

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

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| ITEM DATE: 11/13/2018 | ITEM TIME: 11:25 AM |
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| FROM: | PDR Board/Claire Sollars – Helena Taylor |
| TODAY’S DATE: | 11/08/2018 |
| AGENDA TITLE: | FUNDING APPROVAL FOR PDR PROJECT 186 – FLANDERS PROJECT |

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| CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM: | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION ITEM | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION | |

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| I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE: |
| See V. (Background) |

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| II. RECOMMENDED ACTION: |
| Consideration to approve the funding of PDR project 186, Flanders Project, in the total amount of \$400,000 towards the purchase of a conservation easement and authorization to sign the Agreement Concerning Conservation Easement between Routt County and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). |

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| III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET): |
| PROPOSED REVENUE: n/a |
| PROPOSED EXPENDITURE: \$400,000 |
| FUNDING SOURCE: Open Space – PDR Fund |
| \$400,000 will be applied towards the purchase of the conservation easement. |

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| IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM): |
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| V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: |
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The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Citizen’s Advisory Board met on October 23, 2018 to review Tier II documents for Project #186. The PDR Board recommended approval of Tier II funding in the amount of \$400,000.00, towards the purchase of the Conservation Easement.

The final Conservation Easement was valued at \$3,840,000 which is \$840,000 more than the initial estimated value of the Conservation Easement. The PDR program will be contributing \$400,000 (10.4%) towards the conservation easement. TNC and CPW will contribute \$2,672,000 (69.6%) and the remainder \$768,000 (20%) being landowner contribution. The PDR Board is pleased to see this project move towards completion and highly commends the landowners’ dedication to planning for the future.

The Flanders Ranch consists of 1,676.84 acres. The family has owned and operated the property since 1954 when the original 880-acre parcel was purchased. Approximately 62 acres are irrigated meadow with about 100 head of cattle per grazing season. The property has conservation values of importance to not only the Conservancy, but also to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). Situated near a mosaic of other conservation easements, including State Trust Lands and the Hereford Haven State Habitat Area, the property greatly contributes to the open and scenic nature of Routt County. Additionally, the Flanders Ranch contains habitat for birds, mammals and other wildlife of conservation concern to the state, as well as high quality riparian forests, sagebrush and mountain shrub communities.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES:

All documentation has been reviewed by the County Attorney’s Office.
No outstanding items.

VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS: