

MINUTES

Uintah County Conservation District

Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting, April 13, 2026

Location: Western Park Board Room

302 East 200 South, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Shane Frost, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Staff

Andrea Merrell

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, DC, NRCS

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Guests:

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTION

MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Bell, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the March 25 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

NRCS REPORT

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist read the compiled top six resource concerns from the Local Work Group Meeting. He explained the next step for the Supervisors is to develop an Action Plan. He explained to develop a successful action plan they need to identify areas with resource concerns; for example, overgrowth of noxious and invasive weeds and where to get the funding—NRCS, UDAF, Water Optimization grants. A critical part of developing an Action Plan is that the

producers within an identified project area must be willing to implement the practices when funding becomes available.

Todd suggested looking more in depth to virtual fencing. They discussed information they've gathered by talking to producers around the state who are using the technology.

Discussion on the problem of how to find enough people in geographic areas to justify setting up Strategic Fund Pools (SFP). Outreach is needed to find areas where people are interested in implementing weed control or any other practices. Two examples were given where NRCS set up two SFP's and no producers applied for those funds.

UDAF REPORT

Darrell Gillman reported grasshoppers and crickets are coming early and in massive numbers. Darrell reported that people are reporting crickets on Diamond Mountain. Also hatches of grasshoppers. The grasshoppers have hot spots. If you can find the grasshoppers less than 1/4" and spray with Malathion, you can knock the numbers back.

On April 22 there is a drought meeting at 4:30pm. The purpose of this portion is to let producers know what help is available. There will be specialists on cricket and grasshopper control. Darrell asked the Supervisors to spread the word in the County about this portion of the meeting.

Meeting at 6:00pm is with County commissioners, legislators to determine the future of conservation districts. Darrell is putting together a PowerPoint presentation for that night to highlight what the three Uintah Basin Conservation Districts are doing. He previewed the basic presentation elements that are common for Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Conservation Districts (CD). Then he showed the specific projects he is highlighting for Uintah CD. There was interest and discussion on the practices implemented at Matt Warner Reservoir on Diamond Mountain area as well the practices implemented at Pelican Lake in Randlett area. Darrell related a Supervisor will need to make this presentation at the meeting—probably Bryan Bell, District Chair.

2027 BUDGET HEARING

Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2027. She reviewed the July 1 to April 8 actual RV/EX and the estimated April 8 to June 30 RV/EX for fiscal year 2026 revenues and expenses.

Action Item: Todd Thacker made a motion to approve the budget proposal with the change to line 2.15 "Vernal Research Farm" to "Conservation Projects". Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss Statement—both dated April 8, 2026. She told the Supervisors the MACU Savings Account earned \$0.16 in March. During March check number 287 issued for \$630 cleared and there was one deposit of \$600 from the sale of 5 rolls of weed barrier.

B. Income after March 31. Andrea reported there was one deposit made on April 3 for \$480 from the sale of 4 rolls of weed barrier.

C. Bills for Payment. Andrea presented one invoice for payment. The invoice is for \$525 for the purchase of 5 rolls of weed barrier. Andrea told the Supervisor's she has completed the Entity Registration for FY'2027 through the Lieutenant Governor's website and paid the \$25 registration fee with her credit card. She is not requesting reimbursement today as she also needs to purchase stamps and a large capacity portable storage device to backup the District's computers. They told her to purchase needed supplies and present invoices for reimbursement.

Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to accept the financial report and authorize payment of the invoice presented. Shane Frost seconded the motion. Voting unanimously passed the motion.

SERA

A. Upcoming meetings. April 22, 4:30PM UDAF-sponsored Drought Meeting and 6:00PM Conservation Districts.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to approve SERA for the Drought Meeting and Conservation District Meeting as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENT

- A. UDAF Meeting: April 22, Uintah County Commission Chambers 4:30PM Drought Meeting and 6:00PM Conservation District Meeting. Discussed under UDAF Report.
- B. NACD Poster Contest. Darrell explained email about poster contest to promote NACD programs. We can choose to participate and choose the grade to offer contest. Discussion followed. It was decided to revisit this item at the July meeting in order to contact teachers in August.
- C. UACD Scholarship. Darrell will put together an application and distribute to FFA Advisors and Ag Teachers.
- D. Utah Water Savers/Slow The Flow. Todd Thacker expressed concern that Uintah County has not signed up to participate in this program. Suggested this program be addressed at the Drought Meeting on April 22.
- E. Application period (possibly May) for a grant to put together a Soil Health Workshop. Example of what Daggett CD did last year—they got a grant to pay Phillip, Sales Rep from Lifetime Ag, Loma Colorado to do a presentation with No-till drill, discuss what he does on

his farm, maintenance, and repair of Esch No-Till drills. Good way to promote no-till drills. Just think about what kind of workshop we would want to do.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3PM by Shane Frost and seconded by Jim Slauch. Motion passed.