# March 2026 Utah Dairy Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

03/18/2026 12:45 PM MDT to 2:15 PM MDT
Marriott City Creek, Park City Room, 75 S West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

## Attendees

**Utah Dairy Commissioners present:**
David Roberts, Mitch Hancock, Chet Hansen, Sheila Sherwood, Kaleb Bateman, Landon Wiser, Daniel Buttars, Trevor Wayment, Chace Fullmer (arrived after roll call).

**Utah Dairy Commissioners absent:**
None

**Others present:**
Steve Doxey, Lacey Papageorge, Cathy Knowlson, Ryan Sippie (via Zoom), Ron Stewart (via Zoom)

## Call to Order

Chairman David Roberts called the Utah Dairy Commission (UDC) meeting to order at 1:03 PM MT. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

## Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Roberts called for any amendments to the agenda and if none, a motion to approve. Commissioner Sheila Sherwood moved to approve the agenda without amendment. Commissioner Daniel Buttars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes

Chairman Roberts called for any corrections to the November 4, 2025, Joint Meeting minutes and if none a motion to approve. Commissioner Sherwood moved to approve the November 4, 2025, Joint Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Chet Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Roberts called for any corrections to the November 4, 2025, UDC Meeting minutes and if none a motion to approve. Commissioner Trevor Wayment moved to approve the November 4, 2025, UDC Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Buttars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2025 Utah Dairy Commission Audit

Chairman Roberts called for a motion to postpone the 2025 Utah Dairy Commission Audit to later in the agenda due to the auditor not on the Zoom meeting. Commissioner Buttars moved to postpone the 2025 Utah Dairy Commission Audit to later in the agenda. Commissioner Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Utah Dairy Commission Expenses & Financial Update (YE 2025)

Cathy Knowlson (Vice President - Marketing & Communications, Dairy West) presented expenditures and financials for October-December 2025. Chairman Roberts called for a motion to ratify and approve the financial reports and expenditures for October-December 2025. Commissioner Chace Fullmer moved to ratify and approve the financial reports and expenditures for October through December 2025. Commissioner Sherwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ryan Sippie (Coordinator - Accounting, Dairy West) presented to the board the State of Utah 2025 Fraud Assessment stating that there is a good system in place and that UDC has a low risk of fraud.

## 2026 Utah Dairy Commission Elections

Ms. Knowlson led a discussion about the upcoming 2026 UDC elections and deadlines for submission of nominations and ballots. Utah Department of Agriculture and Food facilitates elections for UDC and nomination forms have been mailed out. All terms are 4-year terms.

Seats up for re-election this year, the terms for which those seats will be elected, and the persons currently holding those seats are:

District I - 4-year term, ending June 30, 2030 (Current: Daniel Buttars)
District II - 4-year term, ending June 30, 2030 (Current: Chet Hansen)

## 2025 Utah Dairy Commission Audit

Ron Stewart (Gilbert & Stewart) presented the 2025 UDC audit via Zoom and reviewed the purpose of the auditors. Mr. Stewart explained there are three things that the auditors look at: first, that the financial statements are materially correct and meet accounting standards; second, the internal controls and whether they are designed, implemented and effective; and third, state compliance. Mr. Stewart let the board know that the audit report for the Utah Dairy Commission came back clean and without any issues.

Chairman Roberts called for a motion to approve the 2025 audit. Commissioner Mitch Hancock moved to ratify and approve the 2025 audit. Commissioner Landon Wiser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## 2026 Dairy Convention Feedback + 2027 Proposal

Lacey Papageorge (Manager - Farmer Relations, Dairy West) discussed the success of the 2026 Dairy Convention and noted it was the highest attended convention in recent years. She acknowledged the effort the board members made reaching out to farmers to build up the attendance. Ms. Papageorge asked for board feedback on proposed timing and schedule options, keynote speakers, and agenda topics for 2027.

## Open Discussion: Future Checkoff Priorities

Mitch Hancock reminded the board that when submitting a nomination for the Dairy Hall of Fame, the more detailed the submission is, the better. He asked that board members reiterate this to other farmers as well. Ms. Papageorge gave a quick overview of what the nomination process is and reminded the board that nominees can also include those retired / deceased.

Kristen Earl (CEO, Gossner Foods) reached out to Ms. Papageorge, letting her know that Gossner plans to build a new retail, office space, and 6,000+ square foot dairy discovery center south of the Gossner plant. Reaching out to UDC for any potential donation/contribution. They are working with the same company that worked on and helped create the education center at The Creamery and Fair Oaks. Ms. Earl would like to work with Ms. Papageorge and anyone with UDC to discuss what should be included and to give feedback on plans.

Suggestions made by the board were: provide videos Dairy West has produced of farms in the area that can run on loop, should make sure there are branding opportunities, consider the longevity of what is going in and if UDC will need to contribute to updating materials in the future should they become outdated or wear out. There was conversation on whether this is something that UDC pays for, or, if it's something that UDC brings to Dairy West. The board asked Ms. Papageorge to respond to Ms. Earl to get more information before any commitments are made.

Ms. Papageorge reported back that the Jazz game was well attended (raffle ticket prizes from the January Dairy Convention) and she suggested it's repeated for next year with potentially adding a second game.

Ms. Papageorge encouraged the board to reach out to her if they have any preference for date/time/location for upcoming road shows. She shared that this year, it'll be less communicated and less formal than last year.

## Chairman's Report
No report was given.

## Adjourn
Chairman Roberts called for a motion to adjourn the Utah Dairy Commission meeting. Commissioner Hancock moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buttars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 PM MT.

## Additional Meeting Resources
Zoom video conferencing technology was employed and operational during the Utah Dairy Commission Meeting. The meeting was recorded.

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| Chairman/Vice Chairman | Secretary |