

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 28, 2025

Minutes¹

On August 28, 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 and Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:15 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Property Acquisition* – Andersen has found a property near Wauneta that may be suitable for purchasing to store equipment in that area. Eventually, Andersen would like to build a shop on the site for parking and maintaining the equipment. Andersen will discuss the property with the landowner to determine the asking price.
- *Salary Authorization* – Andersen presented a salary authorization for a maintenance foreman position for review.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the salary authorization in the amount of \$22.90 with no COLA adjustment in January 2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Efficiencies* – Lorimer shared an efficiency report with the commissioners. The group took some time to discuss the CAT blade that's been experiencing engine problems. CAT has agreed to provide a loaner blade while they take the faulty one in for repairs, and that piece of equipment will be covered under warranty.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer presented the commissioners with the latest road report. The budget for contracted drivers has been fully utilized for the season, so big projects are wrapped up. County truck drivers are hauling materials across various locations to area blades for filling potholes and addressing other problem areas.
- *Gravel Pit* – The Dreher Pit has recently changed ownership. Upon reviewing the current lease, it has been renewing annually with prior landowners. Ritchey will prepare a new lease for the board to review, with updated rates increasing from \$0.45 per yard to \$0.60 per yard.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action at 10:30 a.m.:

Minutes – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the previous BOCC meetings.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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



- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Yuma County Accounts payable check sequence 84115-84171 in the amount of \$264,236.58 ran on 8/15/2025, check sequence 84172-84191 in the amount of \$48,130.18 ran on 8/22/2025. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the signature on Adam Beauprez monthly CDMVA monthly report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the signature on the Letter of Authorization for the County Clerk's office. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to opt into the Purdue settlement as long as the funds can be re-allocated to the Region 4 Opioid Council. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Grants - Ritchey updated the commissioners regarding the SIPA grant application she submitted. Unfortunately, the application was not successful, which came as a surprise to Yuma County's web developer, Trish Coberly. Coberly plans to discuss the application with the grant coordinators at SIPA to identify any factors that may have contributed to its denial, especially since the project aimed to integrate with their free state platform. Coberly suggested to continue to remediate the necessary documents and consider budgeting for the project in 2026 or reapplying for the grant during the next open cycle.

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. Ritchey provided the commissioners with an update regarding the hail damage from the May 2024 storm.

Correspondence - Ritchey shared two letters of support, including one to support federal transportation funding in Colorado and another concerning a Conservation Easement Acquisition for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). CPW requires approval from the Board of County Commissioners when seeking to acquire an easement on land within the county. Three letters of interest were submitted for the Fair Board, and two letters were received for the RRWCD Board. Ritchey will coordinate interviews with the interested candidates for the upcoming BOCC meeting. The City of Wray also submitted a budgeted reimbursement request for approval. The group reviewed the 2026 health insurance rates. No definitive choices were made for 2026.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the Go Rail Transportation Group Letter. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the City of Wray's budgeted reimbursement request in the amount of \$16,400 to be paid out of fund 01-403-8940. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve CPW's Willowcreek/Gelvin Access and Conversation Easement Acquisition. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**



Yuma County Clerk's Office

At 10:30, Haleigh Studer met with the commissioners to update them on office operations. Studer presented a resolution proposing a fee for non-county residents who wish to utilize Driver License services in Yuma County. The local driver's license offices have been overwhelmed by an influx of out-of-town individuals, and implementing this fee aims to alleviate the burden on services while ensuring better access for local residents. The county retains 100% of the fees collected, with no portion allocated to the state. Additionally, Studer presented a salary authorization for a part-time position.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 8/28/2025G implementing a \$20 convenience fee for non-county residents seeking driving tests**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the MV Clerk position in the amount of 19.00/hour. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Maintenance

At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners convened with Maintenance Supervisor Travis Dinsmore and Frank Werlien from Wern Air to address an issue with the courthouse heating unit's heat exchanger, which has developed a crack. The manufacturer is unwilling to honor the warranty due to sediment buildup in the unit caused by the water supply. This sediment has been created by the excessive heat generated by the boiler, which has circulated it through the heat exchanger. Along with a new heat exchanger and system flushing and cleaning, the installation a Mag Vessel was proposed as a preventive measure to capture sediment before it reaches the heat exchanger. The Commissioners are interested in obtaining quotes for a new setup to mitigate the risk of having to replace the exchanger again in the near future. Travis will consult with an engineer and provide an update for the Commissioners at their next meeting.

Finance

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners convened with Finance Officer Sarah Carwin, who presented three resolutions for approval. The first two resolutions pertained to changes in authorized signers at First Pioneer National Bank and Wray State Bank. The third resolution is for the establishment of a Senior Round Robin Scholarship Account and the designation of authorized representatives for this account at Wray State Bank. Carwin also provided an update on the ongoing audit, stating that she is in the process of finalizing some follow-up items and hopes to wrap that up soon.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 8/28/2025A updating the authorized FPNB signatures. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 8/28/2025A updating the authorized Wray State Bank signatures. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve Resolution 8/28/2025 H establishing a Senior Round Robin Scholarship Account and Establishing Authorized Representatives. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Land Use

County Land Use Administrator, Jodi Brady was heard at 1:00 p.m. to review Land Use business and conduct Land Use Hearings.



At 1:00 p.m. Chairman Gates opened public hearing EFS0725-01 for Reese Shay is looking to divide 27.56-acre parcel into 4 6.89 parcels located in SW 1/4, Section 2, Township 1N, Range 4W for purpose of resale. The public hearing closed at 1:18 p.m.

At 1:18 p.m. Chairman Gates opened the public hearing MIN0725-02 for Sand Lily Wind Farm and Donna Roberts, proposing to install a temporary meteorological tower on an approximately 2-acre footprint within SW 1/4, Section 13, Township 1N, Range 43W for purposes of collecting data on wind speed and direction. Once enough data is collected, the tower will be removed, and the underlying land returned to its current condition. The public hearing closed at 1:26 p.m.

At 1:26 p.m. Chairman Gates opened the public hearing MIN-0725-03 for Sand Lily Wind Farm and Clabaugh, proposing to install a temporary meteorological tower on an approximately 2-acre footprint within E ½ SW 1/4, Section 7, Township 1S, Range 42W for purposes of collecting data on wind speed and direction. The project is asking for a term of 3(three) years for the tower. Once enough data is collected, the tower will be removed, and the underlying land returned to its current condition. The public hearing closed at 1:34 p.m.

At 1:34 p.m. Chairman Gates opened the public hearing MIN0725-04 and FPP0725- for Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird looking to build 3(three) 576sqft cottages on Lots 3,4,5 and 6 in Block 10 in Laird, CO. The total area for this project is .032 acres. Partial utilities are located on Lot 1 and 2 (refer to site plan). These 3 units will replace the current 3 RV spaces. Also, Floodplain development permit – FPP0725-04. The public hearing closed at 2:04 p.m.

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-28-2025C for 0725-01 Shay 401K. The Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Reese Shay is looking to divide 27.56-acre parcel into 4 6.89 parcels located in SW 1/4, Section 2, Township 1N, Range 4W for purpose of resale. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

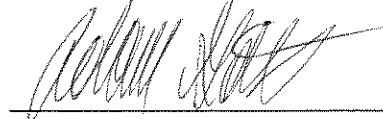
Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-28-2025D for MIN 0725-02. The Minor Land Use Permit for Sand Lily Wind Farm and Donna Roberts is proposing to install a temporary meteorological tower on an approximately 2-acre footprint within SW 1/4, Section 13, Township 1N, Range 43W for purposes of collecting data on wind speed and direction with the stipulation that the setbacks follow county code. The project is asking for a term of 3(three) years for the tower. Once enough data is collected, the tower will be removed, and the underlying land returned to its current condition. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-25-2025E for MIN0725-03. The Minor Land Use Permit Sand Lily Wind Farm and Clabaugh, proposing to install a temporary meteorological tower on an approximately 2-acre footprint within E ½ SW 1/4, Section 7, Township 1S, Range 42W for purposes of collecting data on wind speed and direction. The project is asking for a term of 3(three) years for the tower. Once enough data is collected, the tower will be removed, and the underlying land returned to its current condition with the stipulation that the setbacks follow county code. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-28-2025F for MIN0725-04 and Flood Plain Permit. The Minor Land Use Permit and Flood Plain Permit is Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird is looking to build 3(three) 576sqft cottages on Lots 3,4,5 and 6 in Block 10 in Laird, CO. The total area for this project is .032 acres. Partial utilities are located on Lot 1 and 2 (refer to site plan). These 3 units will replace the current 3 RV spaces with emphasis on state water and septic regulations along with the title work showing the variance on the internal lot lines. Also, Floodplain development permit FPP0725-04. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on September 16, 2025.


Adam Gates, Chairman


Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

