

2024 UACD RESOLUTIONS

FOR THE UACD CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2024

ST. GEORGE, UTAH

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE
2024 UACD CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2024
ST. GEORGE, UTAH**

LAND USE COMMITTEE

STRENGTHENING DISTRICTS COMMITTEE

2024 SD #1: Direct Funding to Conservation Districts

2024 SD #2: Reinstate UACD President as a Member of the UCC

LAND USE COMMITTEE

2024 LU #1: Control of Noxious Weed Planning

2024 LU #2: District Owned Lands are the Responsibility of the District

2024 LU #3: High Tunnel Exemptions for Counties

2024 LU #4: State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) Land Transfers and Sell Offs and the lack of local coordination and resource concerns.

2024 LU #5: Funding for county weed boards

2024 LU #6: Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*) on State Invasive List

2024 LU #7: Conservation Tree Planting Program

2024 LU #8: Wilderness Management

2024 LU #9: City and County Planning Commission Involvement

2024 LU #10: Predator/Raven Control

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2024 WR #1: Phragmites Management for Improved Water Flows to the Great Salt Lake

2024 WR #2: Utah Watershed Councils Act

2024 WR #3: Zebra (*Dreissena bugensis*) and Quagga (*Dreissena polymorpha*) mussel

2024 WR #4: Support for the Central Utah Project

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 SUNSET SD #1
TITLE: Direct Funding to Conservation Districts
SPONSOR: San Juan Conservation District and Utah Association of Conservation Districts' Board of Directors

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts are recognized in the Utah Code as special service districts and;

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts fall under the purview of the Utah State Auditor's Office and;

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts play a vital role in water, soil, land, and agriculture conservation in the State of Utah and represent issues which are on both private and public land and;

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts are run by appointed supervisors who live within the communities they represent and;

WHEREAS, each community is unique and varied in conservation needs and issues and;

WHEREAS, effectiveness of conservation districts relies on their ability to make decisions that are right for the communities they represent.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Conservation Districts should be funded directly by the state legislature which increases local control and effectiveness of conservation districts.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 SUNSET SD #2
TITLE: Reinstate UACD President as a Member of the UCC
SPONSOR: Dixie Conservation District

BACKGROUND: It is understood that compromises were made in order to pass the amendment to the UCC Act, however the conservation districts disagree with the need for this compromise.

WHEREAS the 2017 HB130 removed the President of the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) as part of the Utah Conservation Commission (UCC) and;

WHEREAS UACD is the association and representation for all of Utah's conservation districts, the President of UACD is in the best position to represent the entire state of Utah in the area of natural resources and;

WHEREAS the President of UACD is the center of communication of state wide issues in natural resources and;

WHEREAS the President of UACD has been a commission member since 1953.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local CDs (Conservation Districts) would like a bill sponsored to reinstate the President of UACD as a member of the UCC.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #1
TITLE: Control of Noxious Weed Planning
SPONSOR: Morgan Conservation District

WHEREAS Utah's Noxious Weed Act requires that Utah's state and local governments pursue an effective program to contain and control noxious weeds on all lands under their control or jurisdiction (Utah Code 4-17-10),

WHEREAS effective control of noxious weeds requires a comprehensive rather than a piecemeal effort,

WHEREAS noxious species in Utah's counties currently grow along all major transportation routes (railroad, federal state and county roads) as well as public and private lands,

WHEREAS Utah's Conservation Districts are charged with stewardship over the state's soil and water conservation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports the prudent use of chemical and biological weed control agents on federal, state, county, city, and private lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports active and ongoing efforts to engage all land owners (state, federal, private and public) to take steps to control weeds on their lands and encourage all counties in the state to establish and maintain a county Weed Board.

UACD Board: this replaces sunseting resolution with changes

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #2

TITLE: District Owned Lands are the Responsibility of the District

SPONSOR: Grantsville Conservation Districts

WHEREAS, Utah Code Section 17D-3-103 2a states that “a conservation district may: (v) acquire property, real or personal, by purchase or otherwise, and maintain, improve, and administer that property consistent with the purposes of this chapter...”

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts are responsible for their own property and is not requisite for municipalities, counties, or other local, state, or federal government entities to have a say in district property usage or the sale thereof,

WHEREAS, all decisions of future use must come before, and to the agreement of, the conservation district board, including easements, land usage, and any form of recreation. And all recreation is performed at the risk of the recreator,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support conservation districts that own property. That the Conservation District is the responsible party for their own property and are not beholden to any municipality, county, or other local, state, or federal government entity that might think they have a say in how district owned property should be managed, regulated, maintained, or sold.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #3
TITLE: High Tunnel Exemptions for Counties
SPONSOR: Wasatch Conservation Districts

WHEREAS, Utah Code Section 10-9a-525 exempts high tunnels from municipal regulation and building permits,

WHEREAS, High tunnels are not permanent structures and are used to store, keep, sell, or shelter agricultural commodities and benefit the agricultural community,

WHEREAS, Wasatch County is claiming that a county is not a municipality and can therefore require a building permit for a high tunnel,

WHEREAS, Other counties throughout the state could use this loophole to disrupt high tunnels and the agriculture associated with their usage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts move to push for an alteration to Utah Code Section 10-9a-525 to include counties along with municipalities as not being able to regulate and require building permits for high tunnels.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #4
TITLE: State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) Land Transfers and Sell Offs and the lack of local coordination and resource concerns.
SPONSOR: Kane County Conservation District

WHEREAS, The Kane County Conservation district values our School and Institutional Trust Lands within the district and region and the importance of that land to support the local economy and local schools within our area,

WHEREAS, as stated in Utah State Code 53C-1-102, 2.(b) As trustee, the state must manage the lands and revenues generated from the lands in the most prudent and profitable manner possible, and not for any purpose inconsistent with the best interest of the trust beneficiaries, 2.(c) The trustee must be concerned with both income and the current beneficiaries and the preservation of trust assets for future beneficiaries, which requires a balancing of short and long-term interests so that long-term benefits are not lost in an effort to maximize short-term gains.

WHEREAS, there is also a lack of coordination with local leases/permit holders, county officials and local communities about changes to the current use of these lands and the impact to current ranchers, communities and the fact that SITLA does not have to follow community/county planning and zoning regulations or considerations,

WHEREAS, many conservation, best management practices (BMP)s, and resource health projects installed by local ranchers/lease holders after approval and funding from resource agencies and their own private funding are being cancelled with no consultation of coordination of those decisions, and are ignored and given no value,

WHEREAS, SITLA charges the lease holder/rancher a line item fee for weed control, but they do not spray for noxious weeds of pay to have it done. This makes SITLA a less than desirable neighbor in resource management as their noxious weeds spread to other lands.

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts recommends SITLA lands and leadership needs to better coordinate and consult the counties, conservation districts, communities and lease holders as to the best use, resource concerns, fair market values and fair compensations to the ranchers/lease holders on those lands and their long-term values, and that the legislature look at more worthy objectives in the development of a sustainable SITLA land-use policy for the benefit of the state's school children, the surrounding communities and the land itself.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #5
TITLE: Funding for County Weed Boards
SPONSOR: Summit County Conservation District

WHEREAS Utah's Noxious Weed Act mandates that Utah's state and local governments implement an effective program to contain and control noxious weeds on all lands under their control or jurisdiction (Utah Code 4-17-10),

WHEREAS the effective control of noxious weeds requires not only a comprehensive approach but also sustained and adequate funding,

WHEREAS the spread of noxious weeds across Utah's counties, including along major transportation routes (railroads, federal, state, and county roads) as well as public and private lands, continues to escalate, increasing the costs of control and eradication efforts,

WHEREAS current funding levels are insufficient to meet the growing demands for managing noxious weeds across the state,

WHEREAS Utah's Conservation Districts are charged with stewardship over the state's soil and water conservation, and noxious weeds pose a significant threat to both,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts advocates for increased state and federal funding dedicated to the treatment and control of noxious weeds on all lands, including state, federal, private, and public properties,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports efforts to secure additional funding through state appropriations, federal grants, and local partnerships, and urges counties to establish and maintain active Weed Boards to manage these resources and ensure the efficient and effective control of noxious weeds throughout the state.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 NEW LU #6
TITLE: Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*) on State Invasive List
SPONSOR: Sevier Conservation District

WHEREAS, Curly Dock is an introduced, erect, perennial herb 1½'- 4' tall, produced from a large, deep taproot and is not a native of Utah.

WHEREAS, Curly dock is common along roadsides and waste places. It is also an aggressive weed in permanent pastures, irrigation ditches, and in many cultivated crops. It is frequently associated with overwatering or standing water in low areas. Curly dock seedlings have a low competitive ability and find it difficult to become established in closed vegetation

WHEREAS, Seeds and vegetation of Curly dock are toxic to poultry and can cause dermatitis and gastric problems in cattle.

WHEREAS, Curly Dock is not listed as invasive in any of the four classes in the Utah Noxious Weed Act: Class 1A (EDRR Watch List), Class 1 (EDRR), Class 2 (Control), Class 3 (Containment), and Class 4 (Prohibited for sale or propagation).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports listing Curly Dock under one of the four classes to help obtain funding as a higher priority invasive species in Utah.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 LU #7
TITLE: Conservation Tree Planting Program
SPONSOR: Land Use Committee

WHEREAS, the UACD, NRCS, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, have a common obligation to conserve and enhance the natural resources of the State of Utah, and,

WHEREAS, conservation tree plantings serve a multi-conservation purpose for erosion control, livestock, crop and farmstead protection, wildlife habitat, beautification, water quality, storm water control, timber, and,

WHEREAS, a conservation tree planting program benefits Utah's conservation effort and enhances Conservation District's (CD's) visibility and involvement in the communities they serve, and,

WHEREAS, conservation tree plantings are an important part of the Conservation Reserve Program and other parts of the Conservation Titles of the 1990 Food Security Act,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UACD support the continuation of a conservation tree planting program for Utah by: substituting the MOU currently with the Water Quality Task Force MOU.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 LU #8
TITLE: Wilderness Management
SPONSOR: Land Use Committee

WHEREAS, pressure from some special interest groups is being put on federal land management agencies in the State of Utah to manage non-wilderness lands as wilderness, and,

WHEREAS, such management prohibits the multiple use concept which is strongly supported by UACD,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that UACD oppose the concept of wilderness management on non-wilderness lands and areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and strongly urge federal land management agencies to not adopt such management practices, and to maintain multiple use status.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 LU #9
TITLE: City and County Planning Commission Involvement
SPONSOR: Land Use Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CD supervisors and UACD staff actively solicit representation and involvement on City and County Planning Commissions, and that UACD continue to update and distribute information for CD distribution to Planning and County Commissions/County Councils.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CD Boards offer assistance and expertise in urban development.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 LU #10
TITLE: Predator/Raven/Eurasian Dove/Crow Control
SPONSOR: San Juan Conservation District

WHEREAS, high numbers of predators especially ravens and Eurasian Dove, are having a negative impact on crops and sage grouse.

WHEREAS, raven numbers are excessive in many local areas.

WHEREAS, local farmers are seeing significant damage to statewide crops

WHEREAS, ravens are known to target and eat sage grouse eggs and are known by local land owners and operators to have a significant impact on sage grouse populations (No study required to see this).

WHEREAS, millions of dollars have been spent to create or improve sage grouse habitat and employ biologists to study the species.

WHEREAS, many areas have sufficient habitat, yet sage grouse numbers are declining or holding (despite the increase in the number of leks counted each year, the average number of males counted on the leks has shown a decline from 1967-2001. Sage-grouse nest success varies from 12 to 86%. *Source: Strategic Management Plan for Sage-Grouse 2002.* (Data to be updated with current statistics by next year)

WHEREAS, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources contracts with U.S.D.A Wildlife Services to control a specified number of ravens each year.

WHEREAS, a more cost effective way to control ravens is to allow public involvement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts encourage and support efforts to reduce raven and predator numbers in the State of Utah.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 WR #1

TITLE: Phragmites Management for Improved Water Flows to the Great Salt Lake

SPONSOR: Davis and Weber Conservation Districts

WHEREAS, Utah's Soil Conservation Districts support efforts to control the spread of noxious weeds and to provide for the efficient utilization of water resources;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted under the Utah Noxious Weed Act, phragmites (*Phragmites australis* ssp.) has been designated as a Class 3 noxious weed and is known to consume significant water resources;

WHEREAS, Utah Code 4-17-112 mandates the departments or agencies of state and local governments to establish and implement an effective program for the control and containment of noxious weeds on all lands under government control, and other provisions of the same Act require private landowners to implement effective measures to control noxious weeds;

WHEREAS, extensive populations of phragmites have established in riparian areas, and in particular on the lakebed of the Great Salt Lake owned by the State of Utah and managed by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL);

WHEREAS, phragmites populations in critical riparian areas in and around the lakebed of the Great Salt Lake significantly decrease the amount of water which can reach the Great Salt Lake, thereby challenging the effectiveness of water savings measures upstream;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts shall advocate for the management of phragmites in riparian areas which affect flows to the Great Salt Lake by working with FFSL, other organizations, and legislators to find solutions and implement effective strategies for reducing phragmites populations.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 WR #2
TITLE: Watershed Councils Act
SPONSOR: Water Resources Standing Committee

BACKGROUND, The Utah Legislature passed The Watershed Council Act in 2020 to create a statewide council as well as twelve watershed councils throughout the state. The Act assigned the Utah Division of Water Resources to help organize and to provide administrative support to the state and local councils. ~~Dan Adams of the Langdon Group and his team are helping the Division implement the Act.~~

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts are recognized in Utah Code as special service districts and;

WHEREAS, Conservations Districts represent all natural resource issues in their local jurisdiction including water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that UACD and the local Districts lobby and work to place a district board member (supervisor) on each of the watershed councils including the statewide council.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 WR #3

TITLE: Zebra (*Dreissena bugensis*) and Quagga (*Dreissena polymorpha*) mussel ...

SPONSOR: Price River Watershed Conservation District, San Rafael Conservation District

WHEREAS, Zebra and Quagga mussels are invasive freshwater mollusks (clams) that infest water in large numbers, attaching to any hard surface;

WHEREAS, Zebra and Quagga mussel invasions have cost billions of dollars in damages by clogging water pipes, degrading water quality, and competing with fish populations in the eastern United States;

WHEREAS, Zebra and Quagga mussels have now been detected in Utah's lakes, and if left uncontrolled will have a devastating impact on Utah's water resource,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and its partners in working diligently to keep Zebra and Quagga mussels from spreading further into Utah's waters, even to the point of closing streams, lakes and reservoirs to boating and other activities deemed contributing to the spread of these invasive species;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts to control Zebra and Quagga mussels in lakes throughout the State of Utah.

UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NUMBER: 2024 WR #4
TITLE: Support for the Central Utah Project
SPONSOR: Water Resources Committee

UACD supports the completion of the Central Utah Project Completion Act.