

MINUTES
Enterprise & Iron Conservation District
Meeting Mar 6, 2024
Cedar City

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District (CD) Supervisors:

Nancy Clark, *Chair*

Mark Halterman, *Vice Chair* (Via phone)

Cody Staheli, *Treasurer* (Via phone)

Brandon Hunter (Via phone)

Keith Christensen

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Conservation District Staff:

Riley Howard, *Clerk*

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Tyce Palmer, *Zone 5 Coordinator*

Jake Benson, *Zone 5 Conservation Planner*

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Mike Marshall, *Natural Resources*

Conservation Service District Conservationist

Scott Stubbs, *Iron County Farm Bureau*

Amber Hatch, *Iron County Weed Supervisor*

Kacy Adams, *Iron County Weed Board*

Meeting Guests:

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

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|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <u>Meeting Minutes from Feb 14</u> | <u>Page 1</u> |
| 2. <u>ARDL Loan Applications</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 3. <u>Bills</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 4. <u>Raven pest control</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 5. <u>Adjournment</u> | <u>Page 3</u> |

CALL TO ORDER

Enterprise & Iron Conservation District Chair Nancy Clark called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Halterman made a motion to approve the minutes from Feb. 14, 2024. Brandon Hunter seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREE PROGRAM

Tree program. Amber has been keeping tree orders up to date. Tyce said the district is allowed to contract out and he suggested contracting with Amber Hatch for tree program. **Brandon motioned to hire Amber as a contract employee. Cody seconded.**

ARDL

Jake brought in an ARDL loan application. **Mark motioned to approve for funding. Brandon seconded.**

NO-TILL DRILL

Lifetime ag sent a bill for workshop expenses. **Brandon motioned to pay. Keith seconded.**

No-till drill workshop was very beneficial. Nancy mentioned that the drill is a learning process. She suggested having someone who can contract out to run it on smaller farms. We want to get a checklist and inspection document to review. The fee for usage has been suggested of \$50 per day and \$5 per acre. Policy, rental agreement, inspection self-checklist, and instructions are in a packet ready for distribution. Riley needs to make sure she asks the state for reimbursement as a project.

Riley needs to call Utah Local Governments Trust insurance for drill insurance.

Jake expressed concern about the time that's going to be required for the no-till drill to get deposits and payments.

Jake suggested a triplicate form with producers name, date, check boxes, acres planted, meter number, signature.

It was also suggested that the Iron County Extension Agent Beckah Esplin help facilitate deposit and producer information and Kacy help with on-ground inspections.

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENTS

Tyce talked about supervisor positions. Three of the E&I supervisors are up for re-appointment. All 3 are willing to be considered for re-appointment. Nancy will work with the nominating committee to get candidates approved.

MULTI-ZONE MEETING

Tyce went to the multi-zone meeting in Richfield yesterday. It was reiterated how beneficial and powerful the conservation districts are. The regular zone 5 meetings will return next year.

FARM BUREAU UPDATE

Scott said the next farm bureau meeting will be march 14th. He asked for support and membership for the Utah Public Lands Council (PLC). He's been talking to government officials about pushing for solar farms to raise the panels higher to allow for livestock grazing.

IRON COUNTY WEED DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Iron County Weed Department is busy and the busy season hasn't even started. Amber is concerned that there won't be enough bodies to maintain the progress they've been making. She's proposing that the County allow her to hire more seasonal employees as opposed to utilizing the road department. She is actively applying for grants.

NRCS UPDATE

Mike Marshall said they are busy working on the 2024 applications. They're hoping to reach out to applicants shortly. The second batch of funding deadline is March 29th. He also presented the latest precipitation report. The entire state is over 100% average of annual precipitation.

Tyce said Mike talked about a Conservation Stewardship Program funding available for \$800 if we want to do a workshop

USU EXTENSION UPDATE

Beckah Esplin was absent from today's meeting but asked Tyce to distribute a flyer for a USU Range Livestock tour to be held March 26-28th this year.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

E&I Conservation District meeting – Apr. 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mark motioned to adjourn. Brandon seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned: 3:00 p.m.