M I N U T E S
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, August 11, 2025
Location: Western Park Board Room
302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor
Jim Slaugh, Treasurer
Todd Thacker, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:
Steve Hanberg, Supervisor
Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Staff
Andrea Merrell

Conservation Partners Representatives:
Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension
Jeremy Maycock, NRCS
Courtney Borer, NRCS
Duane Houston, Water Optimization Planner and Basin Salinity Coordinator

Department of Agriculture and Food:
Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Guests:
Nathan Hall, Utah DEQ

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 July 14 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. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension Agent was unable to attend as she is helping set up for Uintah County Fair.

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, Local Workgroup meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 14.

Jeremy informed the Supervisors the Utah NRCS State Conservationist is taking a detail to Washington, DC. Acting State Conservationist will be invited to attend. Not much information out about Farm Bill or FY 2026 program funding.

Discussion followed on how irrigation companies can get funding for much needed conservation projects, and more accurate credit for water losses. Darrell suggested these issues be expressed during the Water Optimization Survey later in the meeting.

SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

Cortney Borer, Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Biologist, confirmed the date of workshop is Thursday, November 6. Darrell has reserved Western Park meeting room. The plan is to start the meeting at 6 pm. The main presentation will be on virtual fencing with additional presentations on the SGI program, water projects, and funding available. She is in the process of contacting people to give the presentation on virtual fencing. Darrell suggested contacting Terrell Thayne, Northeast Region GIP Coordinator for names of people in Monticello, Utah who are currently using virtual fencing.

Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve providing refreshments at the SGI Workshop. Jim seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

WATER OPTIMIZATION SURVEY

Duane Houston is replacing Brett Prevedel and Mark Quilter as Basin Salinity Coordinator. He is also a Water Optimization Planner for UDAF. Water Optimization Department wanting input from all Conservation Districts through a computer survey. Duane helped the Supervisors complete the survey for the Lapoint, Tridell areas. This survey will need to be completed for the other areas of Uintah County at the September Board meeting.

FY 2026 DUES FOR UACD

Andrea passed out copies of UACD cover letter, dues invoice, and annual report she received from UACD for 2026. She reviewed with the Supervisors. Bryan explained the need to increase the amount requested for the yearly dues portion. The Supervisors discussed the amount requested and reviewed the benefits the District receives from the UACD organization and staff.

Action Item: Jim made a motion to approve payment of dues to UACD in the amount requested on the invoice.   Todd seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM FOR UDAF PAYMENTS

Darrell explained the State Department of Finance requested the District obtain a post office box to receive state payments. The District has used the mailing address of the current District Treasurer. When the person filling this position changes, it takes months to get the name and address updated in the State's database so they want the District to use a post office box instead.

Darrell talked to Sherie Edington, UDAF and asked if we could receive these payments as electronic banking transfers. She did some research and found this could be done through submission of a Direct Deposit form by the District. if we don't want to use a direct deposit form we would need to get a post office box. Suggestion is if District has a post office box, then wouldn't have to have change of name and address when officers (treasurer) changes. Direct deposit would avoid these problems.

Action Item: Jim made a motion that the District submit a direct deposit to State Department of Finance.   Todd seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

UCD POST OFFICE BOX

No further action needed on post office box as the District is going to use Direct Deposit to receive state payments.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS

A. Drone Demonstration Workshop. Cheyenne unable to attend today's meeting, so this item is tabled until September. Darrell and Duane said she is planning something for the last week of September, starting on Saturday and then Monday to Friday.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A.Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of the MACU July bank statement, a Balance Sheet, and a Profit and Loss Statement**.** She reviewed interest earned on the Savings account and reported the ending balance**.** For the Checking account she reported the number of deposits, amount, and sources of income. She reported that three checks cleared during July and gave the payee and amount for each. She compared the data as shown on the MACU bank statement with that shown in the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement.

B. Income after July 31. Andrea reported she would make a deposit into the checking account after the Board Meeting. This income was from the sale of 5 rolls of weed barrier.

C. Bills for Payment. Andrea presented the supervisors invoices she received from Duchesne Conservation District (DCD). There were two invoices, each for the purchase of six rolls of weed barrier.

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

SERA

A. Upcoming workshops. No meetings.

ARDL PROPOSAL

Darrell reported that Raquel Nash has asked for an increase in her ARDL application (reviewed and approved at April 14, 2025 Board Meeting) due to significant increases in project costs. The Supervisors discussed the request.

Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve the increased principal amount of Raquel Nash's ARDL loan. The motion was seconded by Bryan and unanimously approved. Jim recused himself and acted as Chair so that Bryan could second the motion.

After this item of business was concluded, Bryan resumed the duties of Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENT

Bryan has copies of all the resolutions that will be presented at the UACD Annual Convention. Andrea will scan and email these resolutions to all the Supervisors so they can review them prior to the September 8 District Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm by Todd and seconded by Jim. Motion passed.