M I N U T E S
Uintah County Conservation District
Regular Meeting, July 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
Shane Frost, Supervisor
Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:
Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Conservation District Staff:
Andrea Merrell, Clerk

Conservation Partners Representatives:
Jeremy Maycock, DC, NRCS
Cortney Borer, SGI Biologist, NRCS

Department of Agriculture and Food:
Darrell Gillman, UDAF
Stephanie Nelsen, UDAF

Guests: David Wilson, UHS FFA Advisor
Quay Thacker, UHS FFA Advisor

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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 June 8 Uintah Conservation District (UCD) Board Meeting. The Supervisors reviewed and discussed the minutes.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the June 8 meeting minutes as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

OATH OF OFFICE

Darrell Gillman gave Chair Bell the Oath of Office form for Shane Frost. Shane Frost read the Oath of Office and signed the form. Darrell will submit the form to UDAF.

NRCS REPORT

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, passed out a flyer for the RCPP program. He explained that an applicant fills out the application on-line. Jeremy's staff can help an applicant get their application submitted. Any resource concern can be addressed through this program.

His staff is finishing preparing contracts for successful applicants for fiscal year 2026. There are 50 funded contracts as of this date. There should be 60 to 70 funded contracts when they are completed.

Jeremy also discussed and answered questions about the Regenerative Agriculture funding program and different practices qualifying for funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **UHS Chapter Future Farmers of America***. Bryan Bell welcomed the UHS Advisors to today's meeting. Mr. Wilson talked about study materials for teams competing in Envirothon and other FFA competitions. The materials are about $400. David Wilson asked for assistance from NRCS to obtain soil samples and other materials to help prepare his students to compete in National Soils competition.
Darrell talked to Mr. Wilson and Ms. Thacker about Daggett Conservation District's joint project with Manila High School FFA Chapter. Mr. Wilson said the way the UHS school schedule works, pulling soil samples would have to be done after the regular school day. For his program, there is a small core of students who are interested in pursuing agriculture as a career.

Mr. Wilson also requested assistance with field preparation for 1 acre pasture around the agricultural building. Darrell suggested that Mr. Wilson contact Matt Yost at Utah State University to see if they would have any equipment at the Vernal Research Farm that coincides with the timing of the pasture preparation at the high school. They also discussed what they'd need to do to prepare the soil prior to being able to use the Dew Drop Drill for field planting.

Discussed that if Uintah Conservation District would use UDAF grant funds for a donation to the Uintah High FFA Chapter, the District would need to enter into a contract with the FFA Chapter to do a service for the District. The group then did some brainstorming of service the students could do such as taking the competition teams to the elementary or junior high school and teach a class or make a presentation to the students using the competition materials. Johnathan McKee suggested contracting with FFA to help the District sell weed barrier.

Chair Bell asked them for a description of the study materials. David Wilson handed Chair Bell a printout of the products and prices he wants to purchase. Andrea Merrell pointed out the District does have income generated from the sale of weed barrier and income from rental fees for the Esch no-till drill. These funds can be used to make a

donation for the study materials. The Supervisors discussed the value of the study materials to the advisors and students of the FFA Chapter.

Motion: Shane Frost made a motion to approve purchase of study materials for $400 from District funds not tied to the UDAF grant. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

B. **Invasive Weeds Local Action Plan.** Andrea reported she contacted Nate Belliston, Supervisor of Uintah County Weed Department. He was not able to attend today's meeting, but is planning to attend the August 10 Board meeting. He is planning to give us a PowerPoint presentation. He will bring the presentation on a thumb drive. He requested use of a laptop, and we need a projector or television to make it possible for everyone to see his presentation. I asked him to help us locate areas and species with heavy infestations of weeds. He suggested a laminated map we could draw on. I got a map from Uintah County GIS Dept and had it laminated at Mansfield printing.

C. **Clerk Assignments from July Meeting.** Andrea reported she did stop by Vernal Hay Company. Jeff was not in the office, but she left a note inviting him to the August 10 Board Meeting. She will follow up. Thursday July 9 she received a phone call from Kayleigh stating she is mailing a check for No-till drill rental fees.

   Andrea passed out copies of the UCD's Scope of Work for 2027, and reported it has been emailed to UDAF. She also reported the FY 2026 Fraud Risk Assessment has been scanned and uploaded to the State Auditor's website.

D. **UACD/NACD Poster Contest.** Andrea passed out letter from UACD about the poster contest. Darrell said most Districts work with elementary schools and early junior high students when sponsoring poster contests. The Supervisors also discussed contacting Terra Academy, White House Academy, and home-schoolers. Darrell suggested we'll be most successful if we can find teachers who are very interested in having their students participate. It was decided fourth grade will be our targeted grade. Fourth graders and their teachers attend the Farm Bureau Farm Field Day each year. Shane will get list of fourth grade teachers that attended Farm Field Day last year. Andrea will contact Courtney Freeze at UACD for flyers, posters and any other promotional material available.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Supervisor Training.** Darrell Gillman played a training video for the Supervisors.

B. **Esch No-till Drill Maintenance and Signage*.** Bryan Bell rented the drill this weekend, and it was broken. It has 2806 acres of usage. All the discs of the bearings need to be replaced. The discs are down to 12". Usually replace when the discs are down to 11". We need to replace bearings on the discs or install new discs. It needs 50 bearings at $40 each or $2000. One of the arms has been broken. New arm is $217. Someone took out cylinder

stops to make it go deeper and didn't put them back on, so one of them is missing—a new set $2241 if we go to Loma, Colorado to pick up the parts.

Andrea read the agreement between Vernal Hay Company and the District as written in the official March 11, 2024 UCD Board Meeting Minutes as follows: "… It was decided to rent drill for a day rate of $250 per day. The day rate will be split between Uintah Conservation District (50%) and Vernal Hay Company (50%). In addition, there will be a charge of $5 per acre. The funds from the per acre charge will be deposited to a separate account to cover required maintenance of the drill." As of today's date there should be 2806 acres x $5 = $14,030 in the maintenance account. Bryan will follow up with Jeff McKee for repairs, Vernal Hay Company.

Andrea Merrell reported before today's meeting, Chair Bryan Bell had stated we need to put signs on the drill showing the drill is owned by UCD. Andrea asked what material the signs should be made of and the size. Chair Bell requested metal signs 16" x 12" that can be bolted to the drill. Andrea volunteered to get two signs ordered, one for each side of the drill by the August Board Meeting.

C. **FY 2026 Annual Report*.** Andrea Merrell passed out copies of an Annual Report for UCD for FY 2026. She asked the Supervisors to look over the report and make any changes or suggestions for improvement.

Motion: Shane Frost made a motion to approve the 2026 District Annual Report for submission to UDAF/UACD. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT*

A.Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of the QuickBooks check register for June 1 to July 10, 2026. She also gave each Supervisor a copy of a Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss Statement—both dated July 10, 2026**.** The June MACU statement did not arrive by today's meeting and she was not able to give them the interest for the savings account. During June the following checks were issued: check #299 for $6,204.68, check #300 for $451.09, check #301 for $161.66, check #302 for $220.84, check #303 for $163.42, check #305 for $303.34, check #306 for $1,500, check #307 for $211.27, check #308 for $750, and check #309 for $103. There were four deposits totaling $8802.05—$5641.52 from 4th quarter UDAF grant payment, $1060.53 from 4th quarter SERA reimbursement, and $2100 from the sale of 15 rolls of weed barrier.

C. Expenses: Bills for Payment. Andrea Merrell presented an invoice for $842.90 from UACD for payroll services for her work from April to June 2026.

Action Item: Motion by Shane Frost to accept financial report and pay invoice to UACD as presented. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SERA*

Andrea Merrell suggested to the Supervisors they approve SERA expenses for all regular monthly meetings including the Local Workgroup Meeting and the Zone 6 Annual Meeting for fiscal year 2027.

Action Item: Motion by Todd Thacker to approve SERA expenses for all regular monthly meetings including the Local Workgroup Meeting and the Zone 6 Annual Meeting for fiscal year 2027. Johnathan McKee seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENT

Darrell reminded the Supervisors EDRL Loans are still available. The Supervisors are actively spreading the word about the loan program to their constituents.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 pm by Shane Frost and seconded by Johnathan McKee. Motion passed.

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