



247 N CLAY STREET  
WRAY, CO 80758  
970-332-3107 EXT. 9002  
www.ycconservation.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES February 25, 2025

YCCD Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Darrell Smith, and Chester Zwirn  
Supervisors Absent: Sonya Shaw  
Ex officio Members: None  
Staff Present: Tanya Fell, Shirley Deason, and Rafael Trejo  
Guests Present: Carissa Whittington, CSCB

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 1:10 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference.

Updates were made by each board member to the mileage calendar.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda. Approval of the agenda was made on a motion by Supervisor Smith. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the January 14, 2025, meeting minutes and the February 6, 2025, work session minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Smith moved to accept the financial report and pay the February bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously. The current bills paid are:

- Premier Accounting
- Wray Gazette
- Yuma Pioneer

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2025: Matching grant approval letters were sent to Ronald Blach, Darrell & Deanna Webster, Jamie Deterding, Jory & Tyra Drager, Jayden Drager, Leroy Deterding, Lenz Cattle LLC, Alyse Wenstrom, RLS Ranch LLC and Larry C. Smith. Linda Evans was sent a denial letter due to the acreage being enrolled in the CRP-Grassland program. District Conservation Technician (DCT) Trejo has completed the maps of the project sites. The next step will be for DCT Trejo and the NRCS engineer to visit the sites.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: District Manager Fell needs to set a meeting with the steering committee to decide on the next steps to be taken for the project.

- NFWF Grant: \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County: The Conservation District has been informed that funding is currently frozen at the federal level and that no disbursements related to the grant can be made until the federal government unlocks the account. Kelsea Mauk with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated they will keep planning with landowners with the understanding that projects cannot be implemented until funds come through. Spraying needs to be completed before June 1<sup>st</sup>, if funding is released.
- Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant: The conservation district has \$10,000 remaining from the \$20,000 grant. In addition, District Manager Fell stated the Mule Deer Foundation has an additional \$22,500 in funding available for projects in 2025.
- Colorado Soil Health Program – The soil analysis reports from the Colorado Department of Agriculture have been forwarded to producers. An email encouraging producers to complete the STAR field evaluations has been sent. Producers have been sent an email requesting they sign the FSA subsidiary print release.

The conservation district was informed that due to federal budget cuts, funding for the Working Lands Conservation Corps (WLLC) District Conservation Technician (DCT) is no longer available. District Manager Fell rescinded the job offer made to Henry Santizo.

The conservation district has applied for the Colorado State Conservation Board 2025 Supplemental Matching Grant in the amount of \$40,000 for tree restoration. A secondary application for \$10,000 for grasshopper mitigation was also submitted.

The Yuma County Conservation District applied for the CSCB Supplemental Matching Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for tree restoration on behalf of the Yuma Conservation District. A memorandum of agreement for the Colorado State Conservation Board 2025 Supplemental Matching Grant has been signed by both districts.

The conservation district has submitted a Federal Surplus Property Program Eligibility Application to the Colorado State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP). The conservation district was informed that the 2008 Ford Pickup from Wray will soon be listed as surplus property. Supervisor Smith is continuing to look for a pickup that would fit the conservation district's needs.

The Keeping Lands Productive with Less or No Water workshop was held on January 22, 2025, at Kirk, CO. Greg Peterson with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance co-sponsored the meeting and reimbursed the conservation district for the cost of the meal and the building rental. The meeting was attended by 33 individuals.

The High Plains No Till Conference held February 4-5, 2025 in Burlington, CO was attended by District Manager Fell and District Conservation Technician Trejo. District Manager Fell and DCT Trejo gave brief reports on the workshops they attended.

A pesticide applicator workshop has been scheduled for March 20, 2025. The Laird Ladies will be providing lunch with the conservation district paying for attendee's lunch. At present, nine producers have registered to attend.

The succession/estate planning workshop has been scheduled for March 26, 2025, at the Roundhouse in Wray. The Laird Ladies will be providing lunch. Seven area banks have agreed to co-sponsor the event by providing \$250.00 each. Jeffrey Tranel with Colorado State University will give the presentation in conjunction with several local attorneys.

The 2025 Tree sale is ongoing. The conservation district will be advertising with WIX and Facebook. Elections for supervisors are ongoing. Currently Supervisors Lenz and Richards have submitted their self-nomination forms. The Call for Nominations form has been sent to the Wray Gazette for publication. The outside nomination deadline is March 3, 2025.

The annual meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District is scheduled for tonight at 6:00 p.m. with a showing of the film series "Hold Our Ground" at the Cliff Movie Theatre. All board members and staff are encouraged to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The NACD survey on funding freezes completed by the conservation district was reviewed by the board.

The sample letter to send to Senators/Representatives on funding cuts was reviewed by the board.

The proposed bill concerning property tax payments was discussed by the board. District Manager Fell is to reach out to the Colorado Special Districts Association to make sure they are aware of the proposed legislation and that the Yuma County Conservation Districts opposes this legislation.

The board discussed hosting the Colorado State Conservation Board Solar & Agri voltic tour for the Northeast region. Dates for the tour have not been set at this time.

Supervisor Zwirn discussed the High Plains Community Beekeepers Association and the activities in which they are involved. A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve the annual sponsorship of \$250 to the High Plains Community Beekeepers. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously, with Supervisor Zwirn abstaining.

District Manager Fell gave a report on the workshops attended while at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting held in Salt Lake City, UT. District Manager Fell was also there representing both the Colorado and National Employees Association.

Discussion was held about the need for a Soil Health workshop.

The combined 2025 Southwest and Pacific Joint Region Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts will be held in Golden, CO on September 9-12, 2025. Supervisors are encouraged to attend.

The Republican River Watershed Association meeting is being held at the Red Willow in Yuma, CO on March 4, 2025. All board members and staff are encouraged to attend.

The press releases for the Pesticide Applicator Workshop, the YCCD receives three-year RESTORE Colorado Grant and the Free Picnic Dinner and a Movie YCCD Annual meeting were reviewed by the board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items brought before the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for March 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date