

MINUTES
Uintah Conservation District
Regular Meeting, February 9, 2026
Location: Western Park Board Room
302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

District Chair Bryan Bell

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF):

Darrell Gillman, Resource Coordinator

Conservation District Staff

Andrea Merrell, Clerk

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Steve Hanberg, Supervisor

NRCS:

USU Extension:

Others:

CD MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Bell, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES*

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of today's meeting agenda and minutes for the January 12 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the February 9 meeting agenda and the January 12 meeting minutes as presented. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

UINTAH COUNTY EXTENSION REPORT

- A. **Uintah Basin Crop School.** Cheyenne is unable to attend today's meeting. She asked Andrea Merrell to hand out flyers for the Uintah Basin Crop School on February 24, 10 AM to 2 PM. It will be held at the Vernal USU Campus, 320 Aggie Boulevard, Vernal.
- B. **Uintah County Farm Bureau Events.** Andrea also passed out a flyer from Uintah County Farm Bureau they asked Cheyenne to distribute. It listed Farm Bureau events from February to August.

NRCS REPORT

Jeremy Maycock was unable to attend today's meeting.

SUPERVISOR REAPPOINTMENT

Darrell Gillman reviewed with the Supervisors that Jim Slaugh's and Steve Hanberg's terms expire at the end of this fiscal year. Darrell told them the Uintah County Ranking Committee will meet shortly and Darrell needs to inform them if any of the incumbent supervisors are willing to serve another term. Jim Slaugh expressed his interest to serve an additional term. Prior to today's meeting Andrea received notification from Steve Hanberg that he would not be able to serve an additional term and needed to resign immediately due to conflicting commitments. Darrell asked the Supervisors for names of agricultural producers in the Randlett area that might be interested in serving. They discussed possible names. Darrell agreed to contact Steve Hanberg for his input and to also contact the people suggested during the discussion. Darrell told the Supervisors he would keep them advised of further developments.

ZONE UDAF REPORT*

- A. **Commissioner meeting April 22.** Darrell told the Supervisors he received an email from UDAF asking him to set up a meeting for Commissioner of Agriculture; UDAF personnel; Commissioners from Dagget, Duchesne, Uintah counties; our local Legislators, and District Supervisors from the three counties. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 22 at 6:00 pm in the Commission Chamber, Uintah County Building, Vernal, Utah. Darrell discussed the purpose of the meeting and preliminary subject matter as described in the email he received.
- B. **Zone 6 meeting March 25.** Darrell discussed arrangements for the Zone 6 annual meeting. It will be held at the Bingham Center USU Vernal Campus, 320 Aggie Boulevard, Vernal and starts at 10 AM. Kristy Davis, UACD, has sent him a draft agenda and asked the Supervisors to provide additional subjects. Darrell said Burdette Barker, USU, wants to give a presentation on water efficiency program for agricultural producers. Bryan asked for a report from local Legislators and Todd asked for more training on virtual fencing.

Lunch: Last year Cafe Rio. The Supervisors thought Cafe Rio is a good choice for this year's meeting.

The Supervisors discussed scheduling of the UCD Board meeting in March. Instead of holding a separate meeting on March 9, they decided to hold a short Board Meeting after the Zone Meeting if needed.

Darrell looked ahead to the October Board meeting and suggested changing the date. October 12 is Columbus Day. The Supervisors decided to change the October Board Meeting to Tuesday, October 13.

Darrell informed the Supervisors he hired a UDAF employee stationed in the Roosevelt Field Office. Her name is Stephanie Nelson. She is working as a Conservation Planner. He summarized her education and experience. She will be introduced at the the Zone 6 Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of the MACU Statement for January as well as a Balance Sheet, and a Profit & Loss Statement—both dated 2/5/2026. She reviewed the MACU statement pointing out interest earned and ending balance for the savings account.

For the checking account she reviewed the checks which cleared the account, and those issued but not yet cleared. She gave all the vital information for those checks and showed the Supervisors the ending balance for this account.

Finally she reviewed the financial data on the Balance Sheet, and the Profit & Loss statement. She informed them that all expenses are within budgeted amounts and no adjustments are needed.

B. Bills for Payment. Andrea told the Supervisors there were no invoices for payment at today's meeting. However, Andrea did pass out a bid she received from Myron Corporation for production of calendar/recordkeeping books for 2027. The Supervisors discussed how most agricultural producers are using their smartphones. They decided to not purchase time-sensitive books with calendars. They discussed different alternatives such as a water-resistant pocket notebook. Darrell discussed invasive weed calendars. Between now and the March 25 Board meeting Andrea will look for alternative products; something not date sensitive and made in the USA. Bryan suggested notebooks made by a company called Rite in the Rain. They also suggested checking with local printer Mansfield Printing.

Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

SERA*

Andrea told the Supervisors that in previous meetings they approved SERA expenses for attendance at all February meetings and workshops except for the Uintah Basin Crop School on February 24.

Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to authorize SERA expenses for Supervisors attending the Uintah Basin Crop School. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

ARDL PROPOSAL*

There were no applications to present today.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of the letter she prepared and Chair Bell signed on behalf of Uintah Conservation District (UCD) to Ashley Valley Reservoir Company Oaks Park Pipeline Restoration Project. The letter provides written documentation to Ashley Valley Reservoir Company that UCD does support and has approved funds for this project. Discussion occurred on what items of work or materials Ashley Valley Reservoir Company could apply District funds toward.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 PM. Johnathan McKee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.