

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: MIKE LARSON

As we move through the second half of the year, I want to express my sincere appreciation to every Conservation District supervisor, partner, and advocate who makes our work possible. From strengthening partnerships to implementing on-the-ground projects, your commitment is what drives conservation forward.

One of the most meaningful changes this year has been the launch of **Zone Executive Committee (ZEC) meetings**. These calls or Zooms are helping improve communication between UACD, Zone Directors, and districts. Early meetings have already sparked useful collaboration; one district connecting with another to share no-till drill strategies. These meetings give your Zone Directors the information they need to represent your district on the state and federal levels. We encourage every district to participate. Your input shapes our direction.

In June, UACD and NRCS co-hosted the **2025 UACD Partnership Meeting**, bringing together conservation leaders to discuss soil health, land use, and funding. Staff from Senator Curtis's and Representatives Owen's and Maloy's offices attended, underscoring strong support for our work.

UACD hosted **NACD's 2025 Annual Meeting** in Salt Lake City. From hands-on service projects to conservation tours, our team helped spotlight Utah's leadership and connect with national partners.

Looking ahead, I hope to see you at the **UACD Annual Convention, November 5-6 in St. George**. Our theme, Cultivating Resilience, reflects our shared commitment to conservation through change and challenging times.

We also invite you to participate in our **UACD Photo Contest**, open to supervisors, clerks, partners and the public. The theme is "Agriculture and Conservation Across America." The Utah winner earns \$100 and advances to nationals. Submit your photo by September 30 and help us share Utah's story.

And don't forget to host your local Conservation District **Poster Contests**. The 2025 theme is "Home is Where the Habitat Is." UACD provides free digital materials to help you promote and celebrate student entries.

Thank you for your continued support. Our success this year is thanks to strong relationships—with you, our partners, and our legislators. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited for what's ahead.



UACD Dues: Record Number of District's Paid

Wow, thank you! Your continued support makes a real difference. UACD is your association. We advocate for you and work hard to support every Conservation District in Utah. While dues don't cover our overhead, they help us keep going strong. If your district needs support from the state association, don't hesitate to reach out to your Zone Director or our staff. We are here for you.

2025 UACD CONVENTION: CULTIVATING RESILIENCE

November 5-6 | St. George, Utah

Join us for two days of connection, collaboration, and conservation at the 2025 UACD Convention. This year's theme, Cultivating Resilience, celebrates the vital work of Utah's Conservation Districts.

Keynote: Peter Byck - Director of Roots So Deep, Peter Byck shares insights from his documentary on grazing practices, science, and rural resilience.

Guest: Pat Hearty - Pat recounts Utah's Dust Bowl history and the powerful role local Conservation Districts played in restoring the land.

Registration and room blocks are open: www.uacd.org/2025-uacd-convention

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with fellow conservation leaders from across the state.



CIG & UTAH SOIL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Exciting things are happening in year four of this five year project. Five years isn't long enough to observe major changes in soil structure or long-term organic matter buildup, but recent soil tests show early signs of improvement across a variety of operations and landscapes.

Most notably, no yield losses have been reported from using cover crops, soil amendments, or biochar—proving these practices can boost soil health without sacrificing productivity.

Fact sheets and full results will be available soon. Stay updated at utahsoilhealth.org.



Districts Webpages

All dues-paying CDs get a free webpage! Contact us to get yours created!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soil Health Field Days
August 22nd - Salt Lake City
and Panguitch

Soil Health Field Day
September 16th - Lewiston

UACD Board Meeting
November 4th - St. George

UACD Convention
November 5-6th St. George

2026 Soil Health in the West
Feb. 10 -12, 2026 - St. George

2026 Utah Water Users
March 2026 - St. George

UACD REIMBURSED AND REHIRING



UACD received payment for previously denied federal reimbursement requests, and has began rebuilding the capacity lost during the federal funding freeze.

The freeze stopped reimbursement payments for all UACD employees working under federal cooperative agreement, causing nearly all of our employees to be laid off.

UACD worked tirelessly to ensure Utah's federal delegation was aware of the hardship this imposed on Conservation Districts and the need for restored funding.

Two positions have been rehired and we are eagerly awaiting approval to rehire the remaining openings.

We're optimistic that renewed federal support will allow UACD and NRCS to continue working together to deliver conservation to Utah's producers.

Why Get a District PO BOX?

If your district doesn't have one, consider it. They protect board member privacy, meet many grant requirements, and ensure addresses stay consistent when board members change.

2025 ENVIROTHON A DISTRICT SUCCESS

Utah's Conservation Districts contributed \$15,550 this year to support the Utah Envirothon, a statewide environmental competition. Teams from across Utah competed in Richfield, with Logan High School winning and advancing to the international contest in Calgary. At least four district sponsored teams, helping develop Utah's future conservation leaders.



Supervisor Financial Training Module 2 is Live!

For Supervisors and Clerks!

www.uacd.org/training

UACD OFFICERS & SUPPORT STAFF

President
Mike Larson

Vice President
Stuart Bowler

2nd Vice President
Kerry Cook

**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Thomas Walbridge

**Executive Director
/CFO**
Kristy Davis

UACD Assistant
Desiree Van Dyke

Zone 1
Jeff Kent
Thomas Walbridge

Zone 2
Wade Judd
DeVan Pack

Zone 3
Alisa Meyer
Sid Smart

Zone 4
Kerry Cook
Deven Gass

Zone 5
Bruce Bunting
Allen Henrie

Zone 6
Bryan Bell
Steve Remund

Zone 7
Dee Taylor
Cody Nielson