

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 13, 2026

Minutes¹

On August 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.

Road and Bridge

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

- **Road Report** – Crews are applying topcoat to roads throughout the county, pulling ditches, and rebuilding County Road 52 between County Roads J and K. Lee found exposed fiber along County Road 18 and requested a utility locate so crews can safely cover it and prevent damage. Crews are also removing sand that blew onto County Road 29 following the wildfires.
- **Department Reports** – Lee stated that his department has had success hiring a few employees. The Road and Bridge Department is still looking for another blade operator and maintenance employees.
- **County Road 39 Project** – Paving is complete from County Road G to County Road M. Crews will begin grinding from Highway 59 to County Road G and inspect the subgrade before paving is completed. Lee presented a bid for repairs on County Road M.
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Estimate from Simon Construction for removal and replacement of asphalt on County Road M in the amount of \$410,050.00. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Gravel Pits** – Lee stated that Ritchey had received the signed Right of Entry form by the Dreher Pit Landowners and the problem citation for Failure to Maintain Legal Right of Entry from the April 28, 2026 inspection for the Dreher Pit (M2012-051) has been marked as abated.

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, Office Manager Lori Summers, Child Support Legal Tech Andrea Valenzuela and Child Welfare Case Aide Kerri Horton were present. 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 July 30, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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



- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Yuma County accounts payable check sequence 86126-86156 in the amount of \$24,331.76 ran on 7/31/2026, sequence 86157-86217 in the amount of \$380,606.83 ran on 8/6/2026 and Yuma County EFT Payroll in the amount of \$287,786.29 ran on 8/6/2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures/Ratifications:

- Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 08-13-2026B A Resolution Supporting Initiative #175. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Department Reports – The Commissioners reviewed department reports, including updates on the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and the 911 Authority Board. The group discussed the Colorado Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program that is due September 21, 2026. Ritchey noted that only one bid was received for the surplus Tahoe's. One of the Wray Volunteer Fire Department members reached out to Ritchey to see if the county had any vehicles that were not operable for a region wide extrication training that will be held at the end of August. The group also discussed a request to sign a resolution for Initiative #175 that would re-direct revenue for Colorado roads in FYH2027-FY2040.

- Commissioner Gates moved to donate the non-operational Dodge Charger to the Wray Volunteer Fire Department for region wide Extrication Training. 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. 96% of Yuma County is in some classification of drought on the drought monitor. Jake will begin working with ARCGIS to create a fire map. Jake is waiting for FEMA approval on the HMP Plan.

Yuma County Treasurer

At 1:30 p.m., Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners and provided updates from her office. Hammond reported that the county has collected 95% of its tax revenue. Of the county's 348 tax liens, 140 are currently eligible for deed applications. An additional 59 mineral liens will become eligible for deed applications this year and must be researched back to the original land patents. The Treasurer's Office is finishing its conversion to new tax software and expects to complete the project soon. Hammond will also prepare a resolution to extinguish several county-held liens.

Yuma County Royalty

At 2:30 p.m. the commissioners were joined by the Yuma County Royalty Committee members including Kaci Porter, Michelle Smith, David Schaffner and Justin Crossland. The group discussed the proposed resolution 08-13-2026A, a Resolution Establishing the Yuma County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program. The group discussed the structure of how the committee would run.

- Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 08-13-2026A A Resolution Establishing the Yuma County Fair and Rodeo Royalty Program, Defining its Structure, Committee, Duties and Expectations. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to appoint Kaci Porter, Michelle Smith, Justin Crossland, David Schaffner and Scott Weaver as committee members to the Yuma County Royalty Committee. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.



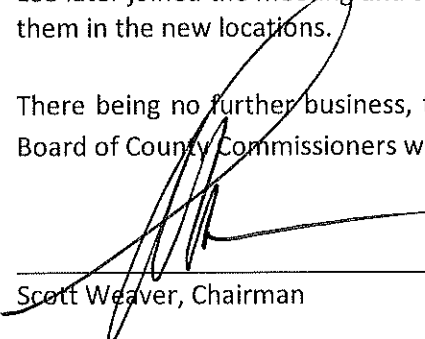
Grassroots Community Center

At 3:00 p.m., Alicia Sears and Nonie Winslow joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the Grassroots Community Center. Sears has applied for several grants to build a play space that may include water features as well as ADA accommodations. The group also discussed the possibility of Yuma County serving as the fiscal agent for the grant funds.

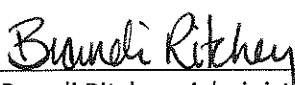
City of Wray

At 3:30 p.m., Wray City Manager James DePue joined the Commissioners. DePue reported that the City of Wray received a new ambulance and plans to apply for another grant to replace an ambulance in 2028. He requested that the Commissioners reserve the budgeted \$60,000 in both 2027 and 2028 to help cover the remaining cost. The Commissioners explained that uncertainty about future revenue prevents them from committing funds beyond the current budget year. The group also discussed a new law requiring cities and counties to reduce speed limits in school zones. Yuma County Road and Bridge Supervisor David Lee later joined the meeting and said he would order the signs and coordinate with the schools to place them in the new locations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on August 27, 2026.

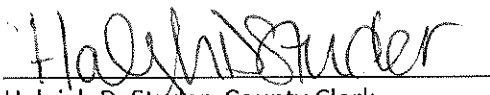


Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:



Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

