

# Central Regional Grazing Advisory Board Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Location: DNR Richfield Office

2031 Industrial Park Road

Richfield, UT 84701

Attendees: Chairman: Will Talbot, Board Members: Steve Osguthorpe, Dallen Anderson, Jared Johnson, Scott Mower, Mack Morrell, Trust Lands Rep: Ethan Hallows, Central GIP Coordinators: Mason LeFevre and GIP Deputy Director: Tom Tippetts, UDAF GIP Monitors: Jan Reinhart and Staci Williams, UDAF: Phoebe White, Public Attendees: Brett Behling, Thomas Behling

Online Attendees: UDAF Deputy Commissioner: Troy Forrest

Invited but Unable to Attend: Trent Wild

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - a. 00:00:30 Tom explained changes that have occurred within the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Kelly Pehrson is now the UDAF Commissioner. Amber Brown and Troy Forrest are the deputy commissioners. Troy Forrest is also the Director of the Grazing Improvement Program. Tom Tippetts is the Central region coordinator and is also the Deputy Director over the Grazing Improvement Program.
2. Introductions
  - a. 00:01:45 Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Action
  - a. 00:03:45 Tom suggested striking the phrase “and drip” on agenda item 3c from the 3/20/25 meeting minutes. Steve made the motion to approve the meeting minutes with the correction suggested by Tom, seconded by Mack and approved by the board.
4. Training from UDAF
  - a. 00:04:57 Tom explained the conflict-of-interest papers passed out to board members. Anything said in meetings is subject to GRAMA requests. Each board member will need to sign the conflict-of-interest page. The board meetings are public and recorded. Other GIP boards have been GRAMA requested in the past.
5. Presentation of Fiscal year 2027 Projects – Action
  - a. 00:08:40 Mason presented his projects first. Each project was presented with a map and budget. Projects include wells, ponds, storage tanks, electric fences, etc.
  - b. 00:13:05 GIP has decided that a public property grantee, at minimum, must pay 12.5% of the project cost. Producers on private property have a minimum of 25% but on public land it is 12.5%
  - c. 00:42:15 Brett and Thomas Behling entered the meeting and introduced themselves as members of the public looking to learn ways they can help their ranch in the future.

- d. 00:43:26 Tom presented his projects. His projects include chemical treatment, seeding, water lines, storage tanks, fences, wells, troughs, etc.
  - i. 00:47:44 Sawmill Spring Pipeline, 00:59:52 Twin Creek Virtual Fence, 01:02:51 Levan Pasture Seeding, and 00:31:10 Partoun Cross Fence projects can be funded through small producer funds.
  - ii. 00:44:26 The Moroni Water Line project appears to be more like a feedlot than a grazing improvement project. 01:15:20 Sheep are fed with pellets and hay while lambing, due to difficulty producing a crop.
- e. 01:16:30 Producers may apply for well funding without pre-existing water rights; however, if rights are not subsequently secured, funding is reallocated to other projects. In cases where a "next-in-line" producer receives these diverted funds within 6 to 7 months of the initial 18-month deadline starting, they are granted 12 months to complete their project. Conversely, if funding is issued 8 months or more into the restriction period, the project is typically returned to the ranking pool for the following year, with GIP generally redirecting those funds to open basin areas. Final project rankings are determined by coordinators based on a specific evaluative questionnaire.
- f. 01:23:17 Dallan explained his experience with drilling for a well. They were drilling their well when a cavern formed under the drill, so they had to pull out. Dallan has decided to discontinue drilling for now until they find a new location for a well.
- g. 01:25:39 In the past, GIP has paid up to 600 ft for a well. At times, producers will choose to continue drilling past the 600ft until they find water. Past 600ft, producers are paying completely out of pocket. Deciding to continue drilling saves producers money when looking at set up costs. If the producer keeps drilling until they hit water, then GIP can help fund a pump.
- h. 01:28:28 Board members discussed allowing a producer to start/apply for a new project without having a previously funded project completed. There is an 18-month term on GIP grants. The producer must complete the project within 18 months of getting funded. If the project is not complete, the funding for that project goes into a general GIP account and is reallocated to fund other projects.
  - i. 01:36:28 Dallan moved to limit any producer, entity, or common entity to a maximum of two years out on multiple projects, barring a special circumstance exception as determined by Mason and Tom. This motion was seconded by Scott and approved by the board unanimously.
- i. 01:59:30 No producers who have drilled a dry hole have not come back the next year asking for well funding again. In 2008 GIP said they weren't paying for a dry hole. In 2010 they paid for a dry well but none after that. Mickels did a study with a geologist to find water. Dallan Anderson also asked for a geologist to see where water was. In the last 18 years there have been 60+ wells dug with GIP and very few were dry. Tom is comfortable with the board funding one dry well per allotment.
  - i. 02:06:12 Dallan made the motion that if a person or entity has a dry hole then they must wait for a period of 5 years to apply for a well for that allotment. Except for a special circumstance made by Tom or Mason. If one person or entity has two allotments and one allotment has a dry hole, then the other allotment

can get funding for a well. Seconded by Jared, unanimously approved by the board.

- j. 02:11:33 Dallan made the motion that the producer for the Parker Mountain Well project can get a GIP funded water study done and then come back to the board to get funding for the well based on the study. Mason suggested the producer get the study and have a witch see where water is. Seconded by Mack and approved by the board.
  - k. 02:17:11 Dallan made the motion that the budget going down to the Blue Hill Water System project to be funded, extra funds will go to Fairview Well and Solar Pump project, seconded by Jared. Approved by the board.
6. Other Business as needed.
- a. 02:17:55 French Canyon and Monroe Canyon fires significantly impacted many producers. There aren't any ways to control cattle and sheep in those areas even though there are some good grazing areas. The fires took out the fence lines. The GIP program has committed to helping fund virtual collars for cattle producers in those areas without ranking them. Wildfire collars are estimated to be funded \$573,375.00.
  - b. 02:20:23 Vince uses a collar, the battery lasts 4-6 months. Gallagher and Halter use solar panels on the collar itself, they anticipate 5 years before having to replace the collars. The fire affected producers are all planning to use different virtual fence companies. Mason is hoping the virtual collar companies will let the producers buy the collars in bulk with separate subscriptions. GIP decided for those who were affected by the fires to do a 75% cost share. The producers will need to do the collars for 5 years and pay 25% of the collar cost.
7. Meeting adjourned.
- a. Motion to adjourn by Scott.