



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 30, 2026

Minutes¹

On April 30, 2026 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Scott Weaver, Commissioner Adam Gates, 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.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action at 8:30 a.m.:

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

- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2026 special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2026 special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Yuma County Accounts payable check sequence 85505-85536 in the amount of \$593,961.04 ran on 04/17/2026 and sequence 85537-85577 in the amount of \$82,647.65 ran on 4/24/2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Resolution 04/30/2026A a Resolution transferring the budgeted amount of \$279,415.23 from F1 to F20 for four vehicles listed on the resolution. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify Commissioner Weaver's signature on the G-Works contract for the Road and Bridge Department. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the signature on the salary authorization for the part-time intern for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$16.00/hour. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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

Department Reports - The Commissioners received several department reports, including an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and a discussion of activities conducted by the 911 Authority Board. Ritchey reported that she has submitted the CO SIPA Grant for \$10,000 and the Court Security Grant for \$41,384.89. She also noted the 2025-2026 Q3 Court Security Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$5,106.09 has been approved by the state. In addition, Ritchey said she has posted the vacancy in all the newspapers requested by the Landfill Board.

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Blade Supervisor Justin Lorimer and Fleet Foreman Matt Martin joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Gravel Pits* – Lorimer met with state pit inspector Joel Renfro at several county pits, and the inspections went well. Renfro will prepare a report for the county that includes the next steps needed to close the Dreher Pit. He also said he is working on a third review letter for the Newton Pit.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer gave an update on road work in several areas. Crews are currently hauling materials from the Homm Pit to County Road 11. Once that project is finished, they will move on to County Road KK and then County Road 9. After that work is completed, the dozer will be moved to the Deterding Pit. They will also be filling holes on County Road V and County Road T.
- *Equipment Update* – One of the two budgeted road graders has been received. The second grader is expected to be delivered next Tuesday.
- *Department Updates* – Ritchey said she and Commissioner Weaver interviewed candidates for a trucking position and a maintenance position in the Road and Bridge Department. Both candidates were offered the jobs and accepted. Lorimer spoke with a prior employee about returning to work for Yuma County and he accepted a mechanic position with the potential of moving to an equipment operator in the future. Ritchey presented three salary authorizations for approval. The group reviewed the monthly efficiency report.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the salary authorization for the trucking position in the amount of \$20.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the salary authorization for the maintenance position in the amount of \$17.51. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the salary authorization for the mechanic position in the amount of \$20.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Permits* – Two underground utility permits were submitted to Yuma County Road and Bridge for review. One was from Matrix Underground Connections LLC to bore under County Road 35 for installation of fiber conduit. The other was from Y-W Electric to bore along County Road 7, 1,225 feet east of County Road G for installation of a 480V underground power line.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify Commissioner Weaver's signature on the Underground Utility Permit for Matrix Underground Connections LLC requesting to bore under County Road 35 to install fiber conduit. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify Commissioner Weaver's signature on the Underground Utility Permit for Y-W Electric requesting to bore along County Road 7, 1225' East of County Road G to install a 480v underground powerline. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Yuma County EMS Council

At 10:30 a.m., Keriann Josh from the Yuma County EMS Council met with the Commissioners to discuss a proposed resolution developed by the council. Also present for the meeting were Wray Ambulance Director Steve Rydquist, Jennifer Kramer from Wray Community District Hospital and Ted Beckman from Yuma Hospital. The group reviewed the role of the Yuma County EMS Council, and the BOCC requested a resolution that clearly outlines those responsibilities. Yuma County will require individuals or entities to obtain authorization to operate or provide ambulance services within the county. Those procedures are outlined in Resolution 03-17-2026B.

Fair

Yuma County Fairgrounds Manager Carmen Murray met with the Commissioners to provide department updates. Murray informed the Commissioners that the equipment for the Fairgrounds arena was ordered incorrectly. The equipment has been reordered, but completion isn't expected until June. If it is shipped, there will be a freight charge of \$3,950. Randy Mekelburg said he would travel to Oklahoma to pick up the equipment once it is built, and the Commissioners agreed to cover his fuel costs for the trip. Murray also presented the new big screen contract for the Yuma County Rodeo, along with a contract from the Women's Professional Rodeo Association for the women's barrel race in the amount of \$200.00. Murray also presented the Stormy Fairs contract to livestream the market shows, along with the PRCA dues invoice and the cleaning contract for the 2026 Yuma County Fair. The group also discussed the ongoing mower issue at the fairgrounds. Carmen said it would not be cost-effective to repair the broken mower. She suggested using Road and Bridge's 3-point mower and having Randy mow the fairgrounds with that equipment. Commissioner Leerar also asked whether the Fair Board would be interested in donating to the Health Department to help purchase Mutton Bustin' helmets for the regional fairgrounds to borrow. Carmen said she would bring the topic up at the next Fair Board meeting.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Yuma County Rodeo Big Screen contract in the amount of \$14,400.00 to come out of the Yuma County Fair budget. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the WPRA contract in the amount of \$200.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the PRCA dues for \$1,700.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the contract with Stormy Fairs for no fee, to live stream the market shows. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the cleaning contract for the 2026 Yuma County Fair in the amount of \$6,000. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Yuma County Clerk

At 11:30 a.m., Yuma County Clerk Haleigh Studer joined the commissioners to provide department updates. She said a new state rule required her to purchase new battery backups for the election center. Studer also said Liberty Vote/Dominion will be on site June 4th for LAT testing and training. The training will cost \$2,000. Ritchey said a training line will be added to the election budget so the expense can be included in future years. Studer also noted that the Yuma County Clerk's office will be closed on Election Day.

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 1:06 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened public hearing Resolution 04-13-2026B, a resolution that does not support the effort of Colorado Senate Bill 23-166, for the Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board. **The public hearing closed at 1:09 p.m.**

At 1:10 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing EFS0326-08, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for C Garton, looking to split a 5.40-acre parcel out of a 167.60-acre located in the SW ¼, Section 29, Township 4S, Range 45W, for the purpose of resale. **The public hearing closed at 1:12 p.m.**

At 1:12 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing EFS0326-10, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Javan Jones / John Archer, looking to split a 15.93-acre parcel out of two sections, located in the NE1/4 Section 32, Township 2N, Range 43W and the other located in SE ¼, Section 29, Township 2N, Range 43W. **The public hearing closed at 1:16 p.m.**

At 1:17 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing EFS1125-03, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Phyllis Weyerman, looking to split a 45.76-acre parcel into 2 parcels. Parcel #1 14.84-acres, Parcel #2 30.92-acres located in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 6, Township 4S, Range 44W. Parcel #1 is a residential tract, and Parcel #2 will be created for purpose of resale. **The public hearing closed at 1:25 p.m.**

At 1:26 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing EFS1125-03B an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Phyllis Weyerman, looking to split a 30.92-acre parcel into 2 parcels. Parcel #B 22.36, Parcel #C 8.71-acres at the location of NW ¼ of the SW 1/4, Section 6, Township 4S, Range 44W. Parcel #B and Parcel #C are being created for the purpose of resale. **The public hearing closed at 1:33 p.m.**

No members of the public were present at the hearings.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 04-13-2026B, a resolution that does not support the effort of Colorado Senate Bill 23-166, for the Establishment of a Wildfire Resiliency Code Board. **Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 04-30-2026C, for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for C Garton, looking to split a 5.40-acre parcel out of a 167.60-acre parcel located in the SW ¼, Section 29, Township 4S, Range 45W, for the purpose of resale. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 04-30-2026D for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Javan Jones / John Archer, looking to split a 15.93-acre parcel out of two sections, located in the NE1/4 Section 32, Township 2N, Range 43W and the other located in SE ¼, Section 29, Township 2N, Range 43W. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve resolution 04-30-2026E, for the Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Application EFS1125-03 for Phyllis Weyerman, looking to split a 45.76-acre parcel into 2 parcels. Parcel #1 14.84-acres, Parcel #2 30.92-acres located in the NW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 6, Township 4S, Range 44W. Parcel #1 is a residential tract, and Parcel #2 will be created for purpose of resale. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve resolution 04-30-2026F, for the Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Application EFS1125-03B Phyllis Weyerman, looking to split a 31.07-acre parcel into 2 parcels. Parcel #B 22.36, Parcel #C 8.71-acres at the location of NW ¼ of the SW 1/4, Section 6, Township 4S, Range 44W. Parcel #B and Parcel #C are being created for the purpose of resale. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Knights of Columbus

At 2:00 p.m., Baylor Buck joined the commissioners to discuss the Knights of Columbus Beer Garden Contract for the 2026 Yuma County Fair. The only change from last year is opening the infield for the rodeo on Saturday and Sunday night. Ritchey adjusted the Saturday evening ending times to keep the schedule consistent.

- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the presented contract for the 2026 Knights of Columbus Beer Garden Contract. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

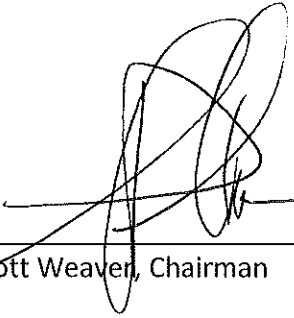
Colorado PIRG Foundation

At 2:30 p.m., Kirsten Schatz from CoPIRG and Henry Stiles from Environmental Colorado joined the Commissioners. The CoPIRG Foundation conducts research, policy analysis, and public education to advance solutions to problems that affect consumers' health, safety, and well-being.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 3:00 p.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Bookkeeper Kim Langley, and Office Manager Lori Summers were present. The Department of Human Services maintains detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services separately. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

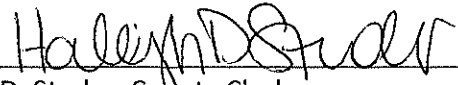
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on May 14, 2026.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Haley D. Studer, County Clerk

