

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, June 10, 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

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, NRCS

Ryan Mower, Forest Service

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Staff:

Andrea Merrell

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Guests:

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 May 13 Board Meeting Minutes. **Action Item: Steve Hanberg made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

There were no reports from the Supervisors.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne Reid, Uintah County Extension Agent was unable to attend. Andrea distributed a flyer she received from Cheyenne before today's meeting. The flyer has all the details for the upcoming Basin AG Expo, June 21st – 22nd.

Andrea related that Cheyenne is in the process of planning field days for August 20 to 21. If the Supervisors would like certain topics covered during the field days, they can contact Cheyenne.

NRCS BUSINES

Jeremy Maycock updated the Supervisors on the progress his staff is making in getting contracts obligated for EQIP funding. The amount assigned to the Roosevelt and Vernal offices should fund one hundred projects. They are working to obligate the first batch by June 30, 2024; then the second batch by August 30, 2024. The projects are mostly changing irrigation systems from flood to center pivot. There are also projects under soil health, pasture improvement, and range improvement. Depending on funding, they may be able to fund some of the applications to upgrade irrigation systems.

FOREST SHARED STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Ryan Mower, Forest Service, reported to the Supervisors that the project submitted under the Chief's Initiative (now Forest Shared Stewardship Project) is funded. Ashley National Forest will receive \$1.1 million per year for three years for fuels treatment projects in the Dry Fork and Taylor Mountain areas. NRCS will receive one hundred thousand dollars per year for three years to assist private landowners in the project area with qualifying practices to reduce the impacts of wildfires on their lands. In the next few days Ashley National Forest will announce their project's selection for funding under the national Forest Shared Stewardship Program.

Ryan stated that a public information meeting needs to be held to educate private landowners in the target area about the reasons for the project, the participating agencies, and planned practices for implementation on public lands. Another purpose for the meeting is to educate the private landowners on practices they could use to protect their lands and available funding.

He asked the Supervisors if the Conservation District would be willing to be the sponsors for the meeting and pay for a meal (dinner). The Supervisors discussed the timing for this meeting. Jeremy stated NRCS will need to advertise the application period for this funding. To be eligible for NRCS funding, the landowner may need to be an agricultural producer. It was decided to preliminarily plan this informational meeting to coincide with the September 9 Uintah CD meeting. The plan is to start the Board meeting around 5 pm and start the informational meeting at 6 pm. The location for the meeting would be the pavilion at Remember The Maine Park.

Ryan will contact Jeremy Raymond, Uintah County Fire Marshal, to see if he can get Andrea an address list for the landowners within the project area. He will work to complete this item by June 30.

Andrea will contact Jones Catering and Grab & Growl (Dutch oven catering) for meal choices and prices. She will also contact the Parks and Recreation District to reserve the facilities. She will bring price lists and other information to July 8 UCD Board Meeting.

FINALIZE 2025 BUDGET

Andrea passed out copies of the final 2025 budget. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to adopt the final 2025 budget as presented. Todd seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SCHEDULE WORKSHOPS OR TOURS

Darrell presented information on a grant that provides funding for conservation districts to sponsor Soil Health workshops. They can apply for a minimum of \$1500 to a maximum of \$10,000. The grant application is due Friday, June 14. The Supervisors discussed ways to use this funding, such as helping Cheyenne with funding for the field days she is planning August 20 and 21 or the Crop Schools she puts on in February. Due to the few days until the application is due, it was decided not to apply for the grant at this time. However, the Supervisors want to discuss this grant opportunity with Cheyenne and see if she needs additional funding for field days or crop schools. When a similar grant opportunity becomes available, the District will be ready to apply.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea passed out a Balance Sheet dated June 7 and the Checking Account Reconciliation for May. For the savings account Andrea reported the interest earned during May and the ending balance.

For the checking account, she reviewed the reconciliation details for May. She reported four checks cleared the account. She related all the data for each cleared check, including the check number, issue date, payee, purpose, and amount of each check. Then she reported there were seven deposits made between May 1 and June 7. She reported the date, income source, and amount of each deposit. Lastly, she reported the checking register balance as of May 31 and the ending balance on the Reconciliation Detail which was prepared June 7.

- B. **Comparison of Actual Expenses to Budget.** Andrea passed out a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual worksheet for the period July 1, 2023 to June 10, 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; therefore, the District does not need to amend or adjust the budget.

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

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

A. **Income:** In addition to the previous report of income deposited to MACU checking account, Andrea reported the amount remaining in the District's UDAF grant. She has the payment request paperwork filled out to close out the grant and will submit within the week.

B. Expenses: Andrea presented the following invoices for approval to pay:

--invoice from Timp-Nebo CD to help them with lunch expenses from the Zones 3 and 6 Meeting

--soon-to-be received invoice amount from UACD for Merrell payroll expenses from April 1 to June 30, 2024

--three invoices from Duchesne Conservation District. Each invoice is for the purchase of six rolls of weed barrier.

--invoice from Bryan Bell for pick up and delivery costs in bringing Esch No-till Drill from Loma, Colorado to Vernal, Utah. Eighty percent of this invoice will come from the District's Soil Health Equipment Grant. Andrea reported she submitted the invoice as the final payment request from the Grant. Once UDAF reviews and processes the final payment request, they will close out the Grant.

Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve payment of all the invoices and amounts as presented.

Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SERA

A. Fill Out and Sign Fourth Quarter SERA Forms. Andrea gave the Supervisors their fourth quarter SERA forms to review and fill out.

B. SERA for attendance at upcoming meetings and workshops. The Supervisors discussed attendance at meetings and workshops coming up in the next month. **Action Item: Jim made a motion to approve SERA expenses for any Supervisor representing Uintah CD who attends the June 21 and 22 AG Expo. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

No additional informational items at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 2:45 p.m.

Motion by Todd and Seconded by Steve