



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2025

YCCD Supervisors Present: Margaret Lenz, Ron Richards, Darrell Smith, & Chester Zwirn

Supervisors Absent: Sonya Shaw

Ex officio Members: Daniel Palic, NRCS

Staff Present: Tanya Fell, Shirley Deason, and Rafael Trejo

Call to Order:

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 5:10 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference Room.

Supervisor Richards made a motion to approve of the absence of Supervisor Shaw. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

Update to Mileage Calendar:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes:

Supervisor Zwirn moved to approve the June 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

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

- Employee payroll
- Plains Communications
- Jenna Wieser – Raymond Peters Memorial Scholarship

NRCS Report:

Daniel Palic introduced himself to the board and gave background information about himself. He then gave the NRCS report stating that 1 new EQIP contract for \$450,000.00 was approved and talked about the CRP contracts. He informed the board that the NRCS office in Yuma has been closed. Also, he stated that the number of NRCS employees in the state has gone from 240 employees to 155 employees.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants & Updates: District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- **CSCB Supplemental Matching Grant:** This is a grant awarded to the Yuma Conservation District (with administration by the Yuma County Conservation District) in the amount of \$50,000 for tree restoration. District Manager Fell, Office Assistant Deason and District Conservation Technician Trejo met on July 7, 2025, with Valerie Nache and Thaddeus Driscoll with the Colorado State Forestry Service for assistance in assessing damaged trees in the Yuma area. The CSU Forestry staff indicated the Yuma Cemetery as a possible site where the grant money would provide a significant benefit. Supervisors suggested the conservation district reach out to producers that have expressed interest in the grant program to get a legal description of the property, cost of the project, and the project goals and invite members of the Yuma Conservation District board to the August 2025 meeting to discuss the grant.
- **Bonny Grazing Project:** Supervisors discussed proposed grazing area quadrants. The biggest obstacle in moving forward with the project is the availability of water. Daniel Palic is to meet with cooperator Darrell Smith and Travis Taylor, CSU extension to discuss a grazing plan for the project. Colorado Parks and Wildlife stated that they will allow grazing from February through September 30th. Cooperator Smith, however, believes a more feasible grazing time frame would be from April through September 30th. The next steering committee meeting has been scheduled for July 10, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. After this discussion Daniel Palic departed the meeting.
- **CSCB 50/50 Matching Grant 2025:** District Conservation Technician (DCT) Trejo gave a report stating that Bridget with NRCS would be at the office tomorrow and that they would be inspecting the Deterding and Lenz projects. DCT Trejo will also follow up with producers needing well tests for their project but have not yet been provided to the conservation district.
- **NFWF Grant:** \$320,000 grant request for Rejuvra for all of Yuma County: The Conservation District has been informed that the reimbursement request for Don Brown has been approved and is awaiting payout. Producer Brown has been informed that the conservation district is still awaiting payout from the program.
- **Rocky Mountain Mule Deer Grant:** The conservation district has \$10,000 remaining from the \$20,000 grant with an additional \$22,500 available for projects in 2025.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities: District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grant opportunities:

- **CDA Agriculture Climate Resilience Grant:** The conservation district applied for a climate resilience grant in the amount of \$30,000 for Shelter Belt Tree Restoration. The conservation district was informed that the grant was **not** funded.
- **NRCS Locally Led Targeted Conservation Project:** A locally led Targeted Conservation Project Proposal for fiscal year 2026 was submitted by the Yuma County Conservation District in the amount of \$500,000 for Cheatgrass Control, which would encompass Yuma County, Phillips County and Sedgwick County.
- **CACD/NRCS Demonstration Grant #1:** The conservation district intends to apply for \$10,000 for Cheatgrass Control Test Plots.
- **CACD/NRCS Demonstration Grant #2:** The conservation district intends to apply for \$10,000 for Virtual Fence, Portable Corral System & Water Structure at Bonny Reservoir.
- **CPW Habitat Partnership Program:** The conservation district intends to apply for a grant for Virtual Fence, Portable Corral System & Water Structure at Bonny Reservoir. The amount of the grant request has not been determined.
- **CSCB 50/50 Matching Grant 2026:** Applications are due July 11, 2025. The conservation district intends to submit a joint application with the Yuma Conservation District in the amount of \$50,000 for Water Tanks, Pipelines, Solar Pumps, and Wireless Tank Monitoring Devices. John Deering, President of the Yuma Conservation District has signed an MOU.
- **NFWF Conservation Partners Program:** Applications are due July 15, 2025. With the assistance of Noe Russo with ENVU, the conservation district intends to apply for up to \$ 500,000. This grant would be for staff funding for Habitat Enhancement on Grazing Land or Soil Health Practices on Cropland. District Manager Fell, Office Assistant Deason, Noe Russo with ENVU, Bailey Rapp with NRCS and Clint Evans with NRCS had a teleconference on July 8, 2025. At the meeting, Clint Evans stated he would provide a letter of acknowledgement to the conservation district.
- **CSCB District Conservation Technician (DCT) Application Renewal:** Applications are due August 25, 2025. The conservation district intends to apply for a renewal of DCT funding for Rafale Trejo with a projected amount of \$45,000.
- **Homeland Security & Emergency Natural Disaster Mitigation:** Applications are due August 29, 2025. The Republican River Watershed Association (administered by the Yuma County Conservation District) intends to apply for \$1,400,000 for a watershed wide cheatgrass control project.

Vehicle Purchase for District Business:

The conservation district has been approved to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program. District Manager Fell is continuing to monitor the website for vehicles that would meet the conservation district's needs. The conservation district has put in a request for two different pickups but has not received a response. Supervisor Smith stated that the local Ford dealership will have a 2008 Ford Pickup with 115,000 miles for approximately \$11,000, but he has not inspected the vehicle.

Workshops:

Tentative summer/fall schedule of workshops and activities the conservation district is considering include hosting an estate/succession workshop, cover crops workshop, drone spraying workshop, and a farmers' market.

Host CSCB Solar & Agrivoltaics tour for the Northeast Region:

Possible workshop topics include regulations, bonding requirements, and what a landowner needs to consider when looking at a contract. Besides producers, invites should be sent to county commissioners, planning and zoning commission members, and city planners/managers. The conservation district has received a payment of \$6,137.72 for hosting this workshop. The conservation district needs to set a date for the meeting and enlist speakers for the meeting.

Republican River Watershed Meeting:

The Republican River Watershed Association meeting has been rescheduled to August 27, 2025. All supervisors are encouraged to attend.

2025 Southwest and Pacific Joint Region Meeting:

The combined 2025 Southwest and Pacific Joint Regional Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts will be held in Golden, CO on September 7-10, 2025. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) will not hold a separate annual meeting in 2025 and is instead encouraging participation in the regional meeting. CACD will host an 80th anniversary celebration for CACD on Monday September 8, 2025, at the regional event. District Manager Fell, District Conservation Technician Trejo and Supervisor Lenz plan to attend. Other supervisors will check their calendars to see if they can attend.

Leadership Certificate:

Stephanie Scott is scheduled for the Leadership training on January 13, 2026.

Candidates for Conservationist of the Year:

The Conservationist of the Year possible candidates were Brad Winfield for farmer and Sandhill Bloomers for small acreage.

Website and Document ADA Compliance:

The conservation district has engaged Wix Legends for a full audit and implementation of accessibility requirement and fixing of all current issues/errors for \$750.00. Wix Legends will also do a full design

review of all pages and correction of layout and display issues (functional adjustments) to improve readability and SEO for \$250.00. The website will be compliant by July 18, 2025.

Wind Towers/Solar Farms:

The Wray Gazette newspaper dated June 25, 2025, had an article stating that project managers from Clean Energy met on June 12, 2025, with the Yuma County Board of Commissioners to discuss the specifications and setbacks related to wind turbines. The commissioners reiterated that they would like feedback from constituents regarding their views on setbacks before considering any amendments to the Yuma County Land Use Code.

There is also a proposed solar project being planned at the county border between Yuma and Kit Carson off highway 385. This project is being called the South Spur Solar Project. A public meeting was held last night in Idalia for the adjoining landowners by Bachtel (the solar company). We have been informed that Bachtel is planning to attend the Kit Carson County Planning Commission meeting on July 15, 2025, and the Yuma County Planning Commission on August 19, 2025. The Yuma County Conservation District feels that it is imperative that both districts have representation at these meetings. District Manager Fell will reach out to the board of the Burlington Conservation District to encourage their attendance at the meeting.

Camp Rocky:

Camp Rocky is a week-long educational camp for 14 through 17-year-olds who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources. The camp is July 6th – 11th 2025 and is located outside Divide, Colorado. The conservation district had three attendees.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watershed Meeting Resolutions:

The conservation district is to work on a resolution for "Common Sense with Supporting Traditional Ag Producers" to present at the watershed meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to enter Executive Session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S., for discussion of personnel matters involving the evaluation of the District Conservation Technician, who was previously informed of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously with the executive session beginning at 8:50 p.m.

Supervisor Smith made a motion to end executive session and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously with President Lenz reconvening the regular meeting at 9:12 p.m.

No further motions or actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

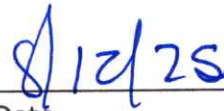
Next Meeting:

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for August 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NRCS conference room in Wray. Please note: The President Lenz will be absent for the next meeting. Vice President Richards will preside over the meeting in her absence."

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant



Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer



Date