



P.O. Box 170, Belen, New Mexico 87002
Phone: (505) 864-6460 / email: VALENCIASwcd@live.com

**Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 2nd, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Education & Visitor Center
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM**

MEETING MINUTES

Board Supervisors attendance: Board of Supervisors Attendance: Joseph Moya, Jim Lane, Charlie Sanchez, Abel Camarena, Teresa Smith de Cherif, and Andrew Hautzinger.

All other attendees: NRCS Area Conservationist Pearl Armijo, NMDA Specialist Katie Mechenbier (with guest), SWCA Consultant Cody Stropki, Va. County News-Bulletin reporter Julia Dendinger, BEMP Co-Directors Kim Eichhorst and Dan Shaw, Belen High School teacher Chelsey Servantes and NM Envirothon team students Los Lunas High School teacher Lynne Mozer and NM Envirothon team students, Clarence Chavez, resident and soil scientist with NM Envirothon group, NRCS Plant Material Center Agronomist Danny Goodson, NMRCS Plant Material Center Manager Bernadette Cooney, Meadowlake resident Bob Gostitcha, resident Gail Goodman, District Manager Madeline Miller, and Whitfield Project Manager Ted Hodoba.

Minutes

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Quorum was verified. *Joseph proposed that the New Mexico Envirothon 2015 teams sponsorship agenda item under 'New Business' be moved to before 'Special Business'.*

Move to approve the Agenda with change noted.

1st Abel Camarena 2nd Jim Lane

For: all Against: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Carried.

NM Envirothon 2015 team sponsorships: Chelsey Servantes with Belen High School and Lynne Mozer with Los Lunas High School presented their request for sponsorship by the District to participate in the 2015 New Mexico Envirothon.

Move to approve \$500 per team for Belen High School, and Los Lunas High School.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif

2nd: Abel Camarena

For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried.

Special Business:

- **Charlie Sanchez 10 year service award:** Andrew Hautzinger presented to Charlie his 10 year service award from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. Andrew honored Charlie for being a steward of the land, for the love of his community, and for the 'continuing benefit of the American people'. Charlie commented to the students attending, to follow their dreams and carry conservation into the future.
- **BEMP (Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program):** Kim Eichhorst and Dan Shaw, Co-Directors updated of schools involved in the program, current study activities and their anticipated budget need for 2016 of \$10K. This is the 19th year of monitoring and Kim reported 10,000 youth being reached this past year; the Belen area was noted as still significant because of the improved ecology over time.

Motion to approve the funding request as allocated last year, for \$10,000.00

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Teresa Smith de Cherif

For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding BEMP's request for a support letter from the District for a grant proposal they were submitting. The Board approved providing the support letter to BEMP.

- **Mill Levy Funding Priority Plan (draft) review:** Cody Stropki discussed the status of the draft Mill Levy Funding Priority Plan. Abel Camarena stated that if the Board did not have enough time to review the draft following any public comments submitted by February 13th that the Board may need until the April Regular meeting to finalize the Plan.

Reports

- **NRCS Report:** Pearl Armijo gave her update to the Board.
- **NMDA Report:** Katie Mechenbier presented the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Report for February.

Regular District Business

- The Board reviewed the December 8th Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 19th Special Meeting minutes. Teresa requested a correction to the January 19th Special Meeting minutes to state 'Teresa recused herself from voting on any future leases with Mr. Ott'. Jim Lane requested amendment to the December 8th motion on Brent Van Dyke sponsorship be changed to being made to 1st by Teresa Smith de Cherif and 2nd by Abel Camarena.

Motion was made to approve the December 8th Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Abel Camarena

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the January 19th minutes as amended.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Abel Camarena

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

- **Correspondence, Announcements:** Correspondence was reviewed. Bernadette Cooney, the new Manager for the Plant Material Center, attending, introduced herself.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Abel reviewed the December and January expenditures with the Board. Use of a State purchasing card was reviewed. The Department of Finance 2nd Quarterly Reports submitted January 31st were reviewed.

Motion was made to approve expenditures reported for December 2014 and January 2015

1st: Abel Camarena 2nd: Teresa Smith de Cherif

For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Old Business

- **Whitfield Update:** Ted Hodoba presented his report for January and February. Whitfield Bookmarks are being distributed through annual student contacts. Ted showed 'rack' cards he designed for handouts including SWCD Day at the Capitol on February 12th.
- **Personnel Comm. Update:** Abel updated the Board that the draft Employee Handbook was still being developed.
- **Bosque Restoration Update:** Madeline was preparing a proposal for funding for a Rio Abajo Conservation Area restoration project that included adjacent bosque area owned by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.
- **Rio Abajo Conservation Area and Rental Property Update:** Tim Ott commented that there was a visit from the Department of Finance and Administration (January 28th) verifying the appraisal. The remainder of the rental property discussion was tabled until the end of the public meeting (*Executive session in accordance with the OMA subsection H exception 8 for land acquisitions*). **Action item:** Prepare letter to the NM Department of Game & Fish, Alexa Sandoval and Assistant Director R. J. Kirkpatrick to request a meeting to address terms of division of the property and actions to be carried out; Andrew Hautzinger would prepare the first draft.

New Business

- **Appointment considerations for Seats 5 & 7:** The Board discussed nomination of Charlie Sanchez to the appointed Seat #7. Charlie Sanchez accepted changing his position to Seat 7.

Motion was made to nominate and approve changing the Seat position of Charlie Sanchez from Seat 5 to Seat 7.

1st: Abel Camarena 2nd: Jim Lane
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Motion was made to nominate Jeff Goebel who had expressed interest in serving on the Board for interim appointment to Seat #5 up to the 2015 election.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Abel Camarena
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Action item: Joseph Moya would send brief letter to Mr. Goebel requesting his response to his nomination.

- **2015 Election Cycle for the Board of Supervisors seats 1, 2, & 5:** The Board discussed items related to the Supervisor Election for Seats 1, 2, & 5 to be held in May.

Motion was made to have to polling places available for the Election on May 5th 2015 at the Whitfield Visitor Center and the USDA Service Center.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd Abel Camarena
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Motion was made to appoint Madeline Miller as the Election Superintendent.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Abel Camarena
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

- **Mileage reimbursement rate review:**

Motion was made to approve revising the District mileage rate for business use of personal vehicle from .505/mile to .56/mile as allowed by State statute.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Charlie Sanchez
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

- **Dan Goodman Award committee selection, timeline 2015:** Joseph Moya, and Jim Lane volunteered to serve on the committee. The deadline for applications would remain the same, March 31st.

Motion was made to close the open meeting for executive session to discuss the Rio Abajo rental property at 9:10 p.m.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Motion was made to enter into executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Roll call: Joseph Moya yea, Andrew Hautzinger yea, Charlie Sanchez yea, Teresa Smith de Cherif yea, Jim Lane yea, Abel Camarena yea.

Motion was made to close executive session.

Roll call: Joseph Moya yea, Andrew Hautzinger yea, Charlie Sanchez yea, Teresa Smith de Cherif yea, Jim Lane yea, Abel Camarena yea.

Motion was made to reopen the February Regular Meeting at 10:44 p.m.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Charlie Sanchez
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

The Chair stated the executive session was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Acts exception subsection H exception 8 for land acquisitions to discuss the Rio Abajo rental property and no decisions were made during the session.

Adjournment:

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

1st: Abel Camarena 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger
For: All Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Signatures

P. Joseph Moya, Chair 06-30-2015
Date

Madeline Miller, District Manager 3-5-15
Date