

MINUTES

Uintah County Conservation District

Regular Meeting, August 10, 2026

Location: USDA Farm Service Center Conference Room
80 North 500 West, Vernal, Utah

ATTENDANCE:

Conservation District Chair Bryan Bell

Conservation District (CD) Supervisor

Todd Thacker, Vice Chair

Shane Frost, Supervisor

Jim Slaugh, Treasurer

Conservation District Supervisors, Absent:

Johnathan McKee, Supervisor

Conservation District Staff

Andrea Merrell, Clerk

Conservation Partners Representatives:

Jeremy Maycock, DC, NRCS

Cortney Borer, SGI Biologist, NRCS

Teagen Lint, USU Extension Agent

Department of Agriculture and Food:

Darrell Gillman, UDAF

Stephanie Nelsen, UDAF

Guests:

Nate Belliston, Uintah Co Weed Department

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 July 13 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 July 13 meeting minutes as presented. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

NRCS REPORT

Jeremy Maycock, District Conservationist, reported his staff are finishing 2026 contracting season with close to 70 new contracts for projects. These contracts bring \$6.8 million of cost share assistance to the Uintah Basin.

UDAF REPORT*

- A. **UDAF Contract Review.** Darrell told the Supervisors UDAF wants each District to have a post office box so UDAF doesn't need to change addresses each time an officer changes. They also want each District to have their own email address. Andrea Merrell will check on sizes/prices of post office boxes. She reported she set up an email address for the District when she set up the new laptop computer and will begin using it for all email correspondence for the District.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to authorize procurement of a post office box. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Darrell Gillman reported the UDAF grant for FY 2027 is \$11,000 for operating and conservation funding and \$5,000 for SERA reimbursement. New procedures are being implemented for the District to get grant and SERA fund reimbursement. He said Andrea Merrell will submit paperwork to him for the first level review and he will forward it to UDAF for processing. There will be training for the clerks on this new procedure August 26 and 27 by Google Meet. He invited the Supervisors to attend this training if they are interested. He then read policy detailing allowed and disallowed purchases for reimbursement with the operating grant funds. The Supervisors discussed what documentation is needed for purchases using funds from the District's weed barrier sales and no-till drill rental fees.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to authorize Chair Bell to sign grant agreement for FY 2027 on behalf of the District. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

- B. **Uintah County USU Extension Agent.** Darrell introduced Teagen Lint, the new Uintah County USU Extension Agent. She briefly introduced herself.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Oath of Office.** Darrell Gillman gave Chair Bell the Oath of Office form for Jim Slaugh. Jim Slaugh read the Oath of Office and signed the form. Darrell will submit the form to UDAF.
- B. **Invasive Weeds Local Action Plan.** Nate Belliston, Manager Uintah County Weed Department began the discussion of an invasive weeds local action plan by outlining areas in the county where he has observed and/or treated large populations of different invasive weeds. They are as follows (information from handout provided by Nate Belliston):

Vernal Area—Perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, leafy spurge, Russian-olive

Jensen Area—Perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, saltcedar (tamarisk), Russian-olive

Lapointe/Tridell Area—Perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Canada thistle, Russian-olive

Hayden Area—Perennial pepperweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, Russian knapweed, saltcedar (tamarisk), Russian-olive

Ballard Area—Perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, saltcedar (tamarisk), Russian-olive

Ft. Duchesne/Gusher Area—Perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, saltcedar (tamarisk), Russian-olive

Randlett/Avalon/Leota Area—Perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed, Canada thistle, Musk thistle, saltcedar (tamarisk), Russian-olive

Nate Belliston asked what the District wanted to do with this information. Jeremy Maycock explained this is part of the process of developing a local action plan. He said during the Local Workgroup meeting last year, the District identified the need for control of invasive weeds as their top unmet resource concern. Everyone agreed there is a need to control invasive weeds in these different areas, but the challenge is getting the producers to commit to treat weeds on their property and then apply for funding. Jeremy Maycock related there is not a minimum or maximum size for an area covered by a local action plan.

There was a brainstorming session. The top idea is to put on a workshop to gauge interest before creating a local action plan. It was agreed the District needs to partner with Extension and Uintah County Weed Department when putting together workshop.

Dates for a workshop were discussed. Jeremy Maycock stated the District will need to have a local action plan established by October 2026 in order for him to request funding for an invasive weed local action plan for the FY2027 contracting season. Teagen Lint offered to advertise the opportunity. She plans to put on a successional workshop for producer's planning to retire and transfer their operation to a successor. She suggested the District could do a weed workshop at the same time. Other methods of advertising are word of mouth, Facebook, and Instagram.

Teagen Lint suggested hosting a town hall meeting to gauge interest. The group suggested combining a presentation on creating a local action plan for treatment of invasive weeds with the Crop School in 2027. Teagen Lint is meeting with Matt Yost, Utah State University the end of this week to set date for Crop School in 2027.

Another suggestion is again making a presentation on creating a local action plan during any upcoming pesticide applicators license workshops and/or January 2027 Uintah Basin Water Summit.

It was decided to re-visit discussion during September meeting.

- C. **UACD/NACD Poster Contest.** Andrea Merrell read an email she received from Courtney Freeze, UDAF about the UACD/NACD 2026 Poster Contest. It outlined information needed by Courtney Freeze to make up a poster to advertise a UCD poster contest. Specifically, she needs to know the UCD contest due date (she needs the winner by October 23).

The Supervisors reiterated the District poster contest will be for all fourth grade students. Discussion followed on prizes for individuals as well as a class prize. The foremost idea was for the Uintah County Champion to receive an Amazon Fire Tablet and ice cream party for their entire class. Additionally, four runner-ups would receive a gift card (amount to be determined) and an ice cream party for their class. All entries to be posted at the Farm Field Day in March 2027.

The District due date is October 9 and judging of the entries will be at the October 13 (Tuesday) UCD Board Meeting.

The contact email for poster drop-off will be uintahconsdistrict@outlook.com

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to spend a maximum of \$125 on the grand prize for the District's poster contest. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

- D. **Esch No-till Drill Report.** Andrea Merrell passed out a spread sheet of the rental income from the Esch no-till drill and reviewed it with the Supervisors. She reported that TJ Signs are in the process of creating two metal signs to attach to the Esch no-till drill. They should be ready to pick up within the next 2 weeks.

Chair Bryan Bell reported he is working with Jeff McKee at Vernal Hay Company to make sure the needed repairs are completed on the no-till drill. He said that Jeff McKee wants to wait until after the planting season to make repairs and maintenance.

SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Darrell Gillman and the Supervisors agreed the discussion and additional information he gave under **"UDAF Report, A. UDAF Contract Review"** will be the Supervisor training for today.

FINANCIAL REPORT*

A. Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement. Andrea Merrell gave each Supervisor a copy of the QuickBooks Balance Sheet, Profit/Loss Statement, and Reconciliation Report all for period

ending July 31, 2026. During July the following checks were issued: check #310 for \$400 and check #311 for \$842.90. There were two deposits totaling \$8122.05—\$5641.52 from 4th quarter UDAF grant payment, \$1060.53 from 4th quarter SERA reimbursement, \$420 from the sale of 3 rolls of weed barrier, and \$1000 from Vernal Hay Company. She reported two checks issued in June have not cleared. Shane Frost asked why so much money was being kept in the checking account which is not earning interest. Discussion followed.

B. Expenses: Bills for Payment. Andrea Merrell presented an invoice for \$1,675 from UACD for UACD Annual Dues, Utah Ag in the Classroom, and Envirothon Support. She also gave each Supervisor a copy of the “FY2026 Utah Association of Conservation Districts Annual Report”.

Action Item: Motion by Shane Frost to take \$10,000 from checking and purchase a Certificate of Deposit at MACU. Todd Thacker seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Action Item: Motion by Shane Frost to pay \$1675 in District dues to UACD as presented. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

Action Item: Motion by Shane Frost to approve the Financial Report as given. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

SERA*

Darrell Gillman told the Supervisors there is a workshop Thursday August 13 at 5 PM at the David Gurr Farm in Naples on UDAF's AGDRIP program. This program works with agricultural producers willing to put in moisture sensors, flowmeters, and other equipment to assist the producer increase their irrigation efficiency. All the equipment is supplies at no cost to the producer. In return, they provide data to AGDRIP personnel. Dinner will be served during the workshop. Darrell Gillman asked the Supervisors to let him know if they plan to attend as the workshop organizers are trying to get a count for dinner.

Action Item: Shane Frost made a motion to pay SERA expenses for any supervisor attending the AGDRIP workshop on behalf of the District. Jim Slaugh seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Grant Opportunity: Stephanie Nelson informed the Supervisors about the Utah Food Security Grants. Application period is July 21 to August 31. She gave examples of types of operations that are eligible for the grants. She stated the purpose of the grants are to help grow food and markets in Utah. She also discussed eligibility requirements. She listed some examples of what the grant funds can be used for such as equipment, indoor growing systems, food processing equipment, walk-in coolers, inventory management, and so forth. Complete

information, and on-line applications can be found on the UDAF website. Stephanie Nelson offered to help anyone interested in applying for these funds.

Darrell Gillman again mentioned the Clerk training scheduled for August 26 and 27. He also informed the Supervisors that Terrell Thayne, GIP Coordinator is taking applications for the Predator Control Program.

Darrell Gillman told the Supervisors that UDAF is suggesting the District needs a separate voice recorder for the closed portion of meetings, because the District does need to keep those recordings. We don't upload recordings of closed portions to the State website, but we do keep it for our records.

Andrea Merrell passed around a thank you card from the recipient of the UACD Ladies Auxiliary scholarship from Uintah County.

Jim Slauch gave an update on the Oaks Park Pipeline Rehabilitation Project. He stated two loads of pipe will be delivered shortly. He related to the Supervisors that additional water needs to be taken out of Oaks Park Reservoir before they can initiate construction. They are working out the details for late season water deliveries from Oaks Park Reservoir as well as and how to provide water for livestock operators as they move their herds off the mountain. He estimates starting pipeline construction September 5. Construction schedule is dictated by irrigation water deliveries.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm by Shane Frost and seconded by Todd Thacker. Motion passed.