

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 15, 2025

Minutes¹

On April 15, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Commissioner Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Chairman Adam Gates, 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.

Liquor License

County Administrator, Brandi Ritchey joined the Commissioners at 8:15 a.m. to present the County Liquor Licenses for Valson's Restaurants LLC and Whiskey and Waves LLC that were approved during the March 12, 2025, BOCC Meeting.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the signature on the County Liquor License for Valson's Restaurants LLC. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the signature on the County Liquor License for Whiskey and Waves LLC. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Road and Bridge

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen joined the meeting at 8:00 a.m. to provide department updates.

- **Equipment** – Andersen presented bids for new mowers. Three mowers purchased in 2007 are starting to wear out and need to be replaced. Andersen would like to purchase two mowers this year and follow with another mower next summer
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to purchase a Land Pride mower from Central Plains Equipment in the amount of \$31,000 and a Bush Hog mower from Redlund equipment in the amount of \$30,416.96 provided the mowers have the option for inward rotation blades. The mowers will be purchased out of account 02-702-8940. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Drainage** – A citizen raised a concern regarding drainage issues stemming from a county road to a homeowner's shop. Commissioner Leerar noted that the property is situated at a low elevation, also stating that a culvert would not effectively address the problem. Andersen will use a laser to assess the elevation from the road to the property to determine the appropriate next steps.
- **Budget** – The group reviewed the current budget and discussed various account lines. Andersen also presented two salary authorizations for approval: one for a current employee in the equipment operator role and the other for a new hire for a similar position. Last Wednesday, the price of tanker fuel was \$2.54 per gallon. Andersen is seeking to determine an optimal time to lock in fuel prices for the 2026 budget. The Commissioners would like to contract fuel if the price falls to \$2.50 per gallon. Andersen will monitor daily prices and notify them if the price reaches that threshold.
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the salary authorization for and equipment operator in the amount of \$19.20. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

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

- Budget Continued
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Salary authorization for a new equipment operator in the amount of \$18.50. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Road Report - Andersen* provided the Commissioners with a comprehensive road report. County Road 42, extending from Highway 385 to County Road W, has been completed. 10 holes on County Road 50, located between County Road G and County Road L, have been filled. Once Lorimer is relieved from his duties in another area, that road will need to be rebuilt. Additionally, top coating will be applied to County Road 49, as well as over a span of 4 miles on County Road 54. Material has been stockpiled from the Mek-1 pit, and the scrapers and dozers have now been relocated to the Deterding Pit to begin stockpiling material for the leased truck projects scheduled for this summer.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Child Welfare & Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers, Legal Tech Ana Moran and Administrative Assistant Lori Summers 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.

Interviews

At 10:30 a.m., the commissioners conducted interviews for the County Clerk and Recorder position.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to hire Haleigh Studer as the candidate for the appointed County Clerk position. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Yuma County Weed and Pest

At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners were joined by Mike Foor from Yuma County Weed and Pest. Foor inquired about specific areas requiring attention as the spraying season approaches. The group engaged in a discussion regarding the Weed and Pest's process for spraying ditches to control weeds. Additionally, they addressed the mitigation of prairie dogs, including the associated licensing and fees.

RRWCD

At 11:30, the commissioners were joined by members of the RRWCD Board, including Deb Daniels, Robin Liming, and Rod Lenz. The RRWCD is seeking two letters of support. The first letter will be sent to Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet regarding the Compact Compliance Pipeline and Wellfield System in Eastern Colorado. They are requesting financial assistance to cover the estimated \$10.1 million expense for the expansion, which will involve constructing pipelines to connect four additional wells. Additionally, a maintenance program for the wells currently pumping into the Compact Compliance Pipeline is projected to cost between \$600,000 and \$960,000. The second letter of support will be directed to Representative Boebert, requesting \$2.2 million for improvements to the Bonny Dam. This includes a concrete lining of sediment to enhance water flow and sediment control, riprap installation to prevent erosion and improve structural stability, access roads, master planning for recreational uses, hydroseeding, vegetation management, and cattail management.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the letter of support for the Compact Compliance Pipeline and Wellfield System. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the letter of support for the Bonny Dam Project. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimously.**



Office of Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners received an update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Key topics covered included fire safety, weather conditions, and public health information. The group discussed the potential implementation of a burn ban and the stipulations that would be incorporated into that ordinance. Additionally, the Sheriff's office provided several suggestions for edits they would like to see included in the ordinance. Rockwell also mentioned that he has submitted the Quarter 1 EMPG grant, which has been approved.

Fairgrounds

At 1:30 p.m., the commissioners met with Fairgrounds Manager Carmen Murray. During the meeting, Murray mentioned that the Yuma FFA had inquired about using the fairgrounds for their petting zoo without incurring a rental fee. The group discussed which organizations might qualify for a discounted rate to use the fairgrounds. Additionally, Carmen presented a contract from Mega Music for stage rental, amounting to \$2,900.00. The discussion also included the HVAC issues at the fairgrounds, and Carmen was referred to an HVAC engineering company to schedule an inspection of the unit to determine if any changes need to be made to the current set up.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to wave the fee for the FFA Kiddie Barnyard to be held at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the contract with Mega Music for the Mobile Stage for the Yuma County Fair in the amount of \$2,900. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Treasurer

At 2:00 p.m., the Commissioners were joined by Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond for her monthly update. Hammond provided insights on various topics, including investments, tax collection, tax liens, the public trustee report, and office information. She noted the closure of the general savings account, which was earning a lower interest rate, and stated that the funds have been transferred to the general checking account to earn higher interest. The deadline for full tax collection is April 30th, with the County currently having collected 37.5%. There are two active foreclosures: one file is pending a deed, while the other is awaiting an overbid payment. Additionally, Hammond reported that the backfill revenue from the state was significantly lower than expected. Hammond provided the 1st quarter public trustee report for approval.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the 1st quarter public trustee report. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Northeast Colorado Health Department

At 2:30 p.m. the Commissioners were joined by Public Health Director, Trish McClain. Trish presented the amended IGA between Northeast Colorado and surrounding counties. The amendment allows the Northeast Colorado Health Department to issue bonds and accept loans. The Health Departments attorney drafted a resolution for the participating counties approval.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the signature on the updated IGA between Yuma County and the Northeast Colorado Health Department. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which 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 27, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- *Resolutions/Ordinances*–
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 04-15-2025A A Resolution establishing a credit card to be used by the Livestock Fair Committee. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *CAPP Report* – Ritchey updated the commissioners on a CAPP Claim that has been closed and will update them if any further action is taken.
- *Department Reports* – The Commissioners reviewed several departmental reports, which included an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and discussions about the activities undertaken by the 911 Authority Board. The group also discussed the need for childcare services in Yuma County. Ritchey noted that she had been in contact with Magellan Strategies to explore the feasibility of conducting a survey to assess citizens' interest in implementing a lodging tax. Ritchey reported that she has submitted the 2025-2026 Fund Year Court Security Grant, requesting \$45,000, and mentioned that the reimbursement for the third quarter court security expenses, totaling \$6,706.08, has been approved.
- *Correspondence* – Ritchey provided an update on the correspondence received since the last meeting. She presented two letters of interest submitted to the Yuma County Planning Commission. Additionally, Ritchey received a letter regarding the CTSI Appeal related to runoff claims with CTSI, as well as a letter of support for NECALG for the establishment of the Rural Enterprise Zone. Ritchey also prepared a proposal for a rental agreement between Yuma County and NJC for the use of the CDL testing pad located at the Yuma County Fairgrounds.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to appoint Kaci Scholes to the Yuma County Planning Commission Board with the term to expire December 31, 2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the payment to CTSI in the amount of \$9,801.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the letter of support for NECALG. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the letter to RRWCD Personnel Committee. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the proposal for NJC. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which 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 29, 2025.

Adam Gates, Chairman

Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:

Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

