

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, December 9, 2024
Location: Western Park Board Room
302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension

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 November 12, 2024, Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes. **Action Item: Steve Hanberg made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Steve reported that as Chair of the Agriculture Council of the Utah Colorado River Authority he attended the Colorado River Authority Water Users Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada last week. He said negotiations did not move forward as California continues to want more water due to their population and amount of food crops supplied to the United States. Work for a compromise continues as various alternatives are explored.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne reported that registration is open for a Master Gardener course. The cost is \$200 per participant. However, she has coupons for a 50 percent discount. She asked the supervisors to help her get the word out and let anyone interested know that she has the discount coupons.

She asked the Supervisors for topics for the Uintah Basin Crop School she is putting together for February 26, 10 am in Vernal. Earl Creech will again give an alfalfa workshop. She is also planning to have a workshop taught by a soil specialist, and one taught by a beef specialist. She usually has six workshops during the day.

She reported she has planned a research project and received a grant to study the rate of decline in nutrients in stored alfalfa over the next two years. A local alfalfa producer has agreed to dedicate a portion of his stored crop for this study.

Cheyenne reminded the Supervisors there will be a Hay Symposium in St. George on February 6 and 7. A field tour will be held on February 5 before the meetings begin on the 6th. The organizers are still looking for a venue for the meetings, so more details will be coming.

Cheyenne told the Supervisors she applied to make a presentation at The National Watershed Conference to be held April 2025 in Puerto Rico. Her presentation will be about the Pot Creek Watershed Plan and how to engage landowners to implement the changes suggested in the watershed plan.

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock was unable to attend today's meeting. No NRCS Business.

2025 COORDINATION MEETING WITH UTAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Darrell discussed the importance of holding a meeting with the Utah County Commissioners. He reported on the coordination occurring between Duchesne Conservation District (DCD) and the Duchesne County Commissioners. The DCD Supervisors usually attend a regular Commission meeting in the Fall. They present their Annual Report and discuss progress on projects funded by Duchesne County.

Cheyenne reported the Commissioners hold a Monday working group meeting as well as weekly Commission meetings. The Supervisors discussed when to attend. It was decided they want to attend a working group meeting in March after the Legislative Session. Andrea will contact the Commissioners' secretary to schedule a date when the Supervisors can make a presentation.

UTAH BASIN WATER SUMMIT

The 2025 Utah Basin Water Summit is in the process of being organized and is planned for January 15, 2025. The cost to be a sponsor for the Summit is \$200 and gives the sponsor one entry ticket for the Summit. The registration fee for the Summit is \$45. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve the cost of sponsorship for the Summit, and for the District to pay the registration fee for additional Supervisors to attend. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. **Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of the November MACU bank statement, a Balance Sheet dated December 5, and the Checking Account Reconciliation for November. For the savings account Andrea reported the interest earned and the balance as of November 30.

For the checking account, she compared the reconciliation details and the bank statement for November. She reported three checks were written during November. She reported the check number, the amount, and the payee for each check. Only one of those checks cleared during the month. Then she reported there were two deposits made in November and one deposit made in December. She reported the deposit date, the amount, and source of income for each deposit. She compared and explained the ending balances as shown on the Reconciliation Detail, the Balance Sheet, 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 November 30, 2024. All accounts are within the budgeted amount and no amendments need to be made to the budget.

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

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

- A. **Income:** All income received was reported in the financial report.
- B. **Expenses:** Andrea passed out copies of an invoice for yearly dues, a letter, and an annual report she received from UACD. She and Darrell explained the breakdown of costs on the invoice and the benefits the District receives from UACD. Darrell explained that UACD has set up web pages for each District that pays their dues. All we need to do is enter the information we want on our webpage. In addition, UACD is developing training modules. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve payment of the invoice. Johnathan seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.**

Action Item: Steve thanked Andrea for the work she is doing for Utah Conservation District and made a motion to approve a bonus of \$500 to Andrea Merrell. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

SERA

The Supervisors reviewed and discussed upcoming conferences and training workshops as follows:

January 15, 2025	Uintah Basin Water Summit, Roosevelt, Utah
February 5 – 7, 2025	Hay Symposium, St. George, Utah
February 8 – 12, 2025	NACD Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah
February 26, 2025	Uintah Basin Crop School, Vernal, Utah

Andrea will check with Sherie, UDAF, to see how travel expenses to the Hay Symposium would be covered and report her findings at the January meeting.

Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve SERA expenses to any Supervisor attending any of these meetings to represent Uintah Conservation District. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

ARDL PROPOSAL

Darrell presented an ARDL application for Duane Huber. His project will cover 80 acres and is in Lapoint, Utah. He plans to replace worn out wheel lines with 3 center pivots. He is approved for NRCS cost share assistance. A construction plan and the cultural resources review are completed. The Supervisors discussed the project. **Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to approve the application for an Agriculture Resource Development Loan and for it to be forwarded to UDAF for further processing. Steve seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.**

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Darrell gave each Supervisor a Soil Health survey, and time was taken to complete the survey.

The Supervisors discussed when to hold the January UCD meeting. The regular date for the meeting is the second Monday which is January 13--just two days before the Uintah Basin Water Summit. Alternative dates were considered. It is projected the agenda and meeting will be quite short, probably an hour or less. To free up the Supervisors time to attend the Uintah Basin Water Summit, it was decided to hold the Uintah CD Board meeting on January 15 in Roosevelt. The Supervisors will look over the Water Summit agenda and break away during a time when they are not likely to miss important information.

Darrell then asked about scheduling for the Local Work Group Meeting. It was decided to schedule this meeting for March after the Utah Legislative Session. This should make it easier for UDAF personnel and other State agencies' representatives to attend.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 2:15 p.m.
Motion by Johnathan and Seconded by Steve