

Working MEETING MINUTES
DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING
THURSDAY, December 4, 2025
MILLARD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
LOCATION: DELTA, UTAH

ATTENDANCE:

SUPERVISORS: Klint Atkinson and Troy Davis

Brandon Anderson, Jared Bryan, and Jim Withers are excused.

Clerk: Stacey Lake

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF): J.P. Conteras, Jace Farnsworth

Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS): Tyrell Belnap

Millard County – USU Extension: Kalen Taylor

Millard County Commissioner: Unable to attend

Office of Celeste Malloy: Evelyn Warnick

DELTA CD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Klint Atkinson called the meeting to order at **10:15 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTIONS

Adjourn at **11:15 a.m.** Page 5

Meeting Minutes

- a) October 2, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed but will be tabled for approval until the next meeting.

Financial:

- a) Current financials were reviewed but will be tabled for approval until the next meeting.

Board Business:

- a) E. Hughes from Delta won 2nd place at state for the 2025 Poster Contest, "Home is where the Habitat is". A \$25 gift card was sent to Delta Conservation District to give to him.
- b) The Gopher Machines are in good working order. Current rental income of \$100, will be deposited into the bank today.
- c) The Office of the State Auditor: Local Government Roundtable on Friday, January 16, 2026, from 9:00–11:00 a.m., Utah State Capitol Building in the Capitol Board Room on the Second Floor. Seth Oveson at soveson@utah.gov, Brooke Russell at brookerussell@utah.gov, or call our office at 801-538-1025. J.P. recommends someone should attend.
- d) Soil Heath in the West: February 10-12, 2026, in St. George, UT.
- e) January 1, 2026, meeting will be moved to January 8, 2026, due to the holiday.
- f) February 5, 2026, meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. with the Local Work Group meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

UDAF Business: J.P. Conteras, Jace Farnsworth

- a) Currently wrapping up AG VIP record keeping and payments today. Accepting a wait list for this program. The program has changed some and is more structured like the NRCS CSP. This year's program has been updated, including a new tiered incentive structure. These changes will allow the program to serve producers with a wider range of practices in addition to nutrient management, such as soil health, irrigation water management, and integrated pest management. This grant money is on track to be approved with the Governor's budget.

- b) ARDL changes.

Loan Security	Interest Rate	Term	Maximum LTV
Chattel Only Loan maximum \$50,000	4.0%	7 years	70%
Real Property	4.0%	7 years	70%

- There is a 1% Administrative Fee on disbursed funds.
 - Borrower may select a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payment schedule
 - Canal Companies or Irrigation companies can do a 10-15 year loan.
 - Credit card payments are no longer accepted.
 - The Interest rate will be reviewed annually and adjust accordingly to keep the best rate.
- c) Water Optimization Program has not opened yet. Survey has been submitted.
- d) UACD Convention had approximately 45 supervisors out of 190 attended. Hoping to increase attendance next year.
- e) Jace Farnsworth introduced himself as the new Deputy Director of Conservation.
- f) The Big Beautiful Bill will lower the amount of taxes the State receives. The Governor said programs will need to be reviewed, cutbacks made, and make sure resources are being used wisely. Districts are being reviewed to make sure things are being done correctly, meetings are being attended, and monies are being used properly. Some districts could be consolidated. Other states were reviewed to see how they handle their conservation districts. State sharing sessions are held where different states get together and discuss conservation districts. A lot of other states show lower attendance in conservation districts. Most states conservation districts are done by county lines. This may not work here due to mountains, and we're based off drainages and watersheds. Most western states are done by water sheds. Some scenarios are being put together to see what other options could work, giving pros and cons of each scenario. Conservation Districts opinions are welcomed.
- g) The Conflict-of-Interest Form will need to be reviewed and updated.
- h) Public meeting requirements were reviewed.
- Agenda requirements
 - Minutes posted within three days of approval
 - Audio is required

UDAF Business: (continued) J.P. Conteras, Jace Farnsworth

- i) Utah Grazing Improvement Program:
 - **Central Contact:**
Tom Tippetts
435-813-2454
ttippetts@utah.gov
 - **Utah Grazing Improvement Program Grant**
 - Eligibility: livestock operations
 - Maximum Request: \$200,000
 - Application Deadline: December 31
 - **Small Livestock Operation Grant**
 - Eligibility: small livestock operations (75 animal units or less)
 - Maximum Request: \$10,000
 - Application Deadline: December 31
 - **Predatory Animal Control Grant**
 - Eligibility: livestock producers who have suffered predation losses
 - Maximum Request: \$150,000
 - Application Deadline: August 31
- j) No Module Training today. Two more modules to do. Clerk Training in January.
- k) Discussed if this is a good meeting time to keep supervisor attendance up. If we change meeting time, let Jace know so he can change it on the State webpage.
- l) Discussed procedures for closed meeting sessions when reviewing contracts. This is important because supervisors know the area, people, and ongoing projects. The 1619 form only needs to be signed when becoming a supervisor. This keeps contract information confidential. Reviewing contracts will require a closed session.

NRCS: Tyrell Belnap

- a) Application deadline is January 15, 2026.
- b) SFP Delta and Initiatives money available and adding a new initiative.
- c) Ag regeneration initiative
 - In December 2025, NRCS launched the NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program, a farmer first, outcomes-based approach to conservation designed to return the agency to its core mission – helping people help the land. NRCS is investing \$700 million to specifically support regenerative agriculture, including:
 - \$400 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); and
 - \$300 million through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - For Producers, this means:
 - Bundled practices will be integrated into a **single application**, making programs easier to access and more impactful.
 - Whole-farm holistic conservation planning is the centerpiece of the program, ensuring that all resource concerns (soil, water, and natural vitality) are addressed together, not piecemeal.
 - Conservation planning and producer objectives drive the process, ensuring site-specific solutions that work for the producer.
 - Outcomes are tracked, measured, and credited back to the farmer; and
 - Producers at every stage, from beginners just starting out with cover crops to advanced operations with years of conservation experience, will find a pathway through this pilot program.

- For Consumers, this means:
 - The NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program puts American farmers first as a part of the solution to [Make America Healthy Again](#);
 - Access to American-grown whole foods is critical to addressing the chronic disease crisis nationwide; and
 - Engaging the supply chain to give farmers assistance and credit for taking care of the soil, water, and land while productively bringing food to our tables, gives American consumers more access to healthy choices.
- Requirements
 - As part of participating in Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must:
 - Work with NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers to conduct a **whole farm assessment**;
 - Use at least one primary **regenerative management practice** (see list below); and
 - Agree to perform **soil health testing** in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes.
 - The whole-farm assessment includes all resource concerns, and it must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories.
- Primary practices include:
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Contour Farming (330)
 - Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop (331)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Drainage Water Management (554)
 - Forage Harvest Management (511)
 - Forest Stand Improvement (666)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)
 - Mulching (484)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Pest Management Conservation System (595)
 - Grazing Management (528)
 - Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced (345)
 - Stripcropping (585)
- d) Big Game Migratory Initiative:
 - Utah is one of the states that will have money set aside for big game migration. Our State Biologist is working with the division to come up with certain practices. This should be a statewide opportunity. May include wildlife fencing, water guzzlers, and habitat.
- e) SFP processors, Utah focused opportunities, the vehicle to prioritize where our funding goes. Looking at process improvement right now. Trying to analyze to see if it is working the way it was intended. There is opportunity for improvement, so SFP deadline for next year is pending.
- f) USDA reorganization has not been received yet.
- g) Local Work Group will be in Delta on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. We will hold this after Delta's Conservation District meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- h) CSP payments are in process.
- i) The state engineer finally approved a standard design for pivots.
- j) Additional TSP funding requested

Extension Service Business: Kalen Taylor

- a) There will be a crop school held on January 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at The Pod, 75 South 100 West, in Fillmore. The Division of Water Rights will give a ground water update followed by Q&A. Division of Wildlife will be there to discuss their depredation program and who to contact with issues. There will also be discussion of weed issues and current research on resistance of sprays.
- b) Also working with the University of Range and Wildlife Specialists have been doing some habitat mapping. A lot of research on SITLA ground. Looking to do trap and transfer of quail from cities to the sinks and river bottom near Delta and Leamington.
- c) The new Dairy Specialist will be here next week and will meet with local dairymen. He finished school and specializes in hoof trimming. He has done a lot of research relating to milk production and timing.
- d) It was asked how much ground does SITLA control. It was said at planning and zoning that it was approximately 30,000.

Commissioner Business: unable to attend.

Office of Celeste Malloy: Evelyn Warnick

- a) Involved with the National Guard site west of Delta. Approximately 100,000 acres. They will work with grazers as they will only use it for six weeks a year during the summer (two weeks at a time). The mountain range creates needed training area for war games and shooting range. They are getting pushed out of the Camp Williams area. Some land will swap with SITLA.

Klint Atkinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Troy Davis seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.