

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, September 9, 2024,
Location: Remember The Maine Park
4250 North 3500 West, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair
Johnathan McKee, Supervisor
Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, NRCS

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Staff:

Andrea Merrell

Guests:

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Bell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Andrea Merrell summarized the minutes for the August 12, 2024, Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes. **Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Johnathan McKee was able to attend the last session of the AG-DRIP Field Day. He reported that the presenters stated the system was installed for around \$2000 to \$3000 per acre. They said the system can be used to grow a corn crop, but not small grain. The estimated life span of the system is five to ten years. The producer will be able to till in between the drip system. The drip system is installed 18 inches deep. The system was installed by a contractor. The presenters said the system could be pulled up and re-used. There is another subsurface drip irrigation system like this one in Duchesne county.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne Reed was not able to attend today's meeting.

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock reported to the Supervisors that his staff have four contracts left to complete. When finished, they will have completed 94 contracts this fiscal year and obligated \$5.5 million.

FOREST SHARED STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

All preparations are complete for the meeting.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Andrea passed out copies of the 2024 UCD Annual Report. She reviewed it with the Supervisors. **Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to accept the 2024 UCD Annual Report as presented and direct Andrea to submit the report to UDAF. Todd seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR FORM

In compliance with Uintah Conservation District Governing Policies and Utah State Code, the Supervisors each filled out and signed a Conflict of Interest Form and an Ethical Behavior Form for fiscal year 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of the August MACU Bank Statement, a Balance Sheet dated September 8 and the Checking Account Reconciliation for August. For the savings account Andrea reported the interest earned during August and the ending balance.

For the checking account, she reviewed the reconciliation details and the bank statement for August. She reported one check was written and cleared in August. She reported the check number, the amount, and to whom the check is payable. Then she reported there were three deposits made in August. She reported the date, income source, and amount of each deposit. She reported the ending balance as of August 31, 2024 as shown on the Reconciliation Detail, the bank statement, and the Balance Sheet.

- B. **Comparison of Actual Expenses to Budget.** Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual statement covering the period from July 1 to August 31, 2024. All accounts are within the budgeted amount.

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

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

A. **Income:** Andrea told the Supervisors there was no additional income after August 31. The income received during August was reported as deposits to the checking account.

Expenses: Andrea presented the Supervisors with a copy of an invoice from Duchesne Conservation District for the purchase of six rolls of weed barrier. Then she reported on the purchases of stamps, office supplies, pizza, chips, cookies, drinks and miscellaneous items she purchased for the Forest Shared Stewardship Project educational meeting to take place after this Board meeting.

Action Item: Todd made a motion to pay expenses as presented. Jim seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SERA

- A. The Supervisors discussed the need to approve SERA for attendance at all FY2025 regular Board meetings including Local Work Group meeting and Zone 6 Annual Meeting. **Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to approve SERA for attendance at all FY2025 regular Board meetings including Local Work Group meeting and Zone 6 Annual Meeting. Jim seconded the motion. Voting unanimously approved the motion.**
- B. The Supervisors filled out the new SERA worksheets for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025.
- C. There are no meetings or workshops between now and the next Board meeting.

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. The Supervisors discussed when to schedule the UCD Board Meetings for October and November. The October Board Meeting falls on October 14 which is Columbus Day and the November Board Meeting falls on November 11 which is Veterans Day. Federal and State employees will not be working on those days. **Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to change the date of the October UCD Board meeting to October 15 and the November UCD Board Meeting to November 12. Jim seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**
- B. Bryan reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) National Convention will be held in Salt Lake City in February 2025. The convention organizers are asking each Utah Conservation District to make a financial donation or donate items unique to their area for gift baskets to be given to the State Presidents attending the convention. Darrell told the Supervisors that UACD is encouraging Supervisors from Utah Conservation Districts to take advantage of this opportunity to attend the NACD National Convention because the conventions are not usually held this close. UACD are investigating the possibility of travel expenses being covered by SERA. More information will be coming.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 6:00 p.m.
Motion by Todd and Seconded by Jim

FOREST SHARED STEWARDSHIP PROJECT (VERNAL MUNICIPAL WATERSHED PROJECT) MEETING

Meeting started at 6:00 pm

Chair Bryan Bell welcomed everyone in attendance. He asked the agency representatives to introduce themselves. He then invited all the participants to help themselves to pizza, chips, cookies, and drinks.

Ryan Mower, Forest Service, began the presentation by discussing the work the Forest Service is doing to reduce wildfire hazard in the forest. He explained why this project area was chosen. He gave the other agency representatives time to talk about the assistance their agencies can provide to the participants. The remainder of the meeting was open for the participants to ask questions and/or make comments to the agency representatives.

The meeting ended at 7:30 pm