

MEETING MINUTES
DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2024
MILLARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
LOCATION: DELTA, UTAH

ATTENDANCE:

SUPERVISORS: Brandon Anderson, Klint Atkinson, Jared Bryan, Troy Davis, and Jim Withers
Clerk: Stacey Lake
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF): Tracy Balch via phone
Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS): Tyrell Belnap
Millard County – USU Extension: Kalen Taylor
Millard County Commissioner Trevor Johnson: unable to attend.

DELTA CD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Brandon Anderson called the meeting to order at **10:15 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTIONS

Approval of February 1, 2024, meeting minutes. -Page 1

Approval of current financials. -Page 1

Approval to award JayLee Anderson the 2024 UACD/Delta Conservation District \$1000, Scholarship. -Page 1

Adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Page 3

Meeting Minutes

- a) The February 1, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed. **Klint Atkinson motioned to accept the February 1, 2024, meeting minutes. Jim Withers seconded. Motion approved.**

Financial:

- a) Current financials were reviewed by the board. **Jared Bryan motioned to accept the current financials. Klint Atkinson seconded. Motion approved.**

Board Business:

- a) 2024 Tree Program is in progress until mid-April.
- b) JayLee Anderson applied for the 2024 UACD Scholarship Program. The board reviewed her application and essay. The board was pleased with her achievements and hard work. **Jim Withers motioned to award JayLee Anderson with the 2024 UACD/Delta Conservation District Scholarship of \$1000. Jared Bryan seconded. Motion approved.** The information will be submitted to the UACD Auxiliary. Upon confirmation of JayLee being enrolled in school, the Delta Conservation District will award her with the check. A certificate will be awarded to her at the April meeting.
- c) Conservationist of the Year nominations were reopened. The board discussed Lon Jackson, Willoughby Produce, and Crossroads Dairy. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- d) Board member nominations are due before April 8, 2024. Nominations will be Brandon Anderson, Troy Davis, and Jim Withers. The Nominating Committee Recommendation List was filled out and the required signatures will be gathered up. Commitment to Serve documents were filled out and signed. These will all be submitted to Sherie before April 8, 2024.
- e) March 5, 2024, Zone Meeting was reviewed. Brandon Anderson attended the Zone Meeting and Klint Atkinson watched via ZOOM. Brandon discussed what was taught regarding project ideas and how to plan and develop these future projects. Each district did an exercise project model with timeline and alliances. The board discussed project ideas including weed control, canal improvements, and bridge crossings. Grant assistance and multiple agencies would help with bigger projects.

UDAF Business: Tracy Balch via phone

a) GRANTS:

Invasive Species Mitigation Grant

Application Window: February 1 – March 15, 2024

- Contact: Aaron Eager – aeagar@utah.gov, (801)602-1961
- The Invasive Species Mitigation Grant is a competitive grant that allocates funds to projects with noxious weed management strategies that have a high degree of potential success in Utah.
- Eligible organizations include universities, cooperative weed management areas (CWMA's), county weed boards, federal and state agencies, federal, state, tribal, and private landowners, conservation districts, nonprofits, and/or other political subdivisions.
- Eligible activities include early detection and rapid response, treating critical acres that protect larger land use areas, monitoring and preventing the spread of small populations and new introductions, monitoring and rehabilitating established infestations, research related to invasive species.

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program

- Application Window: February 7 – March 31, 2024
- Contact: Allison Ross – aross@utah.gov, (385)549-7987
- The purpose of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) program is to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, to provide more and better markets to small farms and food businesses, to support the development of value-added products for consumers, fair prices, fair wages, and new and safe job opportunities.
- Two grant types are available:
 - Infrastructure Projects of \$100,000-\$750,000 (25-50% cost match required), or
 - Simplified Equipment-only Projects of \$10,000-\$100,000 (no cost match required)

Utah Grazing Improvement Program Grant

- Application Window: Open Annually Through January 1.
- Program Manager: Troy Forrest – tforrest@utah.gov, (435) 279-3603; Grant Contact: Regional GIP Coordinators
- The Utah Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) provides cost-share grants to rangers for rangeland improvements. Eligible projects include any restoration work that will improve rangeland health, productivity, and management. In order for proposals to be competitive, a recommended request maximum is \$100,000. Applicants are advised to work with their regional GIP coordinator for application assistance and more information.
- Project examples: elimination of invasive species, reseeding, livestock water development and improvements, fencing, grazing management planning, and any other projects that improve watershed and rangeland health and productivity.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

- 2024 Farm Bill Specialty Crop Block Grant Application Window: February 26 – April 5, 2024
- Contact: Allison Ross, aross@utah.gov
- The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is a competitive program that awards grants of up to \$70,000 to eligible projects that enhance Utah's specialty crop industry. Specialty crops include fruit, vegetables, nuts, horticulture products, etc.
- Eligible applicants include producers, schools, trade associations, non-profits, farmers markets, farming, and ranching co-ops, etc. headquartered in Utah.
- Eligible projects must benefit more than one producer or organization and may include a broad range of focus such as improving marketing, research, training, certifications, plant health, etc. for specialty crops.

UDAF Business: Tracy Balch via phone --continued

Utah Pollinator Habitat Program

- The 2024 application period runs March 1 – April 15, 2024.
- The purpose of this program is to achieve the following:
 - Increase the amount of available pollinator habitat throughout Utah.
 - Enhance and expand existing landscapes to improve resources (pollen and nectar) available for pollinators.
 - Provide better connectivity between habitats to better support beneficial species.
 - Increase access and availability of native seed resources across the state.
 - Increase public awareness and involvement to improve pollinator habitat state-wide.

NRCS: Tyrell Belnap

- a) The February 13, 2024, Local Work Group meeting was reviewed. Brandon Anderson attended. Similar funding requests as last year. 49 applications for Delta SFP were ranked last week. This is for cement/pipe ditch upgrades. Totaled approximately \$8.5 million in requests, there is only \$900,000, to spend. Only about six applications will be approved. Based on application numbers and available funding, a request for additional funding and a change the ranking for FY25. Ideas to prioritize within the canal system to better benefit the entire system is being discussed.

Commissioner Business: unable to attend.

Extension Service Business: Kalen Taylor via email

- a) Farm and Ranch Succession Workshop will be held March 26-27, 2024, at 6-8 p.m., at the Delta Extension Office. This is a free event. Dinner will be provided both nights. There will be a 20-person limit. The idea is to have the older and younger generation farmers/ranchers from a family come together and talk through some of the hand offs that have to occur as things change. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/856306163787?aff=oddtcreator>

DELTA CD – VOLUNTEER TIME

Brandon Anderson: 6 hours -Water/Drain

Klint Atkinson: 4 hours -Drain

Jared Bryan: 12 hours -Water/Drain

Jim Withers: 2 hours -Drain

Troy Davis: 3 hours -Water

Klint Atkinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at **11:15 a.m.** Jared Bryan seconded. Motion approved.