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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

### March 11, 2025

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

President Lenz declared a quorum present and convened the meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District at 5:30 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 Shaw. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Richards and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Richards moved to approve the February 25, 2025, meeting minutes and the Annual meeting minutes from February 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried unanimously.

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

- Employee payroll
- Plains Communications
- High Plains Community Beekeepers
- Cliff Theater

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

District Manager Fell gave updates on the following grants:

- 50/50 Matching Grant 2025: District Conservation Technician (DCT) Trejo gave a report stating that he had finished the conservation plan maps, stock water pipeline resource inventory worksheets, tank designs, wildlife escape ramps, solar designs, and conservation practice standards. The next step will be for DCT Trejo and an NRCS engineer to visit the sites.
- Bonny Demonstration Grant: District Manager Fell needs to set up 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 had been informed that funding is frozen at the federal level and that no

disbursements related to the grant can be made until the federal government unlocks the account. No further information has been received since the notification of the freeze in funding.

- 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. The federal funding freeze does not affect this grant.
- Colorado Soil Health Program –All producers have signed the FSA subsidiary print release form.

The conservation district did not receive funding for the Colorado State Conservation Board 2025 Supplemental Matching Grant for tree restoration in the amount of \$40,000 nor for the secondary request for grasshopper mitigation in the amount of \$10,000. District Manager Fell will check to see if the conservation district qualifies for the Natural Disaster Mitigation Enterprise Grant Opportunity.

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 is waiting for the letter showing grant funding for this application was approved.

The conservation district has been approved to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program. Eligibility will expire February 19, 2028. Supervisor Smith spoke to a representative from Lenz Farms about a 2020 F150 Laramie crew cab with approximately 60,000 miles that they will be trading in or selling in the near future. The estimated price would be between \$30,000 and \$39,000.

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, 44 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.

Discussion was held about the need for a Soil Health workshop. The conservation district will work on coming up with dates and location for the workshop.

Tentative summer/fall schedule of workshops and activities the conservation district is considering include hosting a tree care workshop, fire mitigation workshop, youth camp, and farmers market.

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.

The combined 2025 Southwest and Pacific Joint Regional 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 being held at the Red Willow in Yuma, CO has been rescheduled to March 19, 2025. All board members and staff are encouraged to attend.

The annual meeting of the Yuma County Conservation District was held on February 25, 2025, with a showing of the film series "Hold Our Ground" at the Cliff Movie Theatre. All board members and staff attended the meeting. Board members reported a positive response to the venue and movie showing. The conservation district should consider this format for future annual meetings.

The 2025 Tree sale is ongoing with the volume of sales down from the previous year. Tree distribution has been scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. The conservation district will call the nurseries to schedule shipment of the trees. When tree inventory begins arriving in April, the conservation district will need to advise the Colorado Special Districts Liability Pool to add the inventory to the policy to cover the seasonal exposure of the increased inventory.

The election of supervisors has been cancelled. Supervisors Lenz and Richards submitted self-nomination and acceptance forms and will be retained as supervisors. The notice of cancellation and certified statement of results has been sent to the Wray Gazette for publication.

The proposed bill concerning property tax payments was discussed by the board. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts has indicated their opposition to the bill.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Premier Accounting is currently preparing the Exemption from Audit paperwork. The Exemption from Audit is due by March 31, 2025.

The Conservationist of the Year was discussed with Supervisors to propose possible candidates for the award. Jake Prather, local NRCS staff, will be consulted about additional candidates that might qualify for the award.

The next possible government shutdown date is March 14, 2025. If the government shutdown occurs, the board approved District Conservation Technician Trejo to work full time on conservation district projects, with the conservation district paying the salary for DCT Trejo during any shutdown period.

Supervisors discussed the Leadership training certificate that was purchased at auction during the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. District Manager Fell is to contact Stephanie Scott to schedule training between November 2025 -- January 2026.

Supervisor Zwirn informed the board that he is establishing the Chester and Marcia Zwirn scholarship and asked the board members of the Yuma County Conservation District to handle the administration and also serve on the evaluation committee for selecting the scholarship recipient(s). Board members thanked Supervisor Zwirn for the establishment of the scholarship and

were willing to handle the administration of the scholarship and serve on the evaluation committee for the scholarship applications.

The press releases for the YCCD to Host Leaving a Lasting Legacy – Succession Planning Workshop and Time to Order your Trees, Flowers, Shrubs and Supplies were reviewed by the board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

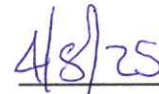
**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Lenz adjourning the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

The next YCCD meeting has been scheduled for April 8, 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

  
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Sonya Shaw, Secretary/Treasurer

  
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Date