

MEETING MINUTES
DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING
THURSDAY, January 8, 2026

Location: Millard County Extension Office
Address: 83 Manzanita Ave, Delta, UT 84624

ATTENDANCE:

SUPERVISORS: Brandon Anderson, Jared Bryan, and Troy Davis.

Klint Atkinson and Jim Withers are excused.

Clerk: Stacey Lake

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF): Jesse Durrant

Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS): Tyrel Belnap

Millard County – USU Extension: Kalen Taylor

Millard County Commissioner: Unable to attend

DELTA CD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Brandon Anderson called the meeting to order at **10:30 a.m.**

SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTIONS

Approval of October 2, 2025, meeting minutes. -Page 1

Approval of December 4, 2025, meeting minutes. -Page 1

Approval of current financials. -Page 2

Approval of paying \$500 for 2026 NACD dues. -Page 2 -Check # 1114

Approval of paying FY26, Qtr. 2 SERA to Supervisors. -Page 2 -Check # 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118

Approval of paying \$2000 FY26, July-December Clerk invoice . -Page 2 -Check # 1119

Approval of using SERA funds for attending 1/16/26, Local Government Roundtable meeting. Page 2

Approval of using SERA funds for attending 1/21/26, Fillmore Crop School. Page 2

Approval to use SERA funds for attending 2/10-12/26, Soil Health in the West. Page 2

Approval of closing open meeting at **11:30 a.m.**, and open closed meeting at **11:30 a.m.** Page 2

Approval of ARDL loan for planning. Page 2

Approval to adjourn closed meeting at **12:00 p.m.**, and reopen the open meeting at **12:00 p.m.** Page 2

Adjourn open meeting at **12:00 p.m.** Page 5

Meeting Minutes

- a) October 2, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed. **Jared Bryan motioned to accept the October 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**
- b) December 4, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed. **Jared Bryan motioned to accept the December 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

Financial:

- a) Current financials were reviewed by the board. **Jared Bryan motioned to accept the current financials. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**
- b) The annual NACD dues invoice was reviewed. **Jared Bryan motioned to pay \$500, for the 2026 NACD dues. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously. -Check # 1114**
- c) Quarter 2 Supervisor SERA hours were reviewed for payment. **Jared Bryan motioned to pay Quarter 2 SERA to supervisors. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**
 - **Check # 1115 Klint Atkinson**
 - **Check # 1116 Brandon Anderson**
 - **Check # 1117 Troy Davis**
 - **Check # 1118 Jim Withers**
- d) Clerk invoice # 18, FY26, July-December for \$2000, was reviewed by supervisors. **Jared Bryan motioned to pay clerk invoice in the amount of \$2000. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously. -Check # 1119**
- e) We received and will deposit State of Utah Grant and SERA reimbursement check today.

Board Business:

- a) Conservationist of the year nominee options discussed. Supervisors discussed asking Doug Stanworth. They will go visit Doug to see if he will accept.
- b) The gopher machines are in good working order.
- c) Working on a possible Farm Field Day for this spring.
- d) Reminder of upcoming meetings:
 - 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.
 - Crop School in Fillmore, Utah on January 21, 2026
 - LWG in Delta on February 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., following Delta CD meeting at 6:00 p.m.
 - Soil Heath in the West: February 10-12, 2026, in St. George, UT

Troy Davis motioned to use SERA funds for supervisors who attend the January 16, 2026, Local Government Roundtable meeting at the State Capital. Jared Bryan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Troy Davis motioned to use SERA funds for supervisors who attend the January 21, 2026, Crop School in Fillmore. Jared Bryan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Troy Davis motioned to use SERA funds for supervisors who attend the February 10-12, 2026, Soil Health in the West meeting in St. George. Jared Bryan seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

UDAF Business: Jesse Durrant

- a) 2026 Tree Program flyers were given to supervisors to hand out.
- b) ARDL loan #FY2026-1, will be reviewed for approval in a **closed meeting. 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
 - **Jared Bryan motioned to close the open meeting at 11:30 a.m. and open a closed meeting at 11:30 a.m. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**
 - **Jared Bryan motioned to approve ARDL loan application # FY2026-1, for planning. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Brandon Anderson signed.**
 - **Jared Bryan motioned to adjourn the closed meeting at 12:00 p.m. and reopen the open meeting. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

NRCS: Tyrell Belnap

a) *NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program: Deadline is January 15, 2026.*

- 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)
 - This pilot program addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans. It also puts American farmers first as a part of the solution to Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) by supporting access to American-grown whole foods, critical to addressing the chronic disease crisis nationwide.
 - For too long, divided and highly specific funding pools have unintentionally encouraged isolated, practice-by-practice conservation, rather than holistic management. By integrating bundled regenerative practices into single applications, closing program loopholes, and recognizing outcomes, NRCS will deliver lasting benefits for farmers, natural resources, and the American consumer.
 - Emphasizing regenerative agriculture builds upon NRCS's 90 years of existing conservation work by restoring land health, improving long-term productivity, and ensuring American grown production for the future.
- 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.

NRCS: (continued) Tyrell Belnap

- 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)
 - Strip cropping (585)
- b) USDA Migratory Big Game Initiative: Year-Round applications.
 - Provides a new package of investments in key conservation programs for fiscal year 2024, which includes funding to support increased staffing capacity and the deployment of streamlined application processes for agricultural producers and landowners. Producers in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana will be able to apply for conservation programs offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) that meet their unique needs starting in the fall of 2023.
 - USDA is focusing on using voluntary and incentive-based programs to target assistance on the following:
 - Agricultural Land Protection: NRCS is investing additional dollars in Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) funding to use towards permanent conservation easements on important habitats within migration corridors. ACEP assists producers who want to protect sensitive landscapes and prime farmlands from conversion to non-compatible land uses such as residential subdivision through establishment of long-term conservation easements.
 - Restoration, Enhancement, and Management: NRCS is investing additional dollars in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to prioritize practices that restore and manage habitats migrating big game need. Some examples include fence conversion, invasive species treatments, aspen regeneration, and wet meadow restoration. EQIP focuses on integrating practices on working lands, such as prescribed grazing systems and cheatgrass control.
 - Grassland CRP: USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is utilizing the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP) to provide up to 15 years of development protection for other properties while still allowing other compatible uses.
 - Package of Opportunities for Producers
 - USDA will offer producers a package of opportunities they can choose from to meet their operations' unique needs. Programs include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP) and will be available across a wide range of lands including grasslands, shrublands, and forested habitats located on tribal and privately owned working lands.
- c) CSP payments are just about done.
- d) Engineer shortage is still a concern.
- e) Local Work Group Meetings will be held separately at each Conservation District along with their monthly Conservation District meeting.

Extension Service Business: Kalen Taylor

- a) There will be a Crop School held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at The Pod in Fillmore.
 - Extension Economist will discuss a price forecast.
 - Weed presentation.
 - DWR will discuss depredation management.
 - Division of Water Rights will review study of water overuse and discuss ground water management, with Q&A.
- b) There will be a Virtual Crop School on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
 - Agronomist
 - Trial results
 - New DWR Director Riley Peck
 - Aware of importance of relationships with landowners, farmers, and ranchers.
 - Landowner projects
 - Discuss other available projects
- c) GPS Collar project: Indian Peak cattle grazer okayed the use of GPS collars. GPS collars for sheep will continue this winter.
- d) Wild horses have grazed off Death Canyon.

Commissioner Business: unable to attend.

Jared motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Troy Davis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.