

MINUTES

Uintah County Conservation District

Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting, May 11, 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

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Conservation District Staff

Andrea Merrell

Conservation Partners Representatives:

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 1:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Andrea Merrell passed out copies of the agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the April 13 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

Action Item: Jim Slaugh made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the April 13 meeting minutes as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

UDAF REPORT

Darrell Gillman passed out Conflict of Interest forms for Supervisors to fill out and sign. The Supervisors filled the forms out and returned the completed forms to Darrell.

AgVIP

Darrell Gillman gave each Supervisor an informational handout about the AgVIP Program. He explained that the AgVIP Program was geared to nutrient management plan development and then

practice implementation based on recommendations in the producer's nutrient management plan. Now the AgVIP Program is combined with the Soil Health Program.

Applications are being accepted from now until June 22 for nutrient management practice and soil health practice implementation incentive payments. These payments cover practices a producer is currently doing or other practices they want to implement. Darrell directed the Supervisors attention to a table showing the dollars per acre available through this program. He also highlighted the rates for a less than 200-acre operation. Rangeland and non-irrigated land is not eligible.

Darrell asked for ideas on how to spread the word about this program. He has asked FSA to put an article about the program in their newsletter. Commissioner LeFevre is on the FSA Committee and Darrell will try to get his support. A suggestion was made to contact Uintah County Extension about including information about the AgVIP application period in their newsletter, and to contact local radio stations about a public service announcement. There was also a suggestion to post an informational flyer in agricultural businesses and the post offices in outlying communities. Darrell said that he and Stephanie Nelsen can help you get prepared to apply. However, the producer has to complete the application online. If interested, this is a good year to apply.

2027 BUDGET HEARING

Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of a budget for fiscal year 2027. The Supervisors looked over the proposed 2027 budget. Andrea pointed out that she had changed the description on line 2.15 from "Vernal Research Farm" to "Conservation Projects."

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to approve the final budget. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Amendment to Motion. Shane made a motion to amend the 2027 Budget to Item 2.15 to increase Conservation Projects to \$10,000. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Jim Slaugh recused himself from the vote. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

2026 UDAF GRANT

Andrea Merrell informed the Supervisors of the remaining balance for the 2026 UDAF grant. She listed upcoming expenses within the next few weeks which qualify for reimbursement from the grant.

- A. Ashley Valley Reservoir – Oaks Park Pipeline Repair Project. Jim Slaugh recused himself from his role as a Uintah Conservation District Supervisor for this agenda item. Jim updated the Supervisors on funding he has for the project and the decision he and the other irrigation company representatives have made to spread the implementation of this project over multiple years instead of trying to complete all work in one year. He has ordered pipe. The Supervisors asked him questions related to the progress of funding, design, and progress in moving to construction.

It was determined with submission of an invoice the funds allocated to this project for fiscal year 2026 can be paid prior to the end of the fiscal year; which allows UCD to use all funds in their 2026 UDAF grant.

The Supervisors then discussed adopting the Oaks Park Pipeline Repair Project as the 2027 Budget Item “2.15 71000 Conservation Projects” and how much to allocate to this project.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion that the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Item “2.15 Conservation Projects” \$10,000 be committed to the Ashley Valley Reservoir Oaks Park Pipeline Repair Project. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP GRANT

Chair Bryan Bell and Darrell Gillman asked each other if they have seen information on Soil Health Workshop grants. Neither of them have seen anything in writing—just heard some rumors. Darrell asked if the Board was interested in doing a soil health workshop. Darrell highlighted work being done on the North Myton Bench with strip tilling, managed grazing, cover crops, and other soil health practices. He also again described the workshop sponsored by Daggett Conservation District last year. Darrell said the main idea for the Supervisors is to decide if they want to pursue a grant and topics for a workshop(s).

ZONE 6 UACD AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

Andrea Merrell related she checked at the Farm Service Center building last Friday for scholarship applications and there were none. The Board discussed re-running the application and not limiting applicants to graduating high school seniors.

Action Item: Todd Thacker presented a motion to re-open the scholarship application to students attending higher education and change deadline to June 5, 2026. Jim Slauch seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A.Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea gave each Supervisor a copy of a Reconciliation Statement for April, Balance Sheet, and a Profit & Loss Statement—both dated May 9, 2026. She told the Supervisors the MACU Savings Account earned \$0.16 in April. During April check number 286 cleared for \$500, check number 288 cleared for \$1687.64, check number 293 cleared for \$283.40, check number 291 cleared for \$96.25, check number 292 cleared for \$235.65, check number 290 cleared for \$327, check number 294 cleared for \$857.39, and an Electronic

Funds Transfer cleared for \$438.92. There was one deposit of \$480 from the sale of 4 rolls of weed barrier.

B. Income after April 30. Andrea reported there was one deposit made on May 7 for \$600 from the sale of 5 rolls of weed barrier.

C. Bills for Payment. Andrea presented an invoice for NACD Dues for the upcoming year (Get Shane's email enrolled with NACD). Darrell related to the Supervisors the benefits the District receives by paying dues to NACD.

Andrea told the Supervisors Duchesne Conservation District recently delivered 6 rolls of weed barrier and she should receive the invoice for payment within the next few days.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to accept the financial report and authorize payment of the NACD invoice at \$775 and the invoice from Duchesne Conservation District for the purchase of weed barrier at \$750. Jim Slauch seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SERA

A. FY'2027 SERA Amount Request. Darrell related average dollar amounts for Uintah CD SERA for last three years. UACD is proposing to allocate \$5000 for SERA for Uintah CD for fiscal year 2027.

Action Item: Johnathan McKee made a motion to accept \$5000 for SERA for fiscal year 2027 as proposed by UDAF. Todd seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

ARDL

Darrell led a discussion on the ARDL Program. They discussed how ARDL loans may be more in demand as some producers have tried to obtain NRCS funding for replacing worn sprinkler systems or to upgrade; as in from wheel lines to Center Pivot.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENT

Bryan suggested the District needs to brainstorm ideas to utilize and help the FFA program. Ideas: The District could help with equipment to assist them with their projects. Another idea is to invite the FFA kids to help with workshops and attend workshops. Darrell said the Duchesne CD is inviting FFA teachers to June meeting to discuss what the District could do to assist the FFA program. It was decided to invite the Uintah High School agriculture teachers to the June meeting. Bryan will contact David Wilson and invite him to the June meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45PM by Shane Frost and seconded by Jim Slauch. Motion passed.