

**MINUTES**  
**Uintah County Conservation District**  
Regular Meeting, June 9, 2025  
Location: Western Park Board Room  
302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

**ATTENDANCE:**

Conservation District Vice Chair Todd Thacker

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor  
Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Bryan Bell, Chair  
Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension  
Jeremy Maycock, NRCS

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Staff:

Andrea Merrell

Guests:

Aubrey Harrison, USU Intern

**SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION**

**MEETING – CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Todd Thacker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the minutes for the May 12 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.**

**UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS**

Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension Agent introduced Aubrey Harrison to the Supervisors. Aubrey is working as an intern with Cheyenne assisting with the 4-H Program and additional programs as assigned. In addition, Blake Holmes is working as an intern at the Vernal Research Farm. He will be irrigating the small grain plots and conducting research.

Cheyenne passed out four pages from a 15-page article she recently published. She reviewed portions of the article of greatest interest to the Supervisors. The article is based on the results of a needs assessment survey conducted with farmers and ranchers in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.

Cheyenne set up the thermal drone that she purchased with funds the District donated for 2025 Plant Health Research. She told the Supervisors she is working on her Part 107 certification. She reported that she flew the drone over the research farm fields prior to the Board meeting. Using her laptop computer, she showed the Supervisors a thermal image the drone took of the field that was flooded by water from a break in an irrigation pipeline. She pointed out how you could determine from this thermal image the course of the water that flooded the field. She also showed the Supervisors and image which included cows and noted that the drone's resolution is clear enough to differentiate between a human and a cow.

**NRCS BUSINESS**

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, reported no change in the downsizing and restructuring of federal agencies. His staff have completed 50 contracts with Farm Bill funding. He said they are working on a Chief's Initiative contract for the removal of Pinyon Juniper in the project work area.

He passed out a handout with water supply data. The first part contained a line graph showing the latest data on snow water equivalent in the Northeastern Uinta Mountains. There is a bar chart comparing percent of storage capacity for 2025 and 2024

in eight reservoirs in Uintah and Duchesne counties. The handout also contained statistical data related to Lake Powell water levels over the last twelve months.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET**

Andrea passed out copies of the budget for Fiscal Year 2026. She reviewed the budget with the Supervisors. In the May 12 Board Meeting when the preliminary budget was reviewed, there were several changes to budget amounts the Supervisors had requested. She showed them that those changes had been made in this final budget. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve the final budget as presented. Johnathan seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.**

### **PLANNING CONTENT OF DISTRICT WEBPAGE ON UACD WEBSITE**

Darrell reminded the Supervisors that the District has a webpage on the UACD Website. Currently, it contains information about the no-till drills the District rents. There is a generic picture next to the information about the drill. It was agreed that we need to get a picture of the Esch drill for the webpage. The following are suggestions for the webpage: 1. Include a short narrative about the investment the District is making yearly in the plant health research at the Vernal Research Farm with pictures of the new drone. 2. Pictures of the before and after conditions of the Matt Warner Reservoir shoreline and a short narrative about the Shoreline Stabilization Project. 3. A short narrative about the Chief's Initiative and include pictures from completed practices.

### **PLANNING FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

- A. **Local Workgroup Meeting, Date.** Darrell and Jeremy told the Supervisors the meeting is probably going to be scheduled in August or September. They requested this item be tabled until the July Board Meeting.

The group discussed organizing a group for cricket and grasshopper control in Uintah County on public and private land.

The group decided to add to the July Board Meeting agenda an item to plan a Drone Demonstration Workshop. Cheyenne plans to invite the Extension agent from Price to bring their sprayer drone for training and demonstration. Preliminary plans are for a two-day workshop.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

- A. **Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Balance Sheet dated May 31. For the savings account she reported the interest earned and the balance as of May 31.

For the checking account she reported during May three checks and one electronic banking transfer (EBT) cleared the account. She reported the check number, the amount, and the payee for each check as well as the amount and payee for the EBT. Then she reported there were five deposits in May. She reported the deposit date, the amount, and source of income for each deposit. She reported the ending balance as shown on the Balance Sheet matches the May MACU bank statement.

- B. **Income:** Andrea reported income after May 31. She reported the sale of four rolls of weed barrier and that she made a deposit on June 2. In addition, she sold one roll of weed barrier on June 7 and will be depositing those funds in checking after today's Board Meeting.

- C. **Expenses:** Andrea presented the Supervisors two invoices she received from Duchesne Conservation District (DCD). Each invoice is for the purchase of six rolls of weed barrier.

**Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to accept the financial report as presented and approve payment of all invoices as presented. Steve seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

### **SERA**

- A. **Review meeting and workshop attendance for the quarter.** Andrea passed out a spreadsheet with each Supervisor's meeting attendance listed for the quarter ending June 30. She asked the Supervisors to review their portion of the spreadsheet and let her know if anything needed to be changed.
- B. **Upcoming workshops.** Andrea gave the Supervisors a copy of the flyer for the Utah Conservation Commission Zone 3 Summer Tour on June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve SERA for any Supervisor attending the Summer Tour or any other agricultural events representing the District. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

## **ARDL PROPOSAL**

There were no ARDL Proposals.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

- A. **July 14 meeting:** Andrea informed the Supervisors she will be out of town on July 14 but will leave any needed information with Darrell.

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Thacker at 2:15 p.m.

Motion by Steve and Seconded by Johnathan