

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, May 13, 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

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, NRCS

Charity Reynolds, NRCS

Cheyenne Reed, USU Extension

Denim Lister, USU Extension

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Conservation District Staff:

Andrea Merrell

Guests: Jordon Deltor, Utah DWR

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

The Supervisors reviewed the April 8 Board Meeting Minutes. **Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Voting unanimously approved the motion.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

There were no reports from the Supervisors.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne Reid reported that an agricultural producers' appreciation dinner was held on May 7 as part of an Ag Wellness workshop. There were seventy-seven attendees.

She has been contacted by the Vernal USU Campus for assistance in locating a spot for solar panels. She also asked the Board members for project ideas related to agricultural sustainability. A grant is available. She asked them to contact her with project ideas. The grant application is due at the end of June. Darrell Gillman asked the Board members their thoughts on using these grant funds to study the application of sub-surface drip irrigation in Uintah Basin crops. Steve Hanberg suggested installing a research plot using sub-surface drip irrigation.

A. Vernal Research Farm request for funding: Cheyenne submitted an invoice to the Board members for expenses related to field preparation, irrigation costs, electricity costs, and custom farm work at the Farm during the 2024 growing season. The Supervisors discussed the request. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to approve payment of the invoice as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

Denim Lister, Student intern, gave a brief outline of the plans for the research farm. He plans to plant two varieties of corn next Monday including three strips using a no-till drill. In the alfalfa fields, they will conduct irrigation trials testing yield response to different types of nozzles and different amounts of irrigation. Plans are not finalized for research in the west area of the farm. He said the research team is considering alternative crops. They are considering sorghum Sudan grass. Steve and Todd said a major issue an agricultural producer looks at when considering an alternative crop is where do you sell it? They discussed a past research project where Boyd Kitchen, retired Uintah County Extension Agent, successfully grew soybeans at the research

farm, but there is no market close enough to make growing this crop economically feasible. They said the same is true for safflower or canola. Cows do like to eat black oil sunflower seeds.

NRCS BUSINES

Jeremy Maycock provided the Board members training on USDA Civil Rights policy and protection of producers' personally identifiable information (PII). He told them this is essential during the ARDL application review process. He asked them to continue to assist NRCS with program outreach.

He introduced Charity Reynolds, Natural Resources Specialist, who has recently joined the Vernal staff. His staff are working to prepare contract packets for review and obligation of funding.

POT CREEK WATERSHED

Jordon Deltor, Utah DWR, discussed projects the Division of Wildlife Resources is doing in the Pot Creek area. DWR is planning to install solar-powered devices to circulate water in the upper six feet of Matt Warner Reservoir.

He discussed at length the Beaver Dam Analog project. They are mimicking beaver activity in upstream tributaries to get sediments to settle out of the water before it enters Matt Warner Reservoir. They want to increase floodplain connectivity by increasing trees and shrubs along the streams' corridors to utilize nutrients. They have the funding and are looking for landowners willing to work with them. The Supervisors asked Jordon if the project planners had thought how installed structures and newly planted vegetation would need fencing to keep livestock from concentrating in these areas. Jordon and the Supervisors discussed how water sources away from the streams' corridors could draw cattle away from the restoration areas. They also asked if the landowners would be able to use solar pumps, pipelines, and troughs to help move cattle off channel. Jim owns land in the Pot Creek watershed and volunteered to work with Jordon on doing some beaver dam analogs.

REVIEW PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Andrea passed out a copy of a preliminary 2025 budget. The Board members compared the information from the "Current Year" column with the proposed budget amounts. **Action Item: Steve made a motion to adopt the preliminary 2025 budget as presented. Todd seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

PURCHASES

A. 2025 Calendar/Recordkeeping Books. Andrea passed out handouts showing styles and preliminary prices for calendar/recordkeeping pocket-sized books for 2025. The Board members discussed how many of the books to purchase and the style.

B. Computer. Andrea passed out details on an ASUS 15.6" FHD laptop from three different suppliers. The suppliers are Techris Design Inc in Vernal, Utah; Sam's Club in Grand Junction, Colorado; and Best Buy in Grand Junction, Colorado. The Board members reviewed all the features and costs from the three suppliers.

C. QuickBooks. Andrea also passed out a sheet with pricing of QuickBooks packages for the Supervisors to review.

Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to purchase the 2025 calendar/recordkeeping book style with the spiral binding, to purchase a new laptop through Techris Design Inc, and for Andrea to use her discretion to choose the QuickBooks package which best meets the District's needs. Jim seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. Balance Sheet/Bank Statement Review.** Andrea passed out to a Balance Sheet dated May 8, the March and April MACU Bank Statement, and the Checking Account Reconciliations for March and April. For the savings account Andrea reported the interest earned in March and April; and the April 30 ending balance.

For the checking account, she reviewed the reconciliation details for March. She reported three checks cleared the account. She informed the Supervisors the data related to each cleared check, including the check number, payee, and amount of each check. Then she reported there were two deposits made in March. She reported the date, source, and amount of each deposit; and ending balance.

For April she also compared the reconciliation sheet details with the MACU bank statement as she informed the Supervisors that two checks were written during April. She told them the check number, payee, and amount of each check. However, neither of these checks cleared in April and are not shown on the MACU bank statement. She reported there were two deposits made in April and read the dates, source of income, and amount of each deposit. Next

she reviewed information that is shown on the QuickBooks Reconciliation Detail sheet, but not on MACU April statement. These are mainly the two checks referred to above that were written in April but did not clear before the end of the month as well as two deposits made after May 1 and before the Reconciliation Detail was prepared on May 8. Again, she informed the Supervisors of the dates, amounts, and income source for those two deposits.

- B. **Comparison of Actual Expenses to Budget.** Andrea passed out a Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual worksheet for the period July 1 to May 8, 2024. She compared the figures for actual total income and actual total expenses to the budgeted amounts for those items. The actual amounts were less than the budgeted amounts. No adjustments to the budget are needed.

Action Item: Todd 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:** Darrell reported that the Dew Drop Drill was recently rented and brought the check for the District. He said the new Esch no-till drill is being used. Andrea will contact Vernal Hay Company for information on the hours drill has been rented, amount due to the District, and balance in the Maintenance account.

B. **Expenses:** Andrea presented to the Supervisors two invoices she has received from Duchesne Conservation District. Each invoice is for the purchase of six rolls of weed barrier. **Action Item: Todd made a motion to approve payment of the Duchesne Conservation District invoices as presented. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SERA

A. **Record attendance at April 18 Farm Bureau meeting and May 7 Ag Wellness Workshop.** Andrea told the Supervisors in the next few weeks she will be preparing the fourth quarter meeting and workshop attendance spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be submitted with their SERA forms. The Supervisors told her which meetings they attended as well as starting and ending times for the meetings.

B. **SERA for attendance at upcoming meetings and workshops.** Cheyenne and Darrell told the Board members about the following meetings: UCC Tour in the Wanship/Coalville area will be June 20, June 21 and 22 Agricultural Expo. Approval of SERA expenses for attendance at these meetings will be addressed at the June 10 UCD Board Meeting.

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Darrell and Bryan told the Supervisors February 8 to 12, 2025 Utah will be hosting the National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) annual convention in Salt Lake City. Bryan is working on the planning committee.

Darrell and Cheyenne reported the Uintah High School Envirothon team won the presentation portion of the Envirothon competition and won second place overall.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 2:45 p.m.
Motion by Todd and Seconded by Jim