

MINUTES
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, April 8, 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

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, NRCS

Cheyenne Reed, USU Extension

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Conservation District Staff:

Guests: Uintah High School Envirothon Team

David Wilson, FFA Advisor

5 Envirothon Team Members

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 March 11 Board Meeting Minutes. **Action Item: Johnathan McKee made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Voting unanimously approved the motion.**

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Bryan reported that the Farm Bureau is having a potential policy meeting April 18th at 6:00 pm at the Roosevelt USU building.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION BUSINESS

Cheyenne Reid reported that they will be hosting an Ag Wellness workshop on May 7th at Western Park. This workshop will focus on mental health awareness for agricultural producers.

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock reported that they lost an employee in a snowmobile accident last week—Mark Ewell was a range conservationist and had worked in the Uintah Basin for about twelve years.

He then reviewed the snow report and reservoir storage report for the Uintah Basin. The current report shows the water equivalent is 116% of normal and reservoir storage is also above average for this time of year.

The shared stewardship project with the Forest Service looks promising for getting funded, but he is still waiting for the official news.

2024 SUPERVISORS APPOINTMENTS

Darrell reported the selection committee approved reappointment of Johnathan, Bryan and Todd as District Supervisors. All paperwork has been submitted to the state for these reappointments.

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

No income and expense report were available. This item is tabled until the May Board Meeting.

SERA

Action Item: Johnathan made the motion that any Supervisor that attends the Farm Bureau meeting on April 18 can submit their time on the SERA form. Todd seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Darrell reported on the latest Water Optimization funding and discussed what the funds can be used for. They are going to have a set time for a yearly sign-up for the program. Todd also asked about ARDL and that program funding. Darrell reported that as of right now enough funds are in the ARDL program to cover the needs, but projects are getting more expensive and with the Water Optimization program, there is a greater need.

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL applications to present at this meeting.

UINTAH HIGH ENVIROTHON TEAM REHEARSAL

David Wilson, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Advisor for Uintah High School brought in the students that are going to the Envirothon competition to do a presentation. The topic is renewable energy for a sustainable future. They discussed a 50,000-hog facility and anaerobic digester to benefit the area and the pros and cons of having it in that area. Board members listened and asked questions and provided input that they can work on in preparation for the contest to be held on April 18th and 19th.

Meeting adjourned by Chair Bell at 3:30 p.m.