**MINUTES**

**UTAH CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UCC) MEETING**

March 12, 2024

Taylorsville, Utah

**Craig Buttars,** *Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), UCC Chair*

Appointed Conservation District (CD) Supervisors

UCC Voting Members:

**Terry Spackman,** *Zone 1*

**Todd Arbon,** *Zone 2*

**Kim Evans,** *Zone 3*

**Scott Mower,** *Zone 4*

**Sam Larson,** *Zone 5*

**Bill Butcher,** *Zone 7*

Standing UCC Voting Members:

**Jerry Caldwell,** *Utah Weed Supervisor Association President*

**Joel Ferry,** *Utah Department of Natural Resources Director (DNR)*

Conservation Commission Member (absent)

**Bryan Smith,** *Zone 6*

**John MacKey**,*Water Quality Division Director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

Conservation Commission Member (absent) con’t

**Dr. Ken White,** *Director, Utah State University Extension (USU),*

Department of Agriculture and Food:

**Kelly Pehrson,** *Deputy Commissioner*

**Jim Bowcutt,** *Director, Division of Conservation*

**Sherie Edginton,** *Executive Assistant*

**Jace Farnsworth,** *Resource Coordinator*

**Tracy Balch,** *Resource Coordinator*

**Darrell Gillman,** *Resource Coordinator*

**Tyce Palmer,** *Resource Coordinator*

**Ryan Jones,** *Resource Coordinator*

**Sean Trease,** *ARDL Loan Specialist*

**Shelly Rentmeister,** *ARDL Financial Analyst*

**Hannah Freeze,** *Water Optimization Program Manager*

**Brian Christensen,** *Water Optimization Assistant Program Manager*

**Nicole Hannah,** *Attorney’s Generals Office*

Guests

**SUMMARY OF COMMISSION ACTION**

1. Approve Automation and Telemetry Water Optimization Projects Page 1
2. Approve On-Farm Water Optimization Projects Page 1
3. Approve Irrigation and Canal Company Water Optimization Projects Page 2

**UCC MEETING – CALL TO ORDER**

Utah Conservation Commission Chair Craig Buttars called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

**APPROVAL OF RANKED WATER OPTIMIZATION PROJECTS BY UCC**

Ms. Hannah Freeze, Water Optimization Program Manager, reported the Agriculture Water Optimization Committee voted to approve $22.6 million for irrigation and canal company water optimization projects, $20.2 million for on farm projects, and $1.6 million in automation and telemetry projects. There was $33.3 million in ARPA funding which is now spent on projects plus $11.1 million in state funds that will go to this round of projects. The state dollars were set up in different “buckets” of funding for canal companies and automation and telemetry. The $11.1 million in state funding will come out of those “buckets**”. A motion was made by Mr. Sam Larson to approve the Automation and Telemetry Water Optimization Projects, seconded by Mr. Todd Arbon. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Scott Mower to approve the On-Farm Water Optimization Projects, seconded by Mr. Sam Larson. Mr. Joel Ferry Declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the motion. A roll call vote was taken excluding Mr. Joel Ferry. The motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Sam Larson to approve the Irrigation and Canal Company Water Optimization Projects, seconded by Mr. Todd Arbon. Mr. Joel Ferry declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the motion. A roll call vote was taken excluding Mr. Joel Ferry, the motion carried.**

Ms. Freeze reported the water optimization staff will now start sending approval emails to the projects by the end of the week. Then the grant agreements will be sent to producers and canal and irrigation companies.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.**