

# MINUTES

## *Branson - Trinchera*

### *Conservation District*

**DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

**PLACE: Kim, CO (Baptist Church)**

**TIME: 6:00pm**

President Dale Yocam called the meeting to order at 5:47pm.

#### **I. BUSINESS MEETING**

##### **A. Call meeting to order and roll call of attendance:**

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

##### **B. Introduction of Guests:**

Sammie Molinaro (NRCS), Lori Chatterley (District Manager) and Will Ward's daughter

##### **Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2026**

Motion to approve the minutes by Harold Unwin. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 5-0.

##### **C. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Income: Mill Levy \$815.43
- Bills: \$800 Exemption from Audit; \$500 AgFest donation
- Current Balance: \$41,479.40

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Will Ward. Second: Harold Unwin. Motion carried 5-0

##### **D. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

###### **1. Katy Ward Ag Trip to Netherlands and Belgium sponsorship**

Everyone reviewed the letters Katy Ward & Sorrel Mosimann sent, and there was a discussion about the trip. After discussing the donation amount, Lori Green made a motion to donate \$1500 to Katy and \$1500 to Sorrel. Dick Loudon seconded the motion. Will Ward said he would abstain. Motion carried 4-0 with 1 abstention.

###### **2. Garth Schaefer left CSCB; no replacement yet.**

##### **E. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE—none**

##### **F. NEW BUSINESS**

###### **1. Approval of the District Records Destruction Policy**

Lori C. reported that this policy would follow the resolution from last meeting regarding the proper destruction of records under state guidelines. Lori C. will send a copy to Harold for the retention on financial records. Motion to approve the policy by Dick Loudon. Second: Lori Green. Motion carried 5-0.

###### **2. Report on the Transmission Lines meeting by Harold Unwin**

Harold reported that there is concern regarding a 5-mile-wide corridor from Eads to Pritchett for transmission lines and imminent domain. John Swartout is involved in fighting against these initiatives from Governor Pollis. Harold set up a meeting in Lamar on April 1 at the Cow Palace at 10:30am. There will be a cost for lunch in lieu of paying to rent the room.

Anyone is invited to come. There was some other discussion of the lands affected. No action was taken.

3. Approval to change the Century Savings checking account from an individual to a business account

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Approval of changing Century Savings statements to the end of the month

After some discussion of item 3 above and this item, with a note that business account doesn't accrue interest but the interest is nominal anyway, the board combined the action of these two items as they are related—business accounts have end of month statements. Also the Treasurer needs final end of year balances (end of month) for budget and reporting. Lori Green made a motion to change the Century Savings checking account from an individual account to a business account and move the statements to the end of the month. Seconded by: Dick Loudon. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Approval to move the CD from Century Savings to another bank for a higher rate of interest

Motion by Harold Unwin to shop the CD at Century Savings to other banks for a higher interest rate. Second by Dick Loudon. Motion carried 5-0.

3. 2026 CSCB Matching Grant Cost Share Awards

There was some discussion about people applying from the same address and getting two awards (usually married couples or families). Possibly something to look at next year for ranking. Harold also wanted to show a need by putting in more applications so CSCB will continue to fund the cost share grant due to the need, even though the CO state budget is experiencing a shortage. There will be 12 awards totaling approximately \$25,800 which usually decreases as projects come in. Any remaining, up to 10% could be used for admin. Lori C. had the award/denial letters ready to go and Harold offered to mail them. Motion to approve the 12 listed by Harold Unwin. Second: Dick Loudon; Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of the Application & Resolution 2026-03: Exemption from Audit

There was a short discussion about how the District qualifies for the exemption from audit due to a smaller budget. Motion to approve the Application & Resolution by Harold Unwin. Second: Lori Green; motion carried 5-0.

5. Discussion about Youth Day Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Youth Day will be 9am-2pm in Kim at the Pavillion. Approximately 60 kids (K-5) will attend (plus adults). Looking at 6-7 stations including: water activity trailer, range, CPW, surveying, soils, forestry, and 811. NRCS staff/DCT help a lot. Still figuring out the meal.

6. Discussion of the 2026 Annual Meeting & Local Working Group (tentatively 12pm on Monday, June 8)

Harold asked John to cook for the meeting. Expecting 30 people. Lori C. will need to send out a postcard invitation to cost share awardees over the last few years and any other contacts with RSVP request. Also put it on Facebook. There will be an FFA presentation from Carli Wait (mom Michelle). Sammie will also hold the Local Working Group at the same time. It will be held at the commons area in the Kim High School. Need to make sure and invite FSA & NRCS Staff & supervisors, CSCB, etc.

#### **H. OTHER BUSINESS**

Harold attended the CRP Zoom meeting. Haying passed, but CPW, TNC, and BCR voted against it. There was a discussion about others not understanding the appeal of new grass; also need to consider the fire management with mowing fuel breaks. A lot of trashy birds show up, and nesting birds died in the blizzard and they need to bring them back.

**I. NRCS REPORT**

Sammie's report: No word on NRCS/USDA reorganization. Sammie explained how many staff are now in the nearby offices. New legislation may simplify NRCS programs into one application and take away EQUIP and put it all under CSP, which seems more complicated. Nothing is finalized yet, and NACD and others are lobbying for producers. NRCS is processing over 50 applications right now due by national deadline of March 27. Looking at emergency grazing for CRP in June. Snowpack and precipitation are close to disaster level. Some discussion of weather patterns ensued. Very dangerous fire weather right now.

**J. DISTRICT TECH. REPORT—none**

**K. NEXT MEETING** April 15, 2026 @ 6pm in Branson, CO

**L. ADJOURNMENT** Meeting was adjourned by President Dale Yocam at 6:59pm.

Signed: Lori Chatterton  
B-TCD District Manger

Date: 3-23-26