
Branson - Trinchera

Conservation District

DATE: Monday, September 22, 2025

PLACE: Kim, CO (Baptist Church)

TIME: 5:00 pm

MINUTES

BUSINESS MEETING

A. **Call to order:** Dale Yocam called the meeting to order at 4:55pm.

- Dale Yocam, President—present
- Dick Loudon, Vice President—absent
- Harold Unwin, Secretary/Treasurer—present
- Lori Green, Member—absent
- Will Ward, Member—present

B. Guests

Lori Chatterley (District Manager), Keith Mantelli (DCT), Sammie Molinaro (NRCS)

C. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2025

Motion by Harold Unwin to approve the minutes. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 3-0

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

Harold Unwin gave a report of the finances:

- Income: Mill Levy—\$151.34
- Bills: Cost Share payments—\$2500 Ricke Feemster, \$2033 Vicki Jackson, \$2033 Lonnie Jackson, \$1408 Joy Wooten. Harold will send check copies to Lori for the MG report/reimbursement.
- Current Balance: \$42,552.45

Approximately \$750 is also committed for the Range Contest meal coming up and some more completion payments. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Harold Unwin. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 3-0

E. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mill Levy Preliminary Certification of Value

The preliminary certification of value was received. 2026 Estimation for the district is \$15,077.44

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Website review

Lori presented the website. The board would like to add more information on the power pellets, photos, links to partners, cost share information, education programs, Dale's cell number, etc.

2. "Thinking Like Water" screening Oct. 5 sponsorship:

Item was removed from agenda as no longer needed.

3. Range Conest

Range Contest cost will be \$700-750 for the meal which was already approved. Coming up Wednesday. Some Thank You letters from the fair sale came from: Mason Riddle and Riffin Mosimann for the Branson Buyer's group.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. MOA with SP-PRCD for District Manager/District Tech

The board reviewed the contract. It will have a prorated amount for 2025 due to no District Manager for 3.5 months. One other clause was added that it could be renegotiated if SP-PRCD has to hire a District Tech themselves if not funded by the government. Motion made by Harold Unwin to approve the MOA. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 3-0

2. Virtual Fencing Workshop Oct. 10 @ Walsenburg Community Center mailing

There was some discussion of the best way to gather emails. Lori will do a mailing and work on gathering emails. The mailing will also include website, Facebook, and 2026 state tax credit information.

3. 2026 Budget

The 2026 draft budget was presented to the board. Harold said he will get the beginning balance. They don't earn very much interest any more. CDs need to be in there too. Discussion of Matching Grant (MG) admin and cost share amounts, and Garth had told Lori that it looks like all 2026 MGs will be awarded. Add in Groundwater Testing with Kate. Some concerns about state severance tax being pulled and not getting future funding due to that. Final has to be given public notice posting and voted by the board by the end of the year and then sent to DOLA.

4. Long Range (3-Year) Plan

Lori made a few updates from the last meeting and Sammie suggested adding Rangeland back in from the 2014-2016 plan. The district can choose how many objectives to include. The board agreed to put Rangeland Health back in and keep the other objectives. Discussion that Camp Rocky isn't advertised enough. Discussed which partners should be removed. Add the groundwater testing. Add any woody species with the power pellets. Add in insects. Add in grant research.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Harold discussed the input he has given on behalf of the board for the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands - Public Engagement & Comment Period. There is concern that some environmental groups have too much of a voice and the land won't have enough grazing allowed. The input did not allow for face-to-face comments and only allowed 1 comment per ISP address. Everything was online.

I. NRCS REPORT

Sammie reported that there is a potential for a government shutdown in October and talked about the reorganization public input timeline. He would like to work on Conservation Planning and existing contracts for now. No new Farm Bill and doesn't think there will be one. FSA had 9 CRP applications for Las Animas County. He is working on a PSA about technical assistance. He asked the district website have a link to NRCS.

J. DISTRICT TECH. REPORT

There were 2 cost shares completed—Unwin Family Ranch (fence), Theresa Goodrich (watering facility). Keith will get some checkout pictures for the website. Reminder letters—Lori will send out reminders for those that haven't yet completed. Motion by Will Ward to approve the cost share completions. Second: Dale Yocam. Harold Unwin abstained. Motion carried 2-0

K. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm. Next meeting will be October 20th in Branson at 5pm.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND PROVIDE INPUT / COMMENT ON MATTERS COMING BEFORE THE BOARD