

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, March 11, 2024
Location: Western Park Board Room
302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair
Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Jim Slauch, Treasurer
Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Staff:

Andrea Merrell, Clerk

Guests:

Jeff McKee, Vernal Hay Company

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Bell called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Supervisors reviewed the February 12 Board Meeting Minutes. **Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SOIL HEALTH EQUIPMENT GRANT

- A. Vernal Hay Company agreement.** Jeff McKee of Vernal Hay Company reviewed his company's rental agreement and procedures with the Board members. The Supervisors asked how Vernal Hay Company encourages renters to take care of the no-till drill and prevent damage from carelessness. Jeff stated he and his staff take pictures before the rental equipment leaves their facility. If the equipment comes back with damage, the renter is responsible for the costs of repairing that damage. This requirement is stated in the rental agreement. Also, a person must be 21 or older to rent and transport the equipment.

He suggested the District purchase at least one spare tire. The Supervisors agreed and suggested we also talk to people who have owned and used Esch No-till drills for multiple growing seasons to see if there are other parts that need to be replaced frequently. Then we can consider keeping these replacement parts on hand to prevent excessive down time during busy periods.

Supervisors discussed liability insurance. Jeff thought that the drill would be covered under his company's liability insurance but will confirm with his insurance agent.

After discussing rental rates, it was decided to rent drill for a day rate of \$250 per day. The day rate will be split between Uintah Conservation District (50%) and Vernal Hay Company (50%). In addition, there will be a charge of \$5 per acre. The funds from the per acre charge will be deposited to a separate account to cover required maintenance of the drill.

Jeff suggested the District contact the supplier and request an Esch field representative come to Vernal and provide training on the drill. The District would then set up a workshop for Board members and producers who are interested in renting the drill.

Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to enter into an agreement with Vernal Hay Company (see attached) and do an evaluation of the contract at the May Board meeting. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

NRCS BUSINESS

NRCS District Conservationist was not able to attend today's meeting.

2024 SUPERVISORS APPOINTMENTS

Darrell announced that terms for Bryan, Johnathan, and Todd end June 30, 2024. All three have agreed to continue to serve on the District Board. Darrell will bring the commitment to serve forms to the April 8 meeting for them to complete. Darrell will take the completed forms to the selection committee for review. If the selection committee approves the recommendations, the forms will be forwarded to the State level for final approval.

REQUEST FOR DONATION TO UINTAH HIGH ENVIROTHON TEAM

David Wilson, the Future Farmers of America (FAA) Advisor for Uintah High School and five students attended the Board meeting. They told the Board members that the 2024 Envirothon competition will be held April 18 and described the various aspects of the competition. They also described their preparations for the competition. Part of the competition is an oral presentation. The Supervisors invited them to rehearse the oral presentation at the April 8 Board Meeting. David Wilson and the students thought this would be an effective way to ensure they are prepared in advance of the competition and agreed to come prepared to give their presentation at the April 8 Board meeting at 2:40 p.m. **Action Item: Todd made a motion for the District to donate \$300 to the Uintah High School Envirothon team to help them defray costs of attending the competition. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review. Andrea passed out to the Supervisors a Balance Sheet dated March 8 and the MACU Checking Account Reconciliation for period ending February 29. Andrea reported the interest earned in February for the MACU savings account.

For the checking account, she reviewed the reconciliation details for February. She reported three checks cleared the account. She informed the Supervisors the data related to each cleared check, including the check number, payee, and amount of each check. Then she reported there were two deposits made in February. She reported the date, source, and amount of each deposit.

- B. Comparison of Actual Expenses to Budget. Andrea passed out a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual worksheet for the period July 1 to February 29, 2024. She compared the figures for actual total income and actual total expenses to the budgeted amounts for those items. The actual amounts were less than the budgeted amounts. No adjustments to the budget are needed.

Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Todd seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

- A. **Income:** Andrea reported income from receipt of first disbursement from the 2024 UDAF Grant and from the sale of one roll of weed barrier.
- B. **Expenses:** Andrea passed out an Expense Evaluation Worksheet detailing requests for payments she received since the February Board Meeting. She received Invoice 2647 from Duchesne Conservation District (DCD) for half of the cost of the lunch for participants at the Feb 21 Crop & Livestock School, Invoice 2641 from DCD for purchase of six rolls of weed barrier, and Invoice 021551633 from CNA Surety for Treasurer Bond. Darrell told the Supervisors Uintah CD will receive an invoice from the Alpine CD asking them to pay a portion of the lunch catering costs from the Zone 3 & 6 Meeting they attended in Heber. **Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to approve payment of all requests for payment as presented. Todd seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SERA

The Supervisors reviewed and finished filling out their SERA forms for the third quarter of fiscal year 2024. Andrea will follow up with the Supervisors absent from today's meeting.

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Darrell reported the Water Optimization Grant Selection Committee will meet tomorrow to evaluate the applications received from the Spring 2024 application period. They will notify the successful applicants by the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT

Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 3:00 p.m.