

## MINUTES

### KAMAS CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WCD) MEETING

Meeting, September 2, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

50 E. Center Street, Kamas, UT 84036

#### ATTENDANCE:

Appointed Kamas Conservation District (KCD) Voting Members:

**Lloyd Marchant**, *Chairman (Present)*

**Jason Averett**, *Supervisor (Present)*

**Brenda Bushell**, *Treasurer (Present)*

**Brandon Withers**, *Supervisor (Absent)*

**Sklyer McCormick**, *Supervisor (Present)*

**Jodi Mills**, *Clerk (Present)*

Guests:

**Parker Wayment**, *Resource Coordinator*

**Kenny Oswald**, *NRCS District Conservationist*

**Jace Atkinson**, *NRCS and UDAF Partner*

**Jessica Reynolds**, *Weber River Partnership*

**Elizabeth Cohen**, *USU Extension Agent*

**Trenton Gaskill**, *Beehive Nursery*

#### SUMMARY OF DISTRICT ACTION

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## KCD MEETING- CALL TO ORDER

KCD Chairman Lloyd Marchant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. **A motion was made by Mr. Jason Averett to approve the August 19, 2026 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Skyler McCormick. The motion was carried unanimously.**

## BEEHIVE NURSERY

Trenton Gaskill, owner of Beehive Nursery, submitted an application for a disaster relief loan. Beehive Nursery operates a native plant nursery, growing approximately 800–900 different native species used to replant local properties. The nursery depends heavily on snowpack for its water supply, which was significantly below normal this year. Combined with extreme spring weather and inconsistent rainfall, these conditions prevented the nursery from meeting some existing contract expectations and resulted in the loss of its primary contract. Production decreased from approximately 50,000 plants to 20,000 plants. The nursery also maintains a herd of goats used for ground preparation and invasive species control; however, the goats are not a significant component of the loan request.

Parker explained that the current qualifying disasters in the state include flooding, drought, freeze, and fire, among others. The loans are intended to reimburse eligible expenses incurred by an operation due to a loss of operating income resulting from one of the qualifying statewide disasters. Funds are issued on a reimbursement basis. The loans carry 0% interest for the first two years, with 50% collateral required beginning in the third year, and have a seven-year term. The loans are administered through the Conservation Districts to help ensure the funds are used appropriately and distributed equitably among producers.

Elizabeth Cohen, USU Extension, stated that she is not familiar with Beehive Nursery but had heard that the business may have recently changed its name to Wasatch Flora. The available funding is becoming limited, and the longer the approval process takes, the less likely the applicant is to receive funding. Parker reiterated that the loan will only be disbursed on a reimbursement basis for approved expenses. Parker has received similar applications from a couple of other nurseries, and the application will also need

to go through an approval process with the State of Utah. Parker will follow up regarding the potential name change. Once that information is confirmed, the Board can hold a closed meeting by phone to conduct the vote. Parker noted that the District does not have liability if it approves a loan that is later determined to be invalid. The process is similar to an ARDL loan.

## NRCS UPDATE

Kenny Oswald, NRCS District Conservationist, provided a brief NRCS update. Kenny and the Board discussed Strategic Fund Pools (SFPs) for the local area and how potential boundary changes could affect SFP rankings and funding distribution. The Board also discussed the best way to apply for funding in order to maximize the benefit to local producers. Lloyd requested clarification on whether Conservation Districts (CDs) may own and rent out equipment. Parker stated that this appears to be within the appropriate scope of a CD and can support producers in implementing efficient and best-practice operations. Jace noted that there are no legal restrictions preventing CDs from owning equipment. Producers may also continue to seek their own funding to complete projects on a private level.

## RESOURCE COORDINATOR UPDATE

Parker Wayment reported that Emily Bishop recently broke her foot, making sampling somewhat challenging. The current sampling cost is \$58 per sample, and six samples have been collected to date. The Board would like to collect a couple of additional samples. **Jason Averett made a motion to pay for sampling on Thorne Creek, with Brenda Bushell seconding the motion.**

The Board discussed upcoming changes to the reimbursement and SERA processes. Under the new contract, SERA funding may be reallocated throughout the year between more active and less active districts, with the goal of utilizing all available SERA funds. Requests must be submitted quarterly to avoid an influx of requests at the end of the year and must be submitted within 30 days following the end of each quarter. Jodi Mills stated that she feels the changes will be very beneficial and confirmed when and how signatures will be required. Brenda requested additional clarification regarding why certain items are rejected and noted that the reasons for rejection should be communicated more clearly.

Lloyd signed all necessary paperwork to renew the \$11,000 grant and \$3,100 in SERA funding. Parker encouraged the Board to establish a P.O. Box and set up direct deposit. A P.O. Box would also be beneficial when applying for federal grants and would help maintain consistency when Board members change. Jim Bowcutt and Jace Farnsworth are working to secure additional funding for the districts. The Board agreed to move forward with establishing a District P.O. Box.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

Lloyd Marchant reported that an article in the local newspaper highlighted positive feedback regarding the District's no-till drill rental program and how the program benefited a local producer.

The Board discussed the possibility of eventually switching from Vence to Halter for virtual fencing due to improved collar technology and satellite coverage. Parker will investigate whether the District would be able to sell the existing towers if they are no longer needed.

Brenda Bushell provided a boundary map showing potential changes, and the Board reviewed and discussed the proposed changes. The Board also discussed a proposal for a 3,000-home development in the Lost Creek and Browns Canyon areas. Lloyd expressed concern that the area may not have sufficient water resources to support the proposed development. However, even with the proposed boundary changes, the District would not encompass this area.

Wade, from the Summit District, suggested that the districts meet as a smaller group to discuss the proposed boundary changes. Lloyd felt it would be beneficial to develop the maps collaboratively and reach an agreement on proposed changes that can then be voted on by each Board. Once approved, the changes would be written in the appropriate legal language and submitted to the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) and the Utah Conservation Commission (UCC). The plan is for both Boards to meet in a special session to discuss the proposed changes.

Lloyd reported hearing reports of cyberattacks in the area involving the injection of large amounts of chlorine into water sources. The Board discussed the need to ensure the District's banking account is set up with appropriate safeguards against potential cyberattacks. Brenda noted that several items will need to be corrected before the necessary changes can be made.

## WEBER RIVER PARTNERSHIP

Jessica Weber provided an update on the Weber River Partnership and announced that the organization has launched a new website, [weberriverpartnership.org](http://weberriverpartnership.org). The website includes an engagement survey, and Jessica encouraged everyone to participate. It also includes a community calendar, which she encouraged the Board to use for posting relevant events and activities.

The Confluence Symposium will be held January 12 and will bring together researchers, producers, and community members. The Board is encouraged to submit topics of interest and is also invited to present if desired.

## EXTENSION UPDATE

Elizabeth Cohen, announced that an online Virtual Fencing Webinar through Arizona State will be held on September 22 at noon. She thanked everyone for completing her survey and noted that the survey is currently closed but may reopen in the future. The Extension will be holding a mushroom-growing class at Swaner Preserve & Eco Center. Elizabeth also announced that a horticulture position is available in the Valley and encouraged interested applicants to contact her.

## DISTRICT FINANCES

The following individuals were voted on and approved for weed spray reimbursement:

Jack Clegg \$270.00, Cynthia Harvey \$270.00, Mary Ciminelli \$45.00, Tim Simonsen \$90.00, Leasa Cameron \$30.00, Michael Sommer \$30.00, Kimberlee Black \$140.00, Debra Seammon \$93.00, Derek Mayfield \$219.00.

**Jason Averett made the motion to approve reimbursing the above individuals for weed control chemical costs, Skyler McCormick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board discussed a \$4,000 payment to Vence for the collar subscription, which was due September 3, 2026. Jace confirmed that this payment has been made. There are currently four outstanding invoices, including \$10,000 for the tower and \$6,299.95 for collars for three producers. Brenda is working to obtain all outstanding invoices for the original producers, and Jace will verify the invoices with Vence. The motion regarding payment will be tabled until it is confirmed that all invoices have been received.

Approximately \$68,000 in funding remains and must be spent by December 31, 2026. Potential uses include paying producer subscriptions for the upcoming year, battery

replacements, and equipment fees. An additional \$5,000 has been allocated for outreach and education. The Board discussed the need to begin the process immediately to ensure the funds can be utilized by the December deadline. There may be an issue with using the current fiscal-year funds to pay subscriptions for the upcoming year. Jace will begin organizing an outreach event for the first week of November.

The Board discussed the following expenses: \$125 for UACD dues, \$800 for Ag in the Classroom, and \$750 for Envirothon. **Jason made a motion to approve the expenses, with Skyler seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board voted to approve a \$348 payment to Chemtech. **Jason made a motion to approve the expense, with Skyler seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **OTHER**

Brenda tendered her resignation from the Board, effective immediately.

## **NEXT MEETING**

October 7, 2026

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Jason Averett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Skyler McCormick. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.**