



Official Document of
Valencia Soil & Water
Conservation District

Providing resource conservation for a quality environment demonstrated through active leadership, cooperation and partnership

**Board of Supervisors
March Regular Monthly Meeting
March 25th, 2017 2:00 P.M.**

*held at the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Education & Visitor Center
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM*

Board of Supervisors Attending: Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Supervisor Andrew Hautzinger, Supervisor P. Joseph Moya, Supervisor Richard Bonine and Supervisor Jeff Goebel;

Absent: Chairman Abel Camarena

Others Attending: Friends of Whitfield President Mary Jo McBean, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, Administrative Assistant Jasmine Martinez, NMDA Noxious Weed Specialist Jim Wanstall

Teleconference: EVUGP Coordinator Lindsey Hamilton

Absent: District Manager Madeline Miller, NRCS Soil Conservationist Pearl Armijo, NMDA Specialist Katie Mechenbier

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to Order:** Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif verified quorum and called meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Supervisor Hautzinger drew the Board attention to the District Manager's note on the top of the agenda regarding the MOU between VSWCD and Friends of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, the Board indicated this item would not be added to the agenda for motion.

Motion was made to approve the Agenda as written.

1st: Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: Jim Lane

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

- 2) Approval of February 25th, 2017 Regular meeting minutes and March 6th, 2017 Special meeting minutes:** The Board reviewed the February 25th and March 6th meeting minutes.

Motion was made to approve the February 25th, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

1st P. Joseph Moya 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: Jim Lane Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the March 6th, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

1st Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: P. Joseph Moya
discussion.

No further

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: Jim Lane Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

3) Reports:

- **NRCS Report:** Pearl Armijo was not present for the meeting but provided the monthly NRCS written report. Supervisor Goebel discussed possible District pursuit of the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). Vice Chair Smith de Cherif suggested that Supervisor Goebel take on writing the grant.
- **NMDA Report:** Katie Mechenbier was not present for the meeting but her written report was provided for Board review. Jim Wanstall was available to review highlights of the report with the Board, he indicated a legislative issue not on the report is that HB 174 has passed and is on the governor's desk to be signed or not. Audit rule training is available throughout the state as there have been changes to the audit rule. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif recommended staff attend the training.
- **Whitfield Manager's Report:**
 - Ted Hodoba provided the Whitfield update, highlights of which included the Friends Annual Meeting on April 1st, Earth Day on April 22nd, his attendance at the Monarch Butterfly workshop – Whitfield is considered a butterfly hotspot, and discussed revitalization of Willie Chavez Park in partnership with the City of Belen. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif suggested letting the City group know about the financial assistance program. Ted reported the solar lights that were stolen from the Conservation Area, Vice Chair Smith de Cherif suggested he reach out to Julia Dendinger at Valencia County News Bulletin regarding the vandalism.
 - Jasmine Martinez provided the Education program update which included an overview of her visit to the Bosque School to observe the BEMP program and an update on the number of contacts for this school year.
 - Friends President Mary Jo McBean requests that notice of workshops or trainings be passed along to Friends. She would like to see summer planting be accomplished in a timely fashion so that the food crop will be mature enough for the Sandhill Cranes to benefit from. Supervisor Moya indicated the land needs to be laser leveled again as the turn outs are too low to properly irrigate the food crop area. The Board agreed that they want a proposal for laser leveling to act upon for the next Board meeting. Mary Jo would like to see the MOU be voted on for the next Board meeting.
- **District Manager's Report:** District Manager Madeline Miller was not present for the meeting but provided her written report. Dan Goodman Award committee will include Jim Lane, Andrew Hautzinger, and Joseph Moya.

Motion was made to extend the Dan Goodman Award deadline to April 15th.

1st Jim Lane 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr.

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

Further discussion that Jasmine contact all Valencia County high school counselors that the deadline date has changed.

NMACD has requested that the District sponsor their Region 1 & 2 meeting on June 13th by providing the Education and Visitor Center space and lunch for 50 people.

Motion was made to host the NMACD Region 1 & 2 meeting with a budget not to exceed \$800 and an invitation for the attendees to hear a presentation on Whitfield and have a brief tour of the conservation area.

1st P. Joseph Moya 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: Jim Lane Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the support letter to Senators Udall & Heinrich and Representative Lujan Grisham to remove DUNS requirement for some NRCS conservation grants. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif and Supervisor Bonine have suggested edits to the letter.

Motion was made to approve the draft letters to Congressional Representative and Senators with additions as discussed.

1st Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr. No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Rio Grande Basin study commitment letter. It was noted no changes would be made to the draft letter.

Motion was made to approve Rio Grande Plan study commitment letter.

1st Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: P. Joseph Moya No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

The Board discussed the election canvassing board which is comprised of Mary Jo McBean, Peggy Guthjar, and Andrew Hautzinger.

Motion was made to approve the canvassing board to include Mary Jo McBean, Peggy Guthjar, and Andrew Hautzinger.

1st P. Joseph Moya 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr. No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

Motion was made to affirm that there were no opposing candidates for seats 3 & 4 so the election was cancelled.

1st P. Joseph Moya 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr. No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Abel Camarena
Motion carried.

Lindsey joined the meeting via teleconference at 3:49 pm

Lindsey Hamilton was available by teleconference, she provided highlights of her report which included work days at the El Cerro and Meadow Lake sites, attendance at Soils Basics workshop led by Newt McCarty of the NMSU Extension office, and a grant request for funds for Food Sovereignty projects.

Motion was made to approve an additional budget of \$3400 for East Valencia Urban Gardens Program, this amount is to be added to the existing \$4000 from grant funding and previously approved District funding.

1st Jeff Goebel 2nd: P. Joseph Moya

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

Lindsey disconnected from the meeting at 4:05 pm.

- **Rural Climate Policy Platform:** Supervisor Goebel reported there is progress being made on a soil health resolution for NMACD.

4) New Business:

- **Lava & VSWCD boundary changes:** Jim Wanstall indicated he could not speak to the boundary dispute and would leave discussion of it to Katie. Tabled until April meeting.
- **Coordinated Weed Management Area:** Jim Wanstall reported on noxious weed problem areas, he asked the Board if there was interest in the becoming a noxious weed cooperative management area and explained what would be involved in becoming such. Board discussed holding a public meeting to gauge interest within the District. Supervisor Lane suggested using mil levy funding for education on noxious weeds within the District, such as brochures or a newspaper ad.
- **Innovative Farming Conference Dec. 2017 hosting and NMACD Region Mtg June 13th hosting:** Supervisor Goebel reported there is a new date for the Innovative Farming Conference, December 6th, 2017. NMACD Region 1 & 2 meeting as discussed under District Manager's report.

5) Regular Business:

- **Budget & Accounting: 1) Resolution #5-2017 Budget Adjust #1 for DFA submittal:** Ted Hodoba indicated that additional funds of \$9000 are needed to complete the maintenance building contract.

Motion was made to approve Resolution #5-2017 Budget Adjust #1 for submission to the DFA.

1st Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: P. Joseph Moya

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

- **Election 2017 update:** As discussed under District Manager report, a motion was made to affirm that the election has been cancelled due to no opposing candidates for seats 3 & 4 and the canvassing board was appointed.
- **Land Use Plan:** Supervisor Goebel indicated that Madeline is working on an SWCC grant for GIS mapping which is due April 7th asking for Board motion of support for this grant.

Motion was made to approve the SWCC grant for funding GIS mapping for land use purposes.

1st Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: P. Joseph Moya

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

- **Financial Assistance Committee:** The Committee reported that they have not had adequate time to meet to discuss all current applications and some applications were missing vital information. The Board discussed approving Supervisor Moya's amendment to his application.

Motion was made to approve amendment to financial assistance application which P. Joseph Moya has previously submitted on behalf of Mary Jo Moya's farm.

1st Richard Bonine, Jr. 2nd: Jim Lane

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: P. Joseph Moya

Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

Applications for R. Torres and C. Benavides will be tabled until the April meeting.

- **Property Disposal Committee:** Supervisor Lane reported that he researched how the District needs to go about disposing of the RACA property which included advertisement through local municipalities and/or government entities which has been done, and a public advertisement of available property which Supervisor Lane thought the District was going to do but this has not been done as of yet. The Board wants to write a letter to request permission from the state to dispose of the property and to place an ad for the property to be disposed of on the public forums of Craigslist and the Valencia County News Bulletin for one week.

Motion was made to write a letter to the appropriate state agency to obtain authorization to dispose of trailer, horse walker, starter gate, and fertilizer spreader.

1st Jim Lane 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger

No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Absent: Abel Camarena

Motion carried.

- **Rio Abajo Conservation Area Committee:** Vice Chair Smith de Cherif reported easements need to be sorted out with the NMGF split but progress is being made. For the

Ott case, a deposition needs to be scheduled and notice has been given that if he does not give a date for deposition that the District will choose a date.



6) Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

1st: Jeff Goebel 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr.

All in favor, motion carried.

Signatures:

	
Teresa Smith de Cherif, Vice Chair	Date
	4/19/17
Jasmine G. Martinez, Administrative Assistant	Date

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