

MINUTES
Enterprise & Iron Conservation District
Meeting Apr 10, 2024
Cedar City

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District (CD) Supervisors:

Cody Staheli, *Treasurer*

Brandon Hunter

Keith Christensen

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Nancy Clark, *Chair*

Mark Halterman, *Vice Chair*

Conservation District Staff:

Riley Howard, *Clerk*

Department of Agriculture and Food:

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*

Beckah Esplin, *USU/Iron County Extension
Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent*

Paul Monroe, *Central Iron Conservancy
District Manager*

Seth Oatken, *NRCS Range Conservationist*

Meeting Guests:

TK Kern & Symbria Patterson, *Red Acre
Farm*

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

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| 1. <u>Meeting Minutes from Mar 6</u> | <u>Page 1</u> |
| 2. <u>No-Till Drill Expenses Reimbursement</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 3. <u>3rd Quarter Reimbursement</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 4. <u>Support for Governor Cox Letter</u> | <u>Page 2</u> |
| 5. <u>Adjournment</u> | <u>Page 3</u> |

CALL TO ORDER

Enterprise & Iron Conservation District Treasurer Cody Staheli called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brandon Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes from Mar 6, 2024. Keith Christensen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

DIAMOND Z ARENA TREES

Jake brought a letter for the Cedar City mayor regarding the trees that the Conservation District has donated to the Diamond Z Arena. They have not been maintained and Nancy would like a letter sent to ask them to resume watering them.

NO-TILL DRILL

No-till drill is being rented out and after some hiccups it seems like things are going well. **Brandon motioned to reimburse Jake for expenses paid for the no-till drill. Keith seconded.**

Q3 REIMBURSEMENT

Keith motioned to approve 3rd quarter reimbursement. Brandon seconded.

TREE PROGRAM

Amber is helping with the tree orders. Amber is concerned that we still have quite a bit of supply and been trying to push them. Tyce seems confident that they will sell during the distribution. Beckah offered to help advertise at the spring Home and Garden show with the Master Gardeners.

CICWCD UPDATES

Paul Monroe said they got awarded \$1 million for ag optimization. Hoping to use effluent wastewater for agriculture use. Paul met with the mayor yesterday, the city has selected an engineering firm to try to get the effluent water from type 2 quality to type 1 so it can be used for parks and golf course.

FARM BUREAU UPDATE

Scott Stubbs said the Farm Bureau meeting is tomorrow at the Courtyard. The topics will be about policies they want to see adjusted and right of way issues. Scott asked Jake to read a letter written for Governor Cox regarding negative policies and actions that have caused range leasing decreases. **Brandon motioned to support the letter and put the E&I name to it. Keith seconded.**

IRON COUNTY UPDATE

Mike Worthen said the county is working a lot with BLM. Solar Energy is doing an environment impact statement for solar farms being put on BLM land. It's easier to get a permit on private land than public land at the moment and BLM wants to change that. Commissioner Wood has concerns about grazing allotments being reduced with solar farms (AUM). He also addressed the wild horses. The state has had successful round-ups to reduce the amount on range land but without continued management the herds will increase again. FREES from USU has been trying to initiate collaboration to help reduce wild horse. Sage Grouse in Iron County – the Sage Grouse plans seem to be changing with each administration. The county is opposed to current proposals to create more protected land. Pinyon/juniper workshop in Reno to assess whether current control policies are effective.

IRON COUNTY WEED DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Amber said the weed supervisor equipment needed repairs so she has been getting those completed. The county agreed to get 2 full time seasonal employees. They will start at the end of April. Amber said she's planning on talking to the ATV club to see if they could help with spraying. She is working with Enoch city and Cedar City to partner with spraying. She's working on getting grants. She is also trying to get into educating youth more.

NRCS UPDATE

Mike Marshall said NRCS is hiring a new farm biologist. He's hoping that the new person will be hired by June. Mike handed out the latest water report. Our area has exceeded the normal snowpack for the year.

USU EXTENSION UPDATE

Beckah Esplin presented a producer wellness dinner in June. She also mentioned the avian influenza that's been affecting dairy cattle. So far it hasn't been found in Utah but it's something to be watching out for. Beckah is planning a range camp and noxious weed camp for kids through 4-H. Still in the planning process. Beckah was asked about the youth bounty program to trap gophers, squirrels, and racoons. She will ask Beaver County for more information about how they did it.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Keith motioned to adjourn. Brandon seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned: 2:30 p.m.