



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 28, 2026

Minutes¹

On May 28, 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.

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 Papa's Bait Shop.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on the State Retail Liquor License Renewal Application and the County Retail Liquor License Renewal for Papa's Bait Shop. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor David Lee and Blade Supervisor Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Gravel Pits* – Lee is finalizing the drawings requested by the state so the county can move forward with opening the Newton Pit. The Road and Bridge Department also received a renewal application for the Ritchey Pit. Lee will renew the Ritchey Pit, then begin final reclamation and follow the required steps to officially close it.
- *Road Report* – Lee and Lorimer provided an update on several county roads that need culverts. To help prevent major washouts, the current culverts on County Road AA and County Road 4 will need to be replaced with larger ones that can handle greater water flow. Lee will check pricing before moving forward. County Road S and County Road 9 also need culverts to help prevent washouts. The County Road 39 project is projected to start the end of June to the beginning of July.
- *Department Report* – Two new employees will be starting soon in Road and Bridge, but the department is still short-staffed. Ritchey noted there have been no updates on the Wauneta property and that she is still waiting for the survey to be completed. Lee received one quote for the water tank pad in Idalia and plans to move forward with that project. He also received quotes from several electrical companies for lighting in multiple shops. Lee will seek a few additional bids and review the budget before moving forward with those projects.
- *Budget/Efficiencies* – The group reviewed the budget to date and the efficiency report for blade operators.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.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 10:30 a.m.

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

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 May 14, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Yuma County Accounts payable check sequence 85658-85714 in the amount of \$234,677.84 ran on 05/15/2026 and sequence 85715-85744 in the amount of \$133,953.89 ran on 5/22/2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Resolution 05/28/2026A a Resolution Establishing the Yuma County Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Council. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Letter of Support for Chow Colorado. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the signature on the salary authorization for the Appraiser Trainee for the Assessor's Office in the amount of \$17.50/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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 noted that there had been no interest from citizens regarding the Economic Development Board position and she will re-advertise in the newspaper as well as Facebook.

Office of Emergency Management

At 11:45 a.m., Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell met with the commissioners to deliver department updates. He presented a proposed I Am Responding contract, which requires a few name updates prior to execution. Rockwell plans to submit this contract through a grant to reduce out of pocket costs. The group reviewed the letter to terminate the Code Red contract, considering whether to involve the county attorney. Ultimately, the WYCC board opted to submit the letter to Code Red before seeking legal counsel. The group also explored the potential partnership with the NOCO Foundation to facilitate donation management during disasters. Rockwell received approval for his 2024 Homeland Security Grant, enabling him to proceed with the planned projects, including the purchase of shelter equipment and the development of a fire evacuation map.



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 the public hearing EFS0326-07, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Alex Eckhardt, looking to split a 12-acre parcel out of a 80-acre parcel located in the NE¼ Section 23, Township 2N, Range 44W, for the purpose of resale. The public hearing closed at 1:11 p.m.

At 1:11 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing EFS0326-09, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Kaitlyn Soehner, looking to divide a 10.96-acre parcel from a 100.00-acre parcel located in SE¼ of Section 5, Township 4 South, Range 44W, for the purpose of resale. The public hearing closed at 1:14 p.m. M: A 2nd: M

No members of the public were present at the hearings.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 05-28-2026B, for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Alex Eckhardt, looking to split a 12-acre parcel out of an 80-acre parcel located in the NE1/4 Section 23, Township 2N, Range 44W, for the purpose of resale. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 05-28-2026C for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Kaitlyn Soehner, looking to divide a 10.96-acre parcel from a 100.00-acre parcel located in SE ¼ of Section 5, Township 4South, Range 44W, for the purpose of resale. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group also discussed the upcoming Town Hall meetings regarding setbacks and what the process might look like for possibly updating the Land Use Code related to setbacks. They also reviewed land use fees and the RFQ information for the Comprehensive Plan and Housing Needs/Water Supply Element projects.

Commissioner Gates moved to Approve Jodi Brady, Land Use Administrator to administer and use the DOLA Local Planning Grant at a total of \$65,000, and the DOLA Housing Planning Grant (HPLN) at a total of \$43,500 to assist with completing the Comprehensive Plan, Housing Needs Assessment and Water supply element for Yuma County. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Jodi Brady to begin contracts between Yuma County and Ayres for the Comprehensive Plan Housing Needs Assessment/Water Supply Element. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Yuma County Treasurer

At 2:00 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 June 15, and that the county has currently collected approximately 84% of the taxes. Hammond also informed the Board that there are 10 active deeds as well as 6 active foreclosures. She plans to open her applications for her vacant position in June. Hammond also presented a resolution to update signatures at a bank account held at Bank of Colorado.

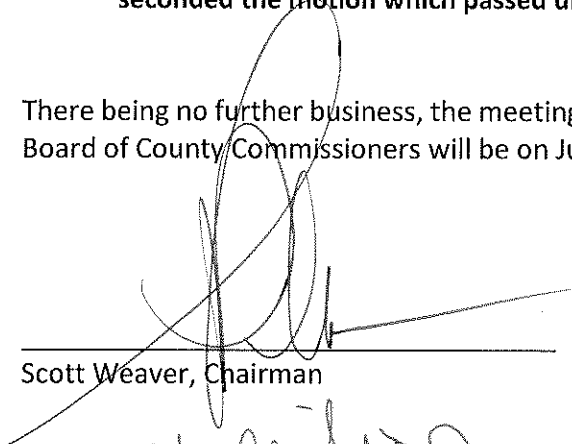
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 05-28-2026D a Resolution Updating Authorized Signers for Accounts Held at Bank of Colorado. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Yuma County Extension Office

At 2:30 p.m., Yuma County Extension agents Travis Taylor, Jolyn Midcap and Joy Akey as well as Golden Plains Area Director Trent Hollister joined the commissioners to provide a few department updates. Joy stated that they filled their Extension position. Having a vacancy for two months has put a strain on their work load and they requested to hire an intern to help get the work caught up before fair time. The group discussed the issue of lack of judges for the upcoming fair. They also stated that for the 2027 budget, there may be a request for more cages in the barn to allow for more small animals.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Admin Assistant position in the amount of \$17.58/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Intern Position which will be a Professional Services expense at \$15.16/hour up to \$4,500 allowed as a maximum expense. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

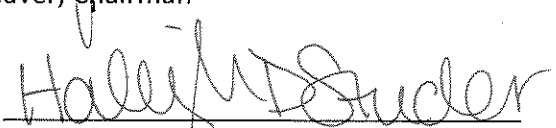
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on June 10, 2026.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

