

MINUTES
Uintah Conservation District
Regular Meeting, March 25, 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
Jim Slaugh, Treasurer
Shane Frost, Supervisor

Jace Farnsworth, UDAF Deputy Director

Conservation District Staff
Andrea Merrell, Clerk

NRCS:

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

USU Extension:

Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF):
Darrell Gillman, Resource Coordinator

Others:

Chair Bryan Bell, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA*

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the agenda for today's meeting. The Supervisors reviewed the proposed agenda.

***Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting as presented. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.**

OATH OF OFFICE

Shane Frost agreed to serve the remainder of Supervisor Steve Hanberg's term which ends June 30, 2026. He was given an Oath of Office form and read the oath of office and signed the form.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9 AND 24 BOARD MEETINGS MINUTES*

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the meeting minutes for the February 9 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting and the February 24 UCD Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

***Action Item: Johnathan McKee made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the February 9 UCD Board Meeting and the February 24 UCD Board Meeting as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. Shane Frost abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at either of those meetings. The remaining quorum voted and passed the motion.**

2027 RECORDKEEPING NOTEBOOKS*

At the February 9 UCD Board Meeting, the Supervisors asked Andrea Merrell to find sources and styles of water-resistant pocket notebooks the District could distribute at tours, workshops, and other events to encourage agricultural producers to adopt and record management practices such as irrigation water management, grazing management, etc. Andrea Merrell reported she had found two sources for this type of pocket notebook—one is Rite in the Rain and the other is Myron Corporation. She gave the Supervisors handouts showing what the different notebooks look like, dimensions, number of pages and prices. They reviewed and discussed the options.

***Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to approve the purchase of water-resistant pocket notebooks from Myron Corporation. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.**

SERA EXPENSES

Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of a spreadsheet with only their information related to the meetings and conferences they attended from January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026. This information will be used to calculate their SERA payments for this quarter. She asked them to carefully review the information in their own spreadsheet and let her know if anything needs to be changed.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS*

Jace Farnsworth, Deputy Director of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), introduced himself to the Supervisors. He told them one of his major duties is to manage the Conservation Districts in the State. He explained some of the reviews he has already conducted and that he plans to work closely with the Districts.

He told them a UDAF-sponsored meeting has been set up with the Uintah County Commissioners and other agencies. It will be held on April 22, 2026 at the Uintah County Commission Chambers. At 4:30 PM the focus of the meeting will be on the ongoing drought, and at 6:00 PM the focus of the meeting will be on Conservation Districts. He said the Supervisors from Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Conservation Districts are encouraged to be in attendance for these meetings.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Jim Slaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shane Frost seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.