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

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**Board of Supervisors  
April Regular Monthly Meeting  
April 15th, 2017 9:00 a.m.  
at the  
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Education & Visitor Center  
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM**

**Board of Supervisors Attending:** Chair Abel Camarena, Treasurer Andrew Hautzinger, Supervisor Jeff Goebel, Supervisor Joseph Moya. **Absent:** Vice-Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Board Supervisors Jim Lane, Richard Bonine.

**Others Attending:** Friends of Whitfield President Mary Jo McBean, Bosque Ecosystem (BEMP) Co-Director Kim Eichhorst, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, NRCS Soil Conservationist Pearl Armijo, District Manager Madeline Miller.

**Meeting Minutes**

**1) Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. following arrival of a quorum of the Board. The Agenda was reviewed. Changes proposed were to table review of the Preliminary Budget for 2018, and the March Expenditures Report.

**Motion was made to accept the Agenda with changes as proposed.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Joseph Moya 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger**      **There was no further discussion.**

**For: all                      Against: 0                      Abstain: 0 Absent: 3**  
**Motion carried.**



**2) Open Meetings Act change for 2017:** Discussion of change in regular meeting time of the Board. Abel opened he believed the discussion would need more of the Board present. Jeff Goebel stated any day in 4<sup>th</sup> week of month was preferable. Joseph Moya, Andrew Hautzinger preferred weeknights. (Note: Richard Bonine expressed in an email that Saturday was preferable but on weekdays it would need to be later in evening, Teresa Smith de Cherif expressed Saturday preference for the foreseeable future. It was noted the standing resolution of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month starting at 9 am at the Whitfield Center would remain. The next regular meeting would be Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 am.

**3) Approval of March 25th, 2017 Regular meeting minutes:** The regular meeting minutes for the March 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were reviewed.

**Motion was made to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as written.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger**                      **2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya For: all**    **Against: 0**  
**Absent: 3**

**There was no further discussion. Motion carried.**

**4) Reports:**

- **NRCS Report:** Pearl Armijo provided her current report to the Board. Madeline inquired if Pearl could provide information to the District on currently funded NRCS projects, specifically the historical practice of reviewing conservation plans with NRCS as a partnering agency prior to finalizing contracts. Confidential information and FOIA requirements were discussed. Ms. Armijo expressed this could be done in review with the Chair directly but not presented at public meetings.
- **NMDA Report:** Katie Mechenbier was not attending; Board and District Manager briefly reviewed the report.



- **Whitfield Manager's Report:** Ted provided his updates of activities since last meeting. Board discussed his noted breach of La Constancia Ditch along the eastern border of the Stacy Unit and the maintenance MRGCD will be doing. All were invited to attend the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day Event planned for Whitfield from 9-1. Mary Jo McBean noted the USDA NRCS State Biologist would be visiting Whitfield Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> to review management and planting of the wildlife food crop and other conservation area matters. Ted, Mary Jo and the Oversight Committee would be attending.
- **District Manager's Report:** Madeline reviewed briefly her report with the Board.
- **Rural Climate Policy Platform: Jeff Goebel updated the Board on his work with ranchers out of state.**

#### 5) New Business:

- **The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Annual Update: The Update** and proposed 2018 budget request was presented to the Board by Co-Director Kim Eichhorst (written report distributed). Kim noted tamarisk beetle monitoring was now occurring at all Valencia County sites. Data for the beetle infestations continues to indicate the trees recover in the short term while increased dry fuel loads during the recovery of the tamarisk increased fire risk and provided little or no habitat. Also noted was that BEMP on their new website (BEMP.org) regularly update on water table thresholds to indicate cottonwood tree survivability. The Board reviewed and discussed the many presented data analysis. Kim added that BEMP is available to help with analysis including if VSWCD wanted to look at any aspect or relationship not presented in the report. Jeff asked if BEMP could share their data with VSWCD for internal mapping use and she responded yes BEMP was nonproprietary except for an unanticipated glitch with an EPA grant funded program data set. The requested 2018 budget for continued monitoring of the 8 BEMP sites within the District area was \$21,363. There



was an additional proposal for annual water quality monitoring at 4 sites in Valencia County including at Whitfield for total of \$8200.35. The NM Environment Department is on an 8 year cycle of monitoring. To be tested would be E. coli, anions (chloride, nitrite, nitrate, phosphate, bromide, fluoride, and sulfate), and field parameters (diss. Oxygen, turbidity, temperature, pH, specific conductance as well as pharmaceuticals and personal care products – 'PPCPs')

**Motion was made to approve continuation of the BEMP monitoring program for the 8 monitoring sites in Valencia County for the proposed budget of \$21,363.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya**

Further discussion included delaying decision on the water quality monitoring proposal. Kim noted that they were expecting an inundation of water in 5 weeks into the Middle Rio Grande Valley; above 3000 square feet flow in May or early June.

- The Lava SWCD boundary discussion was tabled to the next meeting when Richard Bonine could attend.

**6) Regular Business:**

- The coordinated weed management area discussion was tabled.
- The Land Use Plan update: no update.
- **The Whitfield Committee Update:** Abel presented the recent revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Friends of Whitfield. He called attention to the new draft change to the current area name of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area being presented as the 'Whitfield Wildlife Area Complex' which encompasses the RACA and Stacy units within the conservation area. The MOU would be on the May meeting agenda for approval. Mary Jo McBean, Friends Board President, noted the addition of background checks for some of the Friends volunteers.



- **Financial Assistance Committee Update:** Andrew presented that the committee had not finalized recommendations for the applications from Carol Benavidez and Ramon Torres and would be coordinating to meet as soon as possible. There was discussion about a consideration posed to the District Manager by more than one awardee with regard to reimbursement for completed work. Some Committee discussion prior to the meeting thought this was best delineated as conservation practices that can be identified to stand alone within total project awarded. The Board discussed and approved reimbursing completion of work identified for a conservation outcome that would stand alone for the 5 year commitment of the awarded contract.
- **Rio Abajo Conservation Area Committee Update:** there was no new information to report.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion was made to adjourn the April Regular Meeting at 1:10 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jeff Goebel 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya All were in favor, meeting adjourned.**

  
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Abel M. Camarena, Chair

5/20/17  
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Date

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Madeline Miller, District Manager

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Date

