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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2026

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

Supervisors Absent: None

Ex officio Members: None

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

Guests Present: Rick Grice (VaporLok Technologies) and Henry Santizo (Pheasants Forever)

Before the meeting began, Rick Grice with Vaporlok Technologies gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding the use of the Rhombo Hexoshield system for stock tanks. The presentation focused on its potential to reduce water evaporation, improve water conservation, and help decrease algae growth in livestock watering tanks.

Call to Order:

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 5:50 p.m. at the Wray NRCS Conference Room.

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 Shaw. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Month's Minutes:

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the May 12, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Financial Statement and Pay Bills: District Manager Fell presented the monthly financials. Supervisor Richards moved to accept the financial report and pay the June bills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously. The following bills were presented for payment:

- Employee Payroll
- Wray FFA
- Premier Accounting
- Carson Helling – Peters Scholarship
- Barlow Ag Sales
- WISH
- North Dakota Forest Service
- Big Sioux Nursery, Inc.
- Bessey Nursery
- Tree Source Systems
- Margaret Lenz – Tree Refund
- Sharp Brothers Seed Co.

Unposted ACH Deposit:

District Manager Fell reported that the unknown ACH deposit received on April 10, 2026, in the amount of \$5,538.00 (transaction description: "HSA CUR YEAR", PPD), was later determined to be mill levy revenue belonging to the Conservation District. The funds had previously been held without expenditure while the origin of the deposit was investigated.

NRCS Report:

Daniel Palic was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report for the Board's review, including updates on the number of EQIP and CRP contracts. NRCS plans to advertise for a Range Conservationist position for the Wray Field Office, which will be open to internal NRCS employees. NRCS also plans to advertise for the Resource Team Lead/District Conservationist position for the Wray/Akron offices, which will also be an internal posting.

District Conservation Technician Rafael Trejo has completed all requirements for a Level II Planner and is in the process of finalizing Level III certification to become a Certified Conservation Planner.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- **Bonny Grazing Project:** District Manager Fell provided an update on the Bonny Grazing Project. Three grant applications have been awarded to support the project at Bonny Reservoir, including the Demonstration Grant, the HPP Grant, and the Mule Deer Foundation Grant. The virtual fencing collars from Halter have arrived, and installation of the solar pump systems at Bonny is underway.
- **Restore Colorado Grant 2024 -NFWF:** The Conservation District was awarded a \$320,000 RESTORE Colorado Grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support Rejuvra applications across Yuma County for the control of invasive annual grasses. The Conservation District received a project extension through December 31, 2026, to complete the remaining work. The Conservation District is currently working to utilize the remaining SAFE and cheatgrass program funds before project completion.
- **CSCB Supplemental Matching Grant 2025:** The Yuma Conservation District, under the administration of the Yuma County Conservation District, was awarded a \$50,000 grant to support tree restoration efforts. The Conservation District is currently working to obtain final documentation required for submission to the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), as

grant reimbursement requests are due by June 30, 2026. Seven projects have been completed, while four projects are awaiting final documentation.

- **CSCB 50/50 Matching Grant 2026:** The Conservation District was awarded a \$50,000 CSCB 50/50 Matching Grant for 2026 to support the installation of water tanks, pipelines, solar pumps, and wireless tank monitoring devices benefiting producers in both the Yuma Conservation District and the Yuma County Conservation District. DCT Trejo gave a report on the progress of the grant. At this time, two projects have been completed, and two additional projects are in the design phase.
- **Demonstration Grant (Cheatgrass)-CACD/NRCS:** The Conservation District was awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Cheatgrass Control Test Plots. The project will be initiated with technical assistance from ENVU.
- **Climate Resiliency Grant-Co. Dept of Ag:** The Conservation District was awarded a \$30,000 Climate Resiliency Grant through the Colorado Department of Agriculture for the installation of living snow fences. District Manager Fell contacted the Colorado Department of Transportation to explore potential assistance and coordination opportunities for the project. The goal is to complete tree planting in the fall of 2026.
- **Demonstration Grant (Virtual Fence) – CACD/NRCS:** The Conservation District was awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Virtual Fence, Portable Corral System & Water Structure at Bonny Reservoir.
- **Republican River Watershed Association (Cheatgrass) – Congresswoman Boebert:** The Yuma County Conservation District was awarded an \$850,000 grant to benefit producers in the Republican River Watershed Association in controlling and mitigating invasive annual grasses.
- **Habitat Partnership Program - CPW:** The Conservation District was awarded a grant in the amount of \$36,500 for virtual fence and water structure at Bonny Reservoir.
- **Mule Deer Foundation:** The Conservation District was awarded \$17,160 for the water structure at Bonny Reservoir.
- **NRCS Locally Led Targeted Conservation Project:** A locally led Targeted Conservation Project Proposal was awarded to the Conservation District in the amount of \$500,000 for Cheatgrass Control. This project will encompass Yuma County, Phillips County and Sedgwick County. Invasive Annual Grass Restoration meetings were held on June 4, 2026, in each of the three counties featuring speakers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife and ENVU. The deadline to apply was June 8, 2026.

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

- **Restore Colorado Grant – NFWF:** The application has been submitted in the amount of \$349,242.77 for a watershed wide grant for cheatgrass control. No further information is available.
- **Technical Assistance Grant- NACD:** This grant would fund a dedicated employee position to provide technical services on behalf of the district. The application has been submitted in the amount of \$121,037.50. Awards were expected to be announced in March 2026; however, no award announcement has been received to date.
- **CSCB 50/50 Matching Grant 2027:** The Conservation District submitted an application in the amount of \$25,000 to support water tanks, pipelines, solar pumps, and wireless tank monitoring devices. The proposed project will focus on drought mitigation by improving livestock and wildlife water distribution, increasing grazing flexibility, reducing pressure on overutilized pastures, and enhancing the ability of producers to manage limited water resources more efficiently during prolonged drought conditions.
- **DCT Application Renewal:** The Conservation District submitted an application for renewal of funding for the District Conservation Technician position. Applications for the program were due July 1, 2026.
- **Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise Grant – Homeland Security & Emergency Management:** The Board discussed the Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise Grant opportunity through Homeland Security and Emergency Management, with the Yuma County Conservation District serving as the lead entity for the Republican River Watershed Association. District Manager Fell was directed to prepare the grant application and submit a draft to the Republican River Watershed Association Steering Committee for review and approval. Applications are due August 31, 2026.

District Manager Fell informed the Board that she is attending a grant writing training in Gillette, Wyoming on June 22-23, 2026. The training will provide additional skills and resources to strengthen the Conservation District's ability to pursue grant funding opportunities and support future conservation projects.

Leadership Training Reschedule:

Leadership training is being rescheduled. District Manager Fell will contact Stephanie Scott to discuss possible dates for the training.

Workshops:

- **Landowner Dam Easement Education Workshop:** The Conservation District continues to explore hosting a workshop for landowners with properties near dam easement areas to emphasize the importance of keeping easement areas clear of brush to ensure proper water flow during significant rain events. Plat maps will be used to identify landowners with easements in these areas.
- **Estate/Succession Plan Workshop:** District Manager Fell reported that planning continues for an estate and succession planning workshop targeted toward younger producers. District

Manager Fell has contacted Jeffrey Tranel to inquire about potential dates in mid-November or early December.

- **Irrigation Workshop:** The Conservation District continues to explore the possibility of hosting an irrigation workshop to provide educational opportunities and resources for producers on irrigation management and water conservation practices.

Host CSCB Solar & Agrivoltaics Event for the Northeast Region:

The Conservation District discussed hosting the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) Solar and Agrivoltaics Tour for the Northeast Region. Joelle Holtman will assist in coordinating speakers and presentations for the event.

Tree Sale:

District Manager Fell provided an update on the 2026 Tree Sale. Sales of trees and drip irrigation supplies totaled more than \$145,000 as of the end of May 2026, reflecting strong participation and continued demand for conservation planting materials within the Conservation District.

Yuma County Town Hall Meetings:

The Town Hall meeting at the Grassroots Community Center in Joes was held on June 4, 2026. Another Town Hall meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2026, at the Eckley Community Center in Eckley. These meetings provide an opportunity for residents to voice concerns to the Yuma County Planning Commission regarding wind turbine setbacks.

Supervisor Shaw attended the meeting in Joes and provided an update to the Board regarding proposed changes to wind tower setback requirements and related recommendations being presented to the Yuma County Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy and Procedure Manual Approval:

Due to time constraints, the Board reviewed and considered only the following policies and forms.

- **Governance and Administration Policies**
 - Continuity of Operations Policy
- **Financial and Operational Policies**
 - Accounting Policies and Procedures
 - Fraud Prevention Policy
 - Procurement Policy and Procedures
 - Timekeeping and Payroll Allocation Policy
- **Grants and Compliance Policies**
 - Grant Administration Policy
 - Grant-Funded Positions and Funding Contingency Policy
 - Federal Grants Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Federal Grants Nondiscrimination Policy
- **Appendix and Forms**
 - Grant-Funded Position Acknowledgment Form

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to approve the Accounting Policies and Procedures after removing the specific name of an accounting firm under the "contracted accounting services" section from the policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve the Fraud Prevention Policy after adding NRCS under the "external notifications" section of the policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Shaw and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to approve the Procurement Policy and Procedures. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to approve the Timekeeping and Payroll Allocation Policy after removing the specific name of an accounting firm or another Board-approved provider under the "Payroll Processing" section of the policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve the Grant Administration Policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Zwirn and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to approve the Grant-Funded Positions and Funding Contingency Policy and the Grant-Funded Position Acknowledgment Form. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to approve the Federal Grants Conflict of Interest Policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Supervisor Zwirn to approve the Federal Grants Nondiscrimination Policy. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Review of the remaining policies listed in the proposed Policy and Procedure Manual was postponed until a future meeting.

Colorado State Conservation Board Meeting Report:

Margaret Lenz gave a report on the Colorado State Conservation Board meeting held June 3, 2026.

Republican River Watershed Association Fall Meeting:

The Board discussed the 2026 CACD Resolution Process. Any resolutions the Conservation District wishes to submit should be approved at the July Board meeting to allow sufficient time for submission to the watershed association at least two weeks prior to the Fall Watershed meeting. The Fall Watershed meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2026.

The Board discussed the possibility of submitting a resolution supporting the position that land use planning decisions should remain at the local level.

The Board reviewed the timeline for forwarding the Conservation District's 2026 Conservationist of the Year award recipients to the watershed association for regional consideration. The award recipients were originally selected at the January 2026 Board meeting and recognized at the February 2026 Annual Meeting. The Board agreed to reaffirm those nominations at the July Board meeting prior to submission to the watershed association and subsequent consideration by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD).

2026 SW and Pacific Joint Region Meeting:

The 2026 SW and Pacific Joint Region Meeting will be held on August 24 – 28, 2026, in Guam.

Camp Rocky:

Camp Rocky is a week-long residential camp for youth ages 14–17 that combines hands-on learning in natural resources, agriculture, and environmental science with a traditional summer camp experience in the Colorado Rockies. The 2026 camp will be held July 5–10 in Divide, Colorado. The 2025 Yuma County Fair Camp Rocky Scholarship recipient, Ximena Granados, was selected to attend the 2026 Camp Rocky program as the Conservation District's sponsored participant.

Press Releases:

The Board reviewed the press release "USDA NRCS announces June 8 Deadline for New Sandhills Rangeland Conservation Program in Yuma, Phillips, and Sedgwick Counties".

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Richards to dispense with the executive session. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

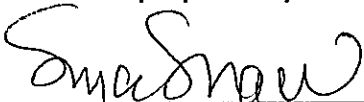
ADJOURNMENT:

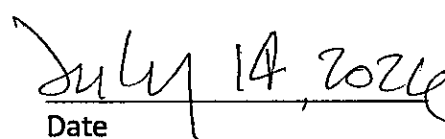
A motion was made by Supervisor Shaw to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously with President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Yuma County Conservation District meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., and will be held at the NRCS conference room in Wray.

Minutes prepared by: Shirley Deason, Office Assistant


Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer


Date