bateman for the 2025 Audit. I need it signed to move forward.

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE 2025 AUDIT EXEMPTION WITH WALL SMITH AND BATEMAN BY FRANCIS WILSON SECONDED BY WILL SHELLABARGER.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- e. In your folder is the final draft of the Shelter-in-Place agreement from our attorney, Alex. I have sent it to David Frees, who has forwarded it to the County Commissioners for final review. Their attorney has approved the draft.

- f. I also received a Wild Land Support agreement from Chief Craig that I emailed you all and put a copy in your folders.
- g. Chiefs, thank you, Kendal, George, and Craig. I received your bank statements and have returned them to your folders. Bill, did you bring your statements today? Yes, he did and Juli will return next month.
- h. There are posters to be posted at your station. The Pay Date needs to be hung, without pay dates since we are volunteers.
- i. The Naloxone Project sent a flyer to make it easy for you to report when you distribute Narcan. Please remember, they ask for data; in return, we get Narcan as needed. You can also distribute at any of your events.

9. **FIREFIGHTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, RESIGNATIONS, AND REQUESTS FOR RETIREMENT:**

The application for Kathryn S. to join Crestone. One issue is that she lives in the Baca, not in Crestone. Craig, she is very active and has attended multiple trainings. She has a business and is open during the workday in the District, but lives in Baca. Craig feels the need to pull from the Baca to boost enrollment. Will S. and Francis W. want to follow the current bylaws; they can revisit them later. She lives 15 minutes away in the Baca; she is in Chalet. Current Rooster 6, one in Saguache and one Cadet, so only 4 to respond. We do have mutual aid with Baca; it is automatic for all calls. Jeff, we need to address this issue with the current bylaws. The board asked to add it to next month's agenda, and Wes will reach out to the District Attorney about the Bylaws.

MOTION TO NOT APPROVE KATHRYN'S APPLICATION CURRENTLY. TABLE APPLICATION UNTIL AFTER THE BOARD REVISITS THE BYLAWS BY JEFF PHILLIPS AND SECONDED BY FRANCIS WILSON.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 4.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

LOST CELL SIGNAL FROM JEFF PHILLIPS.

10. **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

	<i>TRAINING HOURS</i>	<i>REGULAR HOURS</i>	<i>STRUCTURE FIRE</i>	<i>WILDLAND FIRE</i>	<i>MOTOR VEHICLE ACC.</i>	<i>OTHER</i>
<i>Crestone</i>	21.5 wildland maps tool and tool maintenance and truck exercises	83.75				1 standby structure

<i>Moffat</i>	21 SCBAs and radio and pump operation	43	1	2	1
<i>Saguache</i>	40 Hazmat awareness with DFPC	71	1	2	3
<i>Villa Grove/ Bonanza</i>	44.5 attack 2 in service now.	40.5		1 1 phone crash	1 1

- a. **Crestone Fire:** Tender is out of order. Submitting a request for wild land tools. Community Outreach and Fundraiser, WUI education, light snacks, and playing Towering Inferno (1974) on March 14th, 2-7 pm; this is a fundraiser.

MOTION TO APPROVE MOVIE, SNACKS, AND WUI EDUCATION AND TRAINING EVENT FOR MARCH 14TH FROM 2-7 PM IN CRESTONE BY FRANCIS WILSON, SECONDED BY RICHARD DRAKE.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Moffat Fire:** Can we ask for donations before the approval letter for our fundraiser? The Board asked to bring the fundraiser event to the next meeting for approval, and then you can move forward with coordinating your event.
- c. **Saguache Fire:** DFPC training for March and April for the whole District. Reading smoke, and then enter and attack, and water. Will start around 5:30. Saguache would like to provide dinner. Chief Kendal has a guy who needs 60 hours of community service to paint the offices, entry, kitchen, and bathrooms. Shawn wants to make sure that someone is supervising the work.
- d. **Villa Grove / Bonanza Fire:** Got Attack 2 in service. Old Truck is Attack 22
- e. **District Chief Report:**
- Radio and SCBA compressor grant denied in full; no funding available.
 - Scotty N. with BLM may have some radios that he will donate to us.
 - Skip S. is the new Rio Grande Forest FMO. We will be dealing with him moving forward.
 - SCBAs' mask bags are ready to distribute.
 - Air quality testing equipment is installed at Villa Grove and Saguache Station outside the building. The units are solar.

- f. Lease agreement with Ciello signed and done. Juli will file.
- g. Agency letter for Marshal Fire Service. New inspector Whitney for Saguache county apartments.
- h. Alcon, middle door in Villa Grove, seal Bonanza and Saguache, plus the middle drop is dropping in Saguache. Alcon checking Crestone this week.

11. **OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS:**

a. **Truck Repairs:**

- i. The oil change in Rescue Villa Grove is done, but the one in Bonanza is not.
 - ii. Engine 1 done, 5" turbo boot is currently damaged Kendal ordered.
 - iii. Tender 7 is leaking more water than it will hold. Shawn asks if we can find a tank? We're supposed to decommission when we purchased Tender 77. Richard, should we seek an appropriate replacement tank? Denver Truck made a truck; maybe they could re-tank it. Wes will look for a tank and have it installed.
 - iv. Engine 5 check hubs. The hubs are not getting unlocked after use.
- b. **Crestone Building Update:** Alcon is coming this week to finish the doors, then we can finish moving in. Still need paint and skin the bathroom and do some electrical work.
- c. **Brush Truck Villa Grove update:** In Service, waiting for front dumper, chevron stripping, and toolbox.
- d. **Office addition for Moffat Station update:** Thursday, the rest of the plywood for the side rails and stairs.
- e. **Adding jersey blocks to the back of the old Crestone Station Building:** Kendal, May 1st, to deliver and set. We ordered 8, 8-footers. Someone will have to be there to show them where to set. Call Cooley for a price for materials to set the jersey blocks on.
- f. **Rescue Truck 7:** Scheduled for delivery Feb 27th. Take new truck to ACA to use their lifts to remove the bed and put it on. Or they bring two booms to us.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Chiefs share Time Sheets from their stations: All Board members reviewed them, and they want to review them every February.
- b. A letter for volunteers going into inactive status must be completed and placed in the file until reactivation. The District needs a paper trail.
- c. Drug Testing is scheduled for Thursday at the Saguache Station. Board members will also be tested.
- d. WUI codes, conversation with Saguache County and DFPC. The law says we must. The county says the unfunded mandate is not enforceable. The board wants the attorney to review. Wes-handed-out CPAW FAQ. The Board gave Wes

permission to talk to the attorney about the unfunded mandate. Review for next meeting.

- e. Extractor down and moved to bay, have JT's brother, who is a plumber, move lines.

MOTION TO MOVE WATER LINES IN THE SAGUACHE STATION FOR EXTRACTOR BY RICHARD DRAKE SECONDED BY FRANCIS WILSON.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.

VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.

- f. Two sections of brush pasture in our District needs to be burned off. This could be good district training. Have a map table talk the night before, and a cut-line and back-burning good practice drill of a forest fire. 320 acres

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BURN OF SAGE BRUSH FOR TRAINING FOR WILDFIRE ON MARCH 21, 2026, DEPENDENT ON SAFE WEATHER CONDITIONS BY WILL SHELLABARGER SECONDED FRANCIS WILSON.

ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTES IN FAVOR: 5.


VOTES AGAINST: 0.

MOTION CARRIED.


- g. **Wildland Fire Program Support:** Craig states this is a DFPC-certified training program. Certifications help with grants and recruitment. Wants to start this program for certification and commit to the District. Daniel J. has decades of experience in wildland fire and will explain the process. Matt N. with DFPC can attend a Board meeting to provide further explanation if the Board would like. Daniel has 52 years of wildland experience and is 72, and wants to pass the torch to the younger generation. Crestone wants this training to go on a national fire and do more wildland. The Board asked who is here to fight fires if they are gone on national fires? Daniel built Baca Wildland. We are not asking to send out an apparatus; nothing Crestone has is new enough. Currently working for Chaffee and would volunteer to set it up for Northern Saguache. Just get qualified guys who can go out on other districts' trucks. Guys could make money while fighting national fires. Ok, the accountant can take 3.33% of the funds to cover the costs of receiving and paying them. No trucks out of state. Not part of CMAS. Joining can

provide income to the department. He is offering this to the whole District. No additional fees to the District. Craig does not believe that any current members want to go on National calls. Currently wanting to train for certifications maybe if they want to go in the future. Matt from DFPC can tell the Board more about the financial expense and gain. Northern Saguache could be an issuing agency for the red card. If no one plans to go, why do this training? This could expose the District to IRS or insurance issues. Shawn, so the District would be paying for the training. Wes stated that a few emails were sent on the 21st and 28th to Matt Nolte, and a voicemail to DFPC that was played for all present at the meeting. These correspondences went around the District and the chain of command. Richard was not impressed with the voicemail and the bashing of the District's equipment. We're sending guys to wildfire classes that are useful for our District. Wes is displeased with the runaround via emails and voicemail that didn't come from Chief Craig but from DFPC superiors. Daniel was trying to get more information to present this process to the Board. Daniel didn't go to Wes because he thinks he is against this form of training. Craig said he was told to gather information. Wes asked when that was. Craig has been gathering information. Craig was requesting information on the certification to obtain Red Cards. They will do as much or as little as the Board approves. Can our volunteers get a Red Card through Chaffee County? Shawn stated that no voting tonight needs further discussion. Richard, table till next month. Wes will talk to the insurance and the attorney about the Red Card program and training. Put on the agenda for next month. Craig, thanks for listening. Wes wants to make sure communication lines stay straight and follow the chain of command as listed in the Bylaws of the District. Craig apologizes that was not his intention.

13. **CITIZEN (GUEST) COMMENTS (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES):** Craig, Inactive form does not negate drug testing. Member must drug test to return.
14. **REVIEW OF BILLS, RECEIPTS, BANK STATEMENTS, ETC. QUESTIONS AND/OR DISCREPANCIES AND CHECK SIGNING:**
15. **ADJOURN:** 10:05 pm
16. **Next Meeting:** March 9th, 2026, Saguache Fire Station



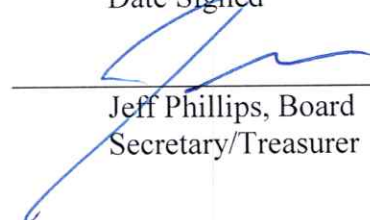
Juli Close, Secretary



Shawn Vollertsen,
Board President

3-9-2026

Date Signed



Jeff Phillips, Board
Secretary/Treasurer

Meeting 2/9/2020

Attendance

Kaedren Close

Scott Close

Daniel S Johnson

Nate Randall

John Barbara

Trevor Ward

Alder Lakish

Jina Eastman

J. T. Scanga

Bill Eastman