



## **UDC Budget Board Meeting Minutes**

10/16/2025 12:30 PM MDT to 1:30 PM MDT

Dairy West (98 West 13100 S, Draper, UT 84020)

### **Attendees**

#### **UDC Board Members present:**

Kaleb Bateman, Daniel Buttars, Chace Fullmer, Chet Hansen, David Roberts, Trevor Wayment, Mitch Hancock (joined after roll call)

#### **UDC Board Members absent:**

Sheila Sherwood, Landon Wiser

#### **Others present:**

In-Person in Draper: Steve Seppi, Cathy Knowlson, Lacey Papageorge, Bryce Chambers, Steve Doxey

Via Zoom: Shawna Hagerty, Pamela Fry

### **Call to Order**

Utah Dairy Commission (UDC) Chairman David Roberts called the UDC Budget Board Meeting to order at 12:32 pm MT. Roll call for was taken. At the time roll was called, a quorum was present.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Roberts called for any amendments to the UDC Budget Board Meeting agenda and if none a motion to approve.

Commissioner Daniel Buttars moved to approve the agenda without amendment.

Commissioner Kaleb Bateman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2026 Dairy West Budget**

Steve Seppi (CEO, Dairy West) informed the Commission that if they have any questions regarding the proposed 2026 Dairy West Budget that was presented in the previous meeting, he would be happy to answer them.

### **2026 Utah Dairy Commission Budget**

Steve Seppi (CEO, Dairy West) reviewed the 2026 Utah Dairy Commission Budget with the Commission. The meeting focused on the review of the Utah budget, emphasizing the projected increases in production and their impact on financials.

- A projected production increase of 5.8% over 2024 is expected for 2025, with a proposed change to a 3-year average method for more stable forecasting, resulting in a 1.2% increase in production year-over-year.
- Projected assessment revenue for 2026 is \$2,417,000 with an additional \$23,000 from interest, totaling \$2,440,000.
- A recommendation was made to reallocate \$100,000 from the 2025 net assets of \$241,000, reducing net assets to \$125,000 by year's end.

- The budget discussion focused on a proposed 1.2% increase in the contract for services and a \$100,000 carry forward from net assets.
- A proposed move was to shift from a 5-year average to a 3-year average for production assessments to account for volatility.

Chairman Roberts called for a motion to carry forward \$100,000 from UDC to Dairy West.

Commissioner Buttars moved to carry forward \$100,000 from UDC to Dairy West. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Open Discussion**

Chairman Roberts Introduced Cathy Knowlson (Vice President - Marketing & Communications, Dairy West) to the Commission. Cathy has joined Dairy West in the Draper office and she will be attending board meetings as part of her role. He expressed the importance that Cathy understands her role and connections within the State of Utah as part of the Dairy West team. Ms. Knowlson expressed her commitment to the role and her readiness to take on responsibilities, acknowledging the support and expectations of the board.

There was a question around a leadership change at Dairy Alliance. Mr. Seppi explained that Geri Berdak left the CEO position and Farrah Newberry is serving as the interim CEO. Discussions have taken place with the new leadership about the partnership and funding. A new contract is being drafted with Dairy Alliance to ensure accountability for funding, starting in 2026. It will be an annual agreement with report-outs included. There will be monthly coordination meetings with Dairy Alliance, involving their food service team, to ensure efforts are aligned with the organization's strategic goals. Anne Goetze (Executive Director, Oregon Dairy Products Commission) and Scott Snelders (Director - Business Development, Dairy West) are designated as the primary contacts for the Dairy Alliance relationship within the organization.

Commissioner Fullmer proposed pushing the discussion of moving from Zions to DL Evans to 2026. Decision made to revisit the financial move discussion in the July 2026 meeting, rather than the immediate future.

Lacey Papageorge (Manager - Farmer Relations, Dairy West) gave an update to the Utah Dairy Convention. Commissioner Fullmer encouraged the commission to ensure full attendance at a keynote event, implying its importance and cost, with efforts to be made to accommodate all attendees.

Bryce Chambers (Director - Industry Relations, Dairy West) gave updates on the work he has been doing with field staff. There will be CPR training at DFA, with Heath Shumway identified as a trainer facilitating the training access for farm staff. The initial focus for CPR training will be on individuals who have the most contact with farms and can reach the most employees. Local EMTs will be invited to provide CPR and basic first aid training, including the use of tourniquets, to farm staff every couple of years. A suggestion was made to have at least one staff member trained in CPR at each farm, particularly in larger operations, to ensure that someone is always available during both day and night shifts.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Roberts called for a motion to adjourn the UDC Budget Meeting.

Commissioner Buttars moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fullmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM MT.

**Additional Meeting Resources**

Zoom video conferencing technology was employed and operational during the Utah Dairy Commission Meeting. The meeting was recorded.

---

Chairman/Vice Chairman

Secretary