

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 13, 2026

Minutes¹

On April 13, 2026 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Commissioner 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 for signature the State Retail Liquor License Renewal Application and the County Retail Liquor License Renewal for Whiskey and Waves LLC.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the State Retail Liquor License Renewal Application and the County Retail Liquor License Renewal Whiskey and Waves LLC. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Blade Supervisor Justin Lorimer and Fleet Foreman Matt Martin joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Contracted Fuel Prices* – Several contracted truck drivers approached Lorimer to express concerns about the increasing cost of fuel. Lorimer shared these concerns with the Commissioners and discussed the potential need for a fuel stipend. The Commissioners indicated they would like a maximum fuel price or cap, before considering or entering into any agreement related to a fuel stipend.
- *Cement Pad* – A cement pad is needed for the water tank at the Idalia Shop. The BOCC approved Lorimer to proceed with the installation of the pad. This will reduce the amount of time water trucks spend filling, since they will no longer need to drive to Wray to fill and then return to Idalia.
- *County Road M Project* – Lorimer asked whether the Commissioners had discussed the potential for Simon's to complete the preparation and asphalt work for the County Road M project while work is underway on the County Road 39 project. The Commissioners requested that Lorimer contact Simon's to obtain a cost estimate for adding that portion to the County Road 39 project, as well as an estimated start date for the work.
- *Gravel Pits* – Lorimer met with the state inspector at the Witherbee Pit to continue the closure process. Pending reclamation and landowner approval, the pit is expected to be closed in approximately 60 days. Renfro will return in about a month to inspect the other pits and coordinate with Lorimer to inspect the Dreher Pit and begin the closure process for that site. Paperwork was also submitted to open the Newton Pit.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer provided an update on road work in several areas. Crews have been transporting materials to Count Road RR. Crews will start working on County Road 46 starting on Tuesday.
- *Department Updates* – Lorimer stated that more employees are needed to successfully operate with the busy season approaching. Maintenance is down to two employees and one of them will be pulled to the gravel pit.

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

- *Permit* – Lorimer presented an Underground and Utility Permit for Plains Cooperative Telephone to bore along County Road FF for 1,100' North of the Railroad Tracks and 1640' South of the Railroad Tracks.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Underground Utility Permit for Plains Communication to bore along County Road FF for 1,100' North of the Railroad Tracks and 1640' South of the Railroad Tracks. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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, Child Welfare Case Aide Kerri Horton, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers and IV-D Administrator Ana Moran were present. The entire child protection team was also present in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Department of Human Services maintains detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services separately. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Administrator's Report

At 11:00 a.m., 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 Gates moved to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Yuma County accounts payable check sequence 85412-85466 in the amount of \$379,647.91 ran on 4/6/2026, sequence 85467-85504 in the amount of \$332,891.29 ran on 4/10/2026, and EFT Payroll in the amount of \$284,119.45 ran on 4/6/2026.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures/Ratifications:

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 04-13-2026 A, a Resolution transferring \$384,277.50 from the Yuma County General Fund to the Capital Acquisition Fund 20 for 2026 budgeted expenses. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on the McMahan and Associates Audit Engagement Letter for the 2025 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Fairgrounds Maintenance position in the amount of \$20.19/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Veteran Service Officer position in the amount of \$23.55/hour. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Department Reports – The Commissioners reviewed several departmental reports, which included an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and a discussion regarding the activities of the 911 Authority Board. Ritchey reported that the Veteran Service Officer will begin employment on April 24, 2026, and noted that no letters of interest have been received for the vacant Economic Development Board position. She also presented an estimate for repairs to the Fair Queen trailer. The Commissioners discussed implementing training for new Fair Queens and Ladies-in-Waiting to prevent damage related to towing the trailer. Ritchey additionally presented the Garden Tractor Pull contract for the 2026 Fair for review and approval.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Garden Tractor Pull Contract for the 2026 Fair. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Office of Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m., Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell provided an update to the Commissioners. He discussed current fire safety concerns, recent and upcoming weather conditions, and public health information relevant to the county. Rockwell reported that the 2026 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) application has been submitted and approved. He is continuing work on the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan, with a final draft expected to be ready for review in May. Rockwell also stated that he is continuing to share information about the Hyper-Reach emergency notification system and is encouraging residents to sign up to receive emergency alerts.

County Treasurer

At 1:30 p.m., Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners to provide updates from her office. Hammond reported that there have been no significant changes in county investments at this time. She noted that the full payment deadline for 2025 property taxes is approaching on April 30, and that the county has currently collected approximately 38% of the 2025 taxes. Hammond also informed the Board that there are six active foreclosures. She also presented updated signature cards for the approved signers at the local banks and her Public Trustee report.

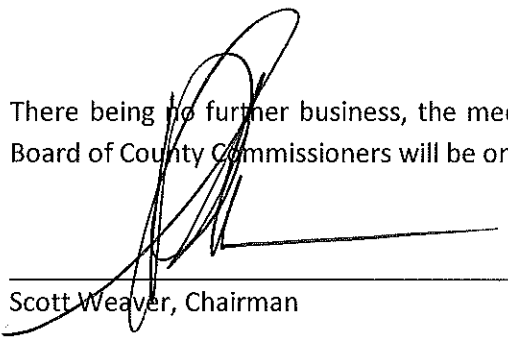
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Public Trustee report. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Land Use

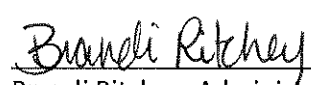
At 2:00 p.m., Land Use Administrator, Jodi Brady met with the Commissioners to present the updated resolution for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision which was previously heard on March 31, 2026.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 03/31/2026B for EFS Application 0226-06, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for the Weyerman Family Limited Partnership looking to split a 13.75-acre parcel out of a 617.93-acre at the SW ¼ SW ¼, Section 6, Township 4S, Range 44W, for the purpose of resale. The hearing for this resolution was heard on 3/31/2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on April 30, 2026.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

