

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, October 15, 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
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 1:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the minutes for the September 9, 2024, Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes. **Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

There were no reports from the Supervisors.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

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

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, gave a Power Point presentation to the Supervisors reviewing the NRCS funding programs. He discussed the requirements that an applicant must meet to be eligible to participate in the programs. He also presented current payment limits; however, these may change when the new Farm Bill legislation is passed.

He showed before and after photos of various practices. The Supervisors expressed interest in high tunnels. Jeremy related the objective of installing a high tunnel is to be able to plant a crop earlier in the growing season and to extend production later. The crop is grown in the ground. The program also prohibits the use of supplemental heating or cooling. When installing this practice, the producer needs to be aware the plastic covering of the high tunnel will only last from four to five years and will need to be replaced to maintain the high tunnel.

Jeremy explained available practices under the Energy portion of EQIP program. One available practice replaces inefficient older pumps with more efficient pumps and variable speed drives. Another Energy practice is to replace gas-powered wheel line movers with solar-powered movers.

Next, he reviewed the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). It is a five-year contract. The applicant must control all the land enrolled in the program and all land operated as a unit must be enrolled. He explained that federal leases and grazing allotments can also be enrolled if the lease is in effect for the term of the CSP contract. He gave examples of enhancements and practices and how an applicant chooses which ones and how many to include. Jeremy stressed the CSP program requires extensive recordkeeping and documentation to verify that the enhancements and practices have been implemented to NRCS Standards and Specifications.

He finished his presentation by giving his staff's accomplishments for fiscal year 2024. They completed 94 contracts; mostly for irrigation projects, but also for pasture improvement, rangeland improvement, energy efficiency improvement, 1 animal waste system project, and 16 Conservation Stewardship Project.

UACD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- A. **Auction Item.** Bryan will be attending the UACD Annual Conference, November 6 and 7 in St. George. The Supervisors discussed what type of item to purchase to donate for the Auction. Bryan volunteered to purchase an auction item on behalf of the conservation district. **Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve a maximum amount of \$200 for the purchase of an auction item for the UACD Annual Conference. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

Service Award. Darrell Gillman informed the Supervisors that Zone 6 is assigned the Service Award for the annual conference. He will find out what UACD needs our Zone to do for the Service Award. He thinks the Zone may be responsible for obtaining a plaque or other type of award. Costs for this award would be divided between Daggett CD, Duchesne CD, and Uintah CD. **Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve a maximum amount of \$50 to Darrell for the purchase of award for the Service Award at the UACD Annual Conference. Jim seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Balance Sheet dated October 11 and the Checking Account Reconciliation for September. For the savings account Andrea reported the interest earned and the balance as of September 30.

For the checking account, she compared the reconciliation details and the bank statement for September. She reported three checks were written during September and two cleared. She reported the check number, the amount, and to whom each check is payable. Then she reported there were no deposits made in September. She compared the ending balance as shown on the Reconciliation Detail and the MACU bank statement.

- 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 September 30, 2024. All accounts are within the budgeted amount.

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

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

A. **Income:** Andrea informed the Supervisors she submitted the first payment request from the District's fiscal year 2025 UDAF grant. These funds should arrive before the November Board meeting.

Expenses: Andrea reported there were no requests for payments this month.

SERA

- A. **Approve SERA for attendance at UACD Annual Conference.** Attendance at the annual conference was discussed during the "UACD ANNUAL CONFERENCE" agenda item. **Action Item: Jim made a motion that anyone who attends the UACD Annual Conference can claim SERA to cover eligible expenses. Todd seconded the motion. Voting unanimously approved the motion.**

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. **Discuss November 12 Uintah CD Meeting—continue as scheduled or cancel?** As of today's meeting, Bryan is the only Supervisor able to attend the UACD Annual Conference. Darrell reported that an ARDL representative, Jim Bowcutt from UDAF, and Mark Stillson from Colorado River Authority are planning to attend the November Board meeting. Bryan thought his schedule will allow attending the UACD Annual Conference and conducting the November Board meeting. The Supervisors decided to hold the November 12 Uintah CD Board meeting as planned.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 2:15 p.m.
Motion by Jim and Seconded by Todd