



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 27, 2025

Minutes¹

On March 27, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Adam Gates, Commissioner Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, and Administrator Brandi Ritchey were present throughout the day. The Commissioners reviewed and signed accounts payable and discussed various meetings attended throughout the prior month.

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Mowing Operations* –Andersen reported that the maintenance crew is scheduled to begin mowing on May 19th on the roads leading to cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day. He anticipates the need to purchase a few new mowers, as the older equipment is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Andersen has received one bid and plans to gather additional bids before presenting options to the Board of County Commissioners.
- *Mining Operations* –The mining team is set to begin stripping and constructing a stockpile of materials in the Brand Pit. Andersen will focus on the outer edge of the pit while the crew completes the remaining work.
- *Budget/Efficiencies*–The group evaluated the current budget and explored the option of acquiring a replacement mower this year to avoid excessive capital equipment purchases in 2026. Currently, a few blades are under warranty repair, necessitating the use of loaner and spare blades. This situation affects the efficiency report, as the loaner equipment is not being monitored like county owned equipment.
- *Road Report* – Work has been completed on County Road 45 West of County Road M and also County Road E South of Highway 34. Additionally, shouldering on County Road 42, west of Highway 385, has been finalized, and the road is currently being top-coated with material from the Deterding Pit, with approximately one mile remaining. The next focus will be on County Road M, between County Roads 41 and 42.
- *Permits* – Star House moving submitted a Special Transportation Permit to move a house from Phillips County, Colorado to County Road CC in Wray.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to Ratify Commissioner Gates signature on the Special Transportation Permit to move a house from Phillips County to County Road CC in Wray, Colorado. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Administrative Assistant Lori Summers and Bookkeepers Melanie Fisher and Kim Langley were present. Detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services are maintained separately by the Department of Human Services. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

¹ Minutes prepared by Brandi Ritchey are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.

Finance Office

At 10:30 a.m., Yuma County Finance Officer Sarah Carwin and Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners to discuss updates from the finance office. Carwin reported on the recent spring cleanup, during which 50 to 60 boxes of old documents were shredded from storage. Teryx removed all hard drives from equipment for recycling. They will also coordinate with the approved recycling company to schedule a pickup for old monitors, printers, towers, battery backups, and various other equipment. Additionally, Carwin presented an application for an audit extension for the upcoming 2024 Audit. The group engaged in a discussion about a demonstration by Corpay, which Hammond and Carwin attended. Corpay is an accounts payable processing company capable of issuing payments to vendors on behalf of the county. The Commissioners would like Hammond and Carwin to sit in on demonstrations from competing companies that offer similar services to ensure Yuma County selects the best provider.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the 60 Day Request for Extension to File the 2024 Audit. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Nextera Energy/Niyol Solar

At 11:00 a.m., Leo Gorgen and Christopher Haas from Nextera Energy met with the Commissioners to discuss their previously approved solar permit for the Niyol Solar project. Nextera is currently engaged in ongoing discussions with potential power off takers. The company is making progress on the engineering work related to the initial design and general site layouts, while also communicating with landowners about permitting and construction schedules, and continuing to renew land leases. If Niyol is chosen by Tri-State for power off-taking, it will enter a negotiation phase, aiming to finalize a contract by the end of Q3 in 2025. Construction is anticipated to start by the end of 2026.

Fairground

At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by the Yuma County Fairgrounds manager Carmen Murray. Carmen presented the 2025 Fair Cleaning Contract, which had been approved by the Fair Board and was ready for signature. The group engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the HVAC units in both the concession building and the 4H Building. The Commissioners requested that Murray contact the company responsible for installing the HVAC unit to address issues with the ductwork, ensuring the unit operates at its full capacity. They also decided to postpone bids for completing the 4H building until the HVAC concerns are resolved. Additionally, Carmen requested approval to sell and donate several items that are no longer needed at the Yuma County Fairgrounds. A bid for new show ring panels was submitted for the Commissioners' review.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the sale of old cattle panels that were discovered in a storage shed. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to donate the old concert stage to Phillips County. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the purchase of new show ring panels from Ackerman Distributing in the amount of \$13,550 to be purchased out of account 06-000-6480. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Land Use

County Land Use Administrator Jodi Brady met with the Commissioners at 1:00 p.m. to provide updates on her department. Currently, Brady has received 11 Activity Notices, 2 Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Applications, and 1 Lot Line Adjustment this year. She mentioned that Lynn Hagemeyer has resigned from the Planning Commission Board, the Town of Eckley will need to appoint a new member to fill the vacancy. The group also had a brief discussion about the updated land use code. The Planning Commission Board is in the process of reviewing these updates, and the county attorney is expected to finalize his corrections by March 28th. Afterward, the code will be submitted to the Commissioners for approval.

Yuma County Clerk

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners were joined by the Yuma County Clerk Beverly Wenger. The group discussed issues with Federal Funding cuts that have caused funding issues for grant opportunities for County Clerks across the state. Wenger will be hosting a in-person election certification training in which she will need to close the County Clerk Offices on April 10th and April 11th. Wenger also tossed the idea of adding a \$20 dollar out of county fee for non-Yuma County residents that conduct business in the driver's license office. Currently the State keeps majority of all driver's license revenue and the county receives nothing for testing. Bev stated that she recently had an employee resign and one ready for retirement. She is anticipating opening applications mid-April. Wenger also presented a KP Election Services for ballot printing.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 3/27/2025A for the closure of the Clerk's Office on April 10th and April 11th for Election Certification Training. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the contract with KP Election Services for ballot printing. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Yuma County Fair Board

At 2:30 p.m., the Commissioners were joined by Yuma County Fair Board member Baylor Buck, to discuss the 2025 Fair Beer Garden Plan. Baylor noted that there would be a closure lasting between 30 minutes to an hour between the rodeo and the sale. Leerar requested that all cans from the beer garden be recycled rather than being disposed of in trash cans. The landfill manager told Leerar that he could provide containers for recycling.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Beer Garden plan for the 2025 Fair with the addition of aluminum cans to be recycled. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action:

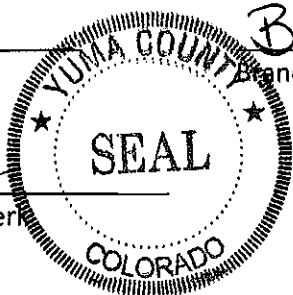
- *Minutes* – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the previous BOCC meetings. **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**



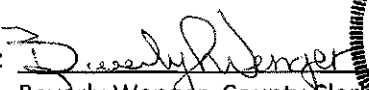
- *Signatures and Ratifications –*
 - Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures:
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Adam Beauprez monthly CDMVA monthly report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to ratify Commissioner Gates signature on the Assignment of Lease for the Mek-1 Gravel Pit. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Department Reports –* The Commissioners received various department reports including an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region, discussion of business undertaken by the 911 Authority Board. The group discussed the HR role provided by Yuma County to the Washington Yuma Combined Communications office.
- *Correspondence –* Ritchey provided an update on the correspondence received since the last meeting. This included discussions about a request for Letters of Support for the RRWCD to seek funding for the Bonny Dam Project and the Compact Compliance Pipeline. Additionally, there was an update regarding the Viaero tower on County-owned property in Wray, Colorado. Commissioner Weaver also brought up a discussion about the potential benefits of a lodging tax for Yuma County's revenue.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the request from Towers West Industry to use a temporary Cell on Wheels (COW) tower during the replacement of the permanent 65-foot tower, starting in June and to be completed by August 31, 2025, on the county-owned property in Wray, Colorado, as long as the COW trailer does not obstruct county business. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on April 15, 2025.


Adam Gates, Chairman




Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk