

MINUTES

Branson - Trinchera *Conservation District*

DATE: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

PLACE: Branson Online School

TIME: 6:00pm

BUSINESS MEETING

A. Call meeting to order and roll call of attendance @ 6:02pm by President Dale Yocam.

- 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: Lori Chatterley (DM), Sammie Molinaro (NRCS), Randee DeCristino (DCT), Sam Meldon (CSCB)

C. Approval of Minutes: July 15, 2026*

Harold Unwin moved to approve the minutes. Second: Lori Green. Motion carried 5-0.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT*

- Income: Mill Levy \$438.21, \$8950.94 CSCB Direct Assistance (\$2000 of which came from CACD efforts)
- Bills: \$1200 well testing to Kate Zeigler; \$1400 CACD Dues
- Current Balance: \$67,216.78

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills by Lori Green; Second: Dick Loudon. Motion passed 5-0.

E. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Well testing program; phone call from Kate Zeigler—are we continuing? Will ask Kate to reach out to the landowners. If they want to continue, the District will continue. Also ask Kate about the data logger and computer from previous years. No action taken.
2. Thank You Postcard from Sorrel Mosimann (Belgium and Netherlands trip)
3. NACD dues request, levels vary, any amount accepted* No action taken.
4. CACD dues request \$1400* Discussion regarding membership levels and voting. The due payment was approved with the Treasurer's Report/Bills.
5. East Otero CD Letter: Range Judging October 1 @ Kim Sponsorship Request* Motion to have Harold work on the lunch deal. Harold Unwin moved; Will Ward seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Lower Arkansas Watershed Meeting September 11 @ noon; Rocky Ford or virtual option

F. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Board of Supervisors List* The Supervisors updated information as needed. Lori C. will upload to DOLA. Motion to approve by Will Ward. Second: Harold Unwin. Motion carried 5-0.
2. District Continuity of Operations Plan* Discussion about CSCB encouraging districts to have a plan in place in case of shut down, emergency, or any contingency. The board will consider it and what to include. Need to located fire suppression equipment. No action taken.

3. Resolution 2026-05: Adopting a Colorado Open Records Request Policy* CSCB urged districts to get a CORA policy in place as soon as possible as records requests are increasing across the state. The policy will be posted on the website along with the forms to request records. The District Manager will be the records custodian. Motion to adopt the resolution by Harold Unwin. Second: Will Ward. Motion carried 5-0.
4. CACD Award Nominations* Lori C. suggested Harold Unwin be nominated and there was a discussion regarding how much Harold has done for the district for almost 50 years. Without him, the district would not function. Dick Loudon made a motion to nominate Harold Unwin as the Supervisor of the Year. Lori Green seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
5. CACD Resolution: Add Shade Balls into the NRCS EQIP Program as a Conservation Practice for NACD and State Technical Committee* Harold explained the many benefits he is seeing in his shade ball demonstration project, from significantly less evaporation to consistent water temperatures and stopping algae growth. The open tank is losing 1" of water a day (306 gallons). There was some discussion about wildlife but no negative effects yet. Short discussion about an NRCS Innovation grant for this type of project. Dick Loudon made a motion to approve the resolution to go to the Lower Arkansas Watershed meeting for approval. Will Ward seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Letters to federal legislators requesting support for CRP managed grazing* Lori C. talked to Ramon with FSA who recommended talking to legislators directly along with the resolution regarding the consideration of 3 year grazing with CRP. Harold and Lori C. chose the legislators to contact. Motion to approve the letters by Harold Unwin. Second by Dick Loudon. Motion carried 5-0.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution to CACD: Regarding CRP Managed Grazing* Motion to approve the resolution to go on to the Lower Arkansas Watershed meeting for approval by Harold Unwin. Second: Dick Loudon. Motion carried 5-0.
2. 2026 CSCB MG Cost Share Completions—*Nancy Jackson (tank liner \$1000); Lester Jackson (fence \$1892)** Randee went over the projects which were completed to NRCS standards. She shared photos. Motion to approve and pay the projects by Harold Unwin. Second: Dick Loudon. Motion carried 5-0.

I. OTHER BUSINESS—none

J. DISTRICT TECH. REPORT—nothing to add

K. NRCS REPORT—Sammie gave his report. Looking for a letter to districts regarding USDA reorganization by August 28. Should be a top-down reorganization. He will let the board know as soon as possible regarding the targeted conservation proposal. Harold voiced concern about USDA payments due in October and could be delayed if the government shuts down which is a hardship for some producers.

Sam Melden gave a short report regarding the CSCB Emerging Leaders program for Supervisors. There were questions about DCT salary if the government shuts down and the CACD poster contest. Sam will follow up with some guidance.

L. NEXT MEETING: September 23, 7pm via Zoom.

M. ADJOURNMENT @7:24pm