

MEETING MINUTES
DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2025
MILLARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
LOCATION: DELTA, UTAH

ATTENDANCE:

SUPERVISORS: Klint Atkinson, Brandon Anderson, Troy Davis. **Excused:** Jared Bryan, Jim Withers

Clerk: Stacey Lake

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF): Tracy Balch

Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS): Tyrell Belnap, Russell Monroe

Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD): Russell Monroe

Millard County – USU Extension: unable to attend

Millard County Commissioner: unable to attend.

DELTA CD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Brandon Anderson called the meeting to order at **10:30 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTIONS

Approval of January 2, 2025, meeting minutes. -Page 1

Approval of current financials. -Page 1

Approval of paying invoices: -Page 1

- Millard County Chronicle, invoice # 4292, \$ 39.90, legal advertising.
- Sevier CD, invoice 01212025Zn, \$21.43, Rental of Fairgrounds for 2025 Zone 4 meeting.
- Sevier CD, invoice 2025 Zn Mtg, \$136.81, Supervisor Education/Zone 4 meeting lunch.
- FFA, invoice 9.10.24, \$200, Garrett Finlinson -Society for Range Management Meeting.

Approval of providing \$200 support to Delta FFA, Garrett Finlinson, to attend Society for Range Management Meeting in Spokane, WA. -Page 2

Approval of accepting and signing the CD State Funding Grant Amendment. -Page 2

Approval of 4th Grade Poster Contest and providing prize money. -Page 2

Adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Page -4

Meeting Minutes

- a) January 2, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed.

Klint Atkinson motioned to accept the January 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimous.

Financial:

- a) Current financials were reviewed by the board. **Troy Davis motioned to accept the current financials. Klint Atkinson seconded. Motion approved unanimous.**

Invoices were reviewed by the board. Jared Bryan was unable to attend, and checks will be issued later.

Klint Atkinson to accept and pay all invoices. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimous.

- Millard County Chronicle, invoice # 4292, \$ 39.90, legal advertising.
- Sevier CD, invoice 01212025Zn, \$21.43, Rental of Fairgrounds for 2025 Zone 4 meeting.
- Sevier CD, invoice 2025 Zn Mtg, \$136.81, Supervisor Education/Zone 4 meeting lunch.
- FFA, invoice 9.10.24, \$200, Garrett Finlinson -Society for Range Management Meeting.

Board Business:

- a) The board has received a request from the Delta FFA to request financial support in the amount of \$200. It is on behalf of FFA member, Garrett Finlinson. He has been invited to attend the Society for Range Management Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA, from February 9-13, 2025. Brandon Anderson will speak to FFA advisor, Chad Warnick, to see if we can still send support for this. **Klint Atkinson motioned to support the 9/10/2024 \$200, request to help Garrett Finlinson attend the Society for Range Management Meeting. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimous.**
- b) SERA changes: Procedural changes in State reimbursements for board members' meeting stipends, mileage, and travel costs will now be allocated to the Conservation Districts. The remaining 2025 SERA funds will be given to the Conservation Districts to pay supervisors.
Moving forward, the State will reimburse the district for money paid to the supervisors at established state rates. To be reimbursed you will be required to submit either an approved spread sheet or existing SERA forms to the UCC office. Meeting stipends will be reimbursed at \$15.00 per hour and mileage at \$0.46 per mile. Hotel charges and meals will be subject to state per diem rates.
The State of Utah Contract Amendment will issue \$2800 to our balance to help pay for FY25 Quarter 3 and 4. **Troy Davis motioned to accept and Klint Atkinson will sign the CD State Funding Grant Amendment. Brandon Anderson seconded. Motion approved unanimous.**
- c) Gopher machines have been repaired and maintained.
- d) Brandon Anderson attended the Zone 4 CD Meeting on February 25th, 2025, in Richfield, UT. 10 am. – 1 p.m. He discussed the new supervisor training, Nearpod Module 1. An app is downloaded on a supervisor's phone, a video is watched, and questions are answered on the phone app.
Also at the Zone meeting, District projects were reviewed. Updates to our canal project and gopher control project were given. New projects are encouraged to move forward, possibly new bridges or weed control. Other discussions included updates on UDAF programs, NACD stewardship week, UACD projects, new SERA reimbursement procedures, watershed plan importance, how the Non-Point Source program works, ARDL programs in the zone, Water Optimization, and AgVip program updates.
- e) Supervisors discussed contacting the Commissioner(s) to find out which one should be attending our meetings. Commissioner Trevor Johnson was to attend in 2024 and is currently on the reminder text group. Supervisors discussed that it is important for commissioner(s) to attend.
- f) The board discussed the Delta Conservation Districts 2025, 4th Grade Poster Contest:
 - "Home is where the Habitat is", hand drawn posters only. Due April 27th.
 - Prize money is not reimbursed. 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$75, 3rd place \$50. **Troy Davis motioned to move ahead with the Poster Contest and award prize money. Klint Atkinson seconded. Motion approved unanimous.**

UDAF Business: Tracy Balch, Maggie Francis (via text)

- a) Maggie Francis, compliance Inspector for UDAF. UDAF has a program that will help producers with grasshoppers. They will pay for the chemical for treatment or bait after qualifying for the program. Contact Maggie for questions and/or information.
- b) No new ARDL loans currently.
- c) Water Optimization closed at the end of February.
- d) 2025 Conservation Tree Program. So far 110 trees have sold.
 - Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, & Wayne Counties
 - Bareroot Conservation Trees, \$6 each. Order in multiples of 5.
 - Call to order: (435)893-3336
 - Pick up will be at the end of April
- e) The Commissioner of Agriculture Butters retired. Interviews for a new commissioner are in process.

UDAF Business: (continued)

f) Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Grant:

- The 2025 application period will run from March 1 through April 15, 2025.
The Doug Tallamy and Nature's Best Hope in Utah webinar (held in March 2024) recording is now available for viewing.
The 2025 Application Process and Program Details Webinar will be held March 26 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The 2024 Webinar is available for viewing.
Awardees for the 2025 program period will be notified via email on June 2, 2025.
The Awardee Webinar will be presented in late July. Date, TBA.
Annual report due from previous 2022 – 2024 awardees on Friday, August 8, 2025.
September-October 2025: Plant distributions. Dates and locations, TBA. They will also be listed on the Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Calendar on the right panel, when available.

g) UACD Supervisor Training for CD Supervisors, Clerks, employees, and partners.

- Module 1: Conservation District History and Overview
- Module 2: Conservation District Meetings
- Future Modules will follow.

h) AgVIP/Stars:

- AgVIP is a voluntary, incentive-based program to help producers implement best management practices, no matter where they are on their conservation journey.
- New program and payment structure for 2025.
- Program participants will have the opportunity to discuss their ag operation with a UDAF planner & fill out the STAR evaluation tool, work with their planner to explore new practices, and develop a detailed conservation innovation plan & connect to additional technical & financial resources. Once the plan is signed, the producer will be eligible for a one-time, \$1000 payment.
- At the end of each crop year during the 3-year contract, UDAF will complete the STAR evaluation tool with participants & assess their progress. Award annual incentive payments through the tiered payment scale. Producers will be eligible for improvement bonuses in addition to the annual incentives when they improve the score of a particular field year after year.
- AgVIP is open to crop and irrigated pasture operation of any size. The acres that producers enroll may be leased/owned, if they have management control.
- Application available online from June 1st through July 31st, 2025. AG.UTAH.GOV/AGVIP

- i) Agricultural Protection Area (APA) is designated geographic area created under specific legal statutes to protect agricultural activities. These areas are granted legal protections as defined in Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 41, which aims to support the continuity, development, and viability of agriculture in Utah. The creation of an APA is voluntary and initiated by landowners engaged in agricultural production who seek to safeguard their operations from potentially restrictive regulations and other hindrances.
- To apply, contact your local county commission or planning department. Specific requirements and steps will vary by county. Contact UDAF County Water & Land Conservation Manager Jay Olsen at (801)718-0517 for more information.

NRCS: Tyrell Belnap, Russell Monroe

- a) Russell Monroe is the new CD planner. He will be helping with NRCS and UACD.
- b) Due to probationary employee situation, Nephi lost range con, Zach and Fillmore lost Russell. Another planner moved to the Beaver office.
- c) IRA money was cut. State lost 36 million in IRA funding that was planned for funding. Looking at reorganization at this point.
- d) Working on writing contracts for 90 plans at this time.
- e) The Local Work Group Meeting was held February 27th, 2025, in Levan, UT. 6-7:30 p.m.

Items discussed were:

- LWG meeting procedures. Partner Agency Program updates.
- Last year LWG priorities and strategic funding proposals were reviewed.
- Districts were encouraged to think of strategic fund pools to work with.
- Resource concerns were discussed. A survey was given to narrow down specific projects.
- Next LWG will be held in Delta.

Supervisors received a Lower Sevier Team LWG Breakdown worksheet. It presented 2024 funding pools with 2024 actual numbers, FY2024 requested funding, and FY2025 requested funding. It showed Active CSP, EQIP, and AMA contracts. It also compared 2024 applications to 2025 applications. Delta Irrigation SFP is funded through FY2026. Lower Sevier River Russian Olive/Tamarisk funding was not continued this year, funding period is over.

- f) Supervisors were given a Resource Concerns within Categories survey to discuss, fill out, and return. This information will be put into a report and submitted to the State Office.
- g) Discussed keeping SFP money in Delta by breaking it up in the four systems. Use money in different systems each year, break down projects into smaller sections and then into phases. Draft boundaries would be needed. A project cannot be split after it is ranked. Apply for a smaller phase of the project, get it funded and implemented, then apply for the next project phase.

Commissioner Business: unable to attend.

Extension Service Business: unable to attend.

DELTA CD – VOLUNTEER TIME

Brandon Anderson: 6 hours -Water/Soil/Drainage

Klint Atkinson: 4 hours -Drainage/Soil

Troy Davis: 3 hours -Water

Klint Atkinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at **11:45 a.m.** Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimous.