

MINUTES

Uintah County Conservation District

Regular Meeting, October 14, 2025

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

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

Conservation District Staff

Andrea Merrell

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Guests:

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 September 8 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

Action Item: Todd Thacker 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 was unable to attend today's meeting.

NRCS BUSINESS

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, was unable to attend today's meeting due to the Federal Government shutdown.

UACD CONVENTION

The UACD Convention will be held in St. George, Utah on November 5 and 6. Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of the agenda for the upcoming convention. Darrell Gillman will be attending the convention. The Supervisors will most likely be unable to attend the convention due to pressing concerns in their agricultural and business operations. Darrell will take the auction item, raffle tickets, and other items to the convention on behalf of the District.

- A. **Item for Auxiliary Scholarship Auction.** They discussed past items they've chosen to donate and how well they did at raising funds for the UACD Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. They felt that items such as tools, jumper cables, air compressors, and other items that can readily be put to use in an agricultural operation are most popular. Todd suggested they look at sturdy, battery-operated tools such as Milwaukee cordless, battery operated vacuum, air compressor, drill, driver, grease gun, etc. They agreed they wanted to buy the item from a supplier that supports the agricultural community. Andrea agreed to buy an auction item according to their instructions and make sure Darrell received it prior to his departure for the convention. **Todd made a motion to authorize Andrea to purchase an auction item—preferably a Milwaukee battery operated tool from Mountainland Supply for maximum of \$200 for UACD Convention. Johnathan seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

Bryan informed everyone he has tickets for the Scholarship fund quilt. It costs \$1 per ticket. Anyone interested in buying a ticket needs to contact Bryan by October 31.

Addendum: On October 21 at 2:33 pm Andrea texted all five Uintah Conservation District Supervisors and Darrell Gillman, UDAF, to report that she was at Mountainland Supply and they had a Milwaukee kit containing a pruning saw, battery, and charger; but it exceeded the \$200 maximum they approved. There were tools such as an impact drill that cost less than \$200 and other tools that cost a lot more than \$200, but none of those tools included the battery and charger. The cost for the pruning saw kit was \$269. **She asked for their approval to increase the maximum amount for the auction item to \$275. The following Supervisors texted their approval to purchase the pruning saw kit: Steve Hanberg at 2:33 pm; Bryan Bell at 2:37 pm, and Johnathan McKee at 2:38 pm.**

NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS

Darrell Gillman related that currently the District had an insurance policy (bond) on the Treasurer. The Legislature is now requiring the District to have crime insurance. It is based on the amount of money that is in the budget. UDAF is looking in to the possibility of setting up an insurance pool for

all the Districts. If UDAF doesn't get an insurance pool together by the time we need to renew treasurer bond policy, we will seek a policy for this crime insurance. Duchesne Conservation District has insurance on their Drill through Utah Local Governments Insurance Trust.

UCC UPDATES

Darrell discussed changes that have been made to Agriculture Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program. The interest rate is now a flat 4% (no tiering).

He also discussed changes to Emergency Disaster Relief Loan program. These loans are available to help address extraordinary circumstances related to declared disasters that have resulted in production losses. An applicant is required to show proof of increased expenses due to purchasing water, feed, etc. This program loans on items the ARDL can't.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss Statement—both dated 10/13/2025. She was not able to give them a copy of the September MACU statement as it is delivered by the post office to the NRCS office. The office is closed until the federal government shutdown ends. Andrea passed out a spreadsheet she prepared that lists the checks issued and deposits made during September. There were six checks issued in September. She reviewed the date checks issued, payee, reason for the payment, and amount. There were two deposits made in September. Andrea reported to the Supervisors the date of each deposit, the name of the payer, the source of income, and the deposit amount.

B. Income after August 31. Andrea reported there was one deposit made on October 8. She also reviewed the payer, source of income, and deposit amount.

C. Bills for Payment. Andrea presented the Supervisors an invoice she received from Duchesne Conservation District (DCD). This invoice is 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 the invoice presented. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

SERA

A. Upcoming workshops. Andrea checked with Supervisors for attendance at the September 27 Drone Workshop and any other workshops they attended since the last Board meeting.

She also asked which Supervisors were planning to attend the Annual UACD Convention in St. George.

Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to approve SERA expenses for the Supervisors attending the UACD Convention. Todd seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

ARDL PROPOSAL

There were no ARDL proposals for today's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENT

Andrea gave each Supervisor in attendance the Ethics Pledge and the Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. They annually update and sign these forms as required in Uintah Conservation District's Governing Policies.

Darrell told the Supervisors about a workshop he attended last week in Manila. The Lifetime Ag representative who sold UCD the Esch no-till drill gave a workshop for Daggett County Conservation District on proper maintenance for the drill. He gave great tips on maintenance and operation to extend the life and lower the maintenance costs of no-till drills. Darrell urged the Supervisors to consider holding a similar workshop in Uintah County.

Darrell related that the Water Optimization program is looking at re-doing the ranking criteria for sub-surface drip systems; especially for the Uintah Basin and other areas with saline soils. Additional studies need to be completed before approving underground drip systems. There are also issues in areas where rodent damage is a problem, high levels of salinity in soils, hard water, dirty water, and so forth. Additionally, the advising committee is talking about lowering the per acre funding rate.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm by Todd and seconded by Johnathan. Motion passed.