

MINUTES
Uintah Conservation District
Regular Meeting, February 24, 2026
Location: Vernal USU Campus
320 Aggie Blvd, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District (UCD) Supervisor
District Chair Bryan Bell
Todd Thacker, Vice Chair
Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:
Steve Hanberg, Supervisor
Jim Slaugh, Supervisor

Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF):
Darrell Gillman, Resource Coordinator
Stephanie Nelson, Conservation Planner

Conservation District Staff
Andrea Merrell, Clerk (by cell phone)

NRCS:

USU Extension:

Others:

Chair Bryan Bell, called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM. Andrea Merrell, Clerk participated by cell phone.

Darrell Gillman introduced Stephanie Nelson, UDAF Conservation Planner, to the Supervisors. She gave them a quick summary of her education and career experience. She is stationed in the Roosevelt Field Office, but will work in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties.

SUPERVISOR REAPPOINTMENT*

Darrell informed the Supervisors that he received a resignation letter from Steve Hanberg. Darrell talked to Steve about his request and during the conversation Steve suggested Shane Frost, agricultural producer, in the Randlett area replace him for the remainder of Steve's current term. Darrell also presented Shane's name for consideration to continue as a Supervisor for the new term which begins July 1, 2026.

Prior to today's meeting, Darrell and Shane met so he could fill out and sign the paperwork required for onboarding a new supervisor. If the Board approves his temporary appointment, Shane is ready to begin his duties and will attend the Zone 6 meeting on March 25.

***Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the appointment of Shane Frost to complete the remainder of Steve Hanberg's term and to also put his name on list of**

candidates to fill the new term beginning July 1, 2026. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

SPONSORSHIP OF UINTAH COUNTY FARM FIELD DAY*

Andrea summarized a letter she received from Uintah County Farm Bureau requesting financial support from UCD for the annual Farm Field Day coming up on March 25, 2026 at the Western Park. The Supervisors discussed the value that this learning opportunity provides to the fourth-grade students in the Uintah School District. It is estimated there will be 549 students at this year's event. The organizers of the event will use the District's funds to purchase cookies, cheese sticks, pencils, honey sticks, and paper for printing educational materials. These supplies enhance the learning taking place in the various workshops and help the students have greater understanding of how agriculture impacts their day-to-day lives.

***Action Item: Johnathan made a motion to approve \$500 for Uintah County Farm Bureau to purchase supplies for the 2026 Farm Field Day. Todd seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

UACD SCHOLARSHIP*

Darrell told the Supervisors it is UCD's turn to make a candidate selection (graduating high school senior) for the UACD Scholarship. Darrell suggested that the District can talk to the Uintah FFA advisors and agricultural program instructors in the local high schools. Discussion followed. The Supervisors want to consider students that are planning to attend vocational institutions as well as those following the university pathways. They also want to know if a candidate has received additional scholarships.

***Action Item: Todd made a motion for UCD to accept scholarship candidates from candidates planning to attend vocational institutions as well as universities. Johnathan seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

Darrell volunteered to contact the FFA Advisors and the Ag. teachers. He recommended that an agenda item be included in the April UCD meeting agenda for UACD scholarship selection.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS*

Andrea informed the Supervisors that when she prepared the minutes from the February 9 UCD Board meeting she noticed they had chosen who to cater lunch for the March 25 Zone 6 Annual

meeting, but they did not approve District funds to purchase lunch. In the past, the cost for lunch is split in equal shares between Uintah, Duchesne, and Daggett Conservation Districts. Discussion followed.

***Action Item: Johnathan made a motion for the Board to approve payment of one-third of costs to cater lunch for the March 25, 2026 Zone 6 Annual Meeting. Todd seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 PM. Johnathan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.