



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

**Board of Supervisors  
May Regular Monthly Meeting  
May 20th, 2017 9:00 A.M.**

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

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

**Others Attending:** District Manager Madeline Miller, NRCS Conservation Specialist Pearl Armijo, Friends of Whitfield President Mary Jo McBean, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, Administrative Assistant Jasmine Martinez

**Absent:** NMDA Specialist Katie Mechenbier

**Meeting Minutes**

- 1) Call to Order:** Chair Abel Camarena verified quorum and called meeting to order at 9:05am. Discussed Supervisor Hautzinger will present Dan Goodman update. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif indicated executive session would not be necessary for RACA. District Manager Madeline Miller indicated the Los Lunas Envirothon team would not be joining the meeting.

**Motion was made to approve the Agenda as amended.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Richard Bonine, Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif** No further discussion.  
**For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.**

- 2) Open Meeting Act change for 2017:** Discussed holding off on making any resolution changes until the fall. The Board also discussed the importance of Katie Mechenbier attending. Abel stated he would follow up with her to inquire how VSWCD might support her more regular attendance.

- 3) Mill Levy Rate Resolution 2018:** The Board reviewed the mill levy rate resolution for FY18.  
**Motion to approve the Mill Levy Rate Resolution #6-2017 for the continued rate of one quarter of a mil for the upcoming fiscal year.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2<sup>nd</sup>: Richard Bonine, Jr.** No further discussion.

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

Further discussion from Supervisor Goebel regarding public concern for the use of mill levy funding. Chair Camarena referred to the mill levy priority plan to address some concerns.

**4) Approval of April 15th, 2017 Regular meeting minutes:** The Board reviewed the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Teresa abstained from voting as she did not attend the meeting.

**Motion was made to approve the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes as written.**

**1<sup>st</sup> P. Joseph Moya    2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger**      No further discussion.

**For: all      Against: 0      Abstain: Teresa Smith de Cherif      Absent: 0**

**Motion carried.**

**5) Reports:**

- **NRCS Report:** Pearl Armijo presented the NRCS written report. Discussed seeding recommendations, water quality, and soil testing for the WWCA food plot.
- **NMDA Report:** Katie Mechenbier did not attend. The written report was reviewed. Supervisor Goebel mentioned Cibola Forest Revision Plan was still being developed, and public comment still encouraged.
- **Whitfield Manager's Report:**
  - Ted Hodoba provided the Whitfield update, highlights of which included completion of Master Naturalist program, partnership with City of Belen to reopen Willie Chavez Park, and the entrances into Whitfield have been officially approved by the State Department of Transportation.

**Motion was made for VSWCD to request formal participation as a partner with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and City of Belen on their project to rehabilitate Willie Chavez Park. Ted Hodoba will act as VSWCD representative and will hand deliver a letter of intent.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif    2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Joseph Moya**      Further discussion  
was that Madeline would prepare a letter for the request.

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

***Supervisor Moya left the meeting at 10:07 am.***

- Jasmine Martinez provided the Whitfield Education program update including meeting with Audubon NM Community Education Director Scott, update on summer projects, and future shade structure proposal.
- Friends President Mary Jo McBean indicated that the Friends are having a budget meeting this next week with current knowledge of priorities for Whitfield.

***Supervisor Moya rejoined the meeting at 10:24 am***

- **District Manager's Report:** The District Manager provided her written report. Regarding the NM SWCC meeting to be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> with VSWCD on the agenda, Vice Chair Smith de Cherif recommended deferring presentation to the Commissioners

about the land division with NM G&F until their next meeting. Richard Bonine, Jr. up for re-nomination of Seat 7. Madeline commented that the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly report was submitted with Treasurer review prior to the meeting to meet the deadline; the full set of reports submitted and approved by DFA along with journal entries would need to be presented to the Board for review at the June 2017 regular meeting.

Lindsey Hamilton provided a written report for the East Valencia Urban Gardens Program. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif assisted with the final draft of the Conservation Fund grant proposal Lindsey submitted recently. Teresa also noted that the gardens were well featured in the Valencia County News Bulletin.

- **Rural Climate Policy Platform:** Supervisor Goebel mentioned meeting with the new County Planner, James Aranda, to continue in partnership regarding land use and resource management with community engagement.

## 6) New Business:

- **Soils Health Policy Resolution:** The Board reviewed the soil health resolution created by Richard Bonine. Jeff Goebel noted that their interest was in presenting at the NMACD Regional Meeting on June 13th for adoption.

**The Board unanimously ratified VSWCD Resolution #7-2017 Soils Health Policy Resolution by signature.**

- **Lava & VSWCD boundary discrepancies:** Supervisor Bonine reports that in order to take this piece of land back from Lava it would require meeting with the Laguna tribal council and SWCC. Supervisor Bonine recommended letting Lava SWCD keep the land in question noting Laguna Pueblo's feedback to Richard to not pursue the matter.

**Motion for the Valencia SWCD Board to accept Laguna Pueblo and Supervisors Richard Bonine recommendation to not pursue any boundary changes with Lava SWCD.**

**1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif    2nd: Jeff Goebel    No further discussion.**  
**For: all    Against: 0    Abstain: 0    Absent: 0    Motion carried.**

- **Appointed Seat nominations for seats 6 & 7:** Discussed Supervisor Bonine's reappointment to Seat 7, Seat 6 will be discussed at a later meeting in deference to former Supervisor Lane's recent resignation.

**Motion to nominate Richard Bonine, Jr. to be appointed to seat 7.**

**1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif    2nd: Andrew Hautzinger    No further discussion.**  
**For: all    Against: 0    Abstain: Richard Bonine, Jr.    Absent: 0**  
**Motion carried.**

- **BLM Advisory Council:** Supervisor Goebel has submitted his application for nomination to serve on the Albuquerque area Bureau of Land Management Advisory Council.

**7) Regular Business:**

- **Budget & Accounting: 1) March & April expenditures review and approval:** Expenditures reviewed by the Board. **2) FY18 Preliminary Budget review, resolution:** Move to the end of the meeting.

**Motion was made to approve the March expenditures as presented.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Richard Bonine, Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif** No further discussion.  
**For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.**

**Motion was made to approve the April expenditures as presented.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Richard Bonine, Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Joseph Moya** No further discussion.  
**For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.**

- **Noxious Weed Cooperative Management area:** Supervisors Bonine and Goebel, Madeline Miller, and Jim Wanstall of NMDA met yesterday to discuss formation of a coordinated weed management area (CWMA) and how best to establish one. An initial meeting with potential partner agencies was decided on for July 29<sup>th</sup> (verify date). Jeff commented that obtaining data and mapping of weed spread and seed dispersal at the watershed level would best guide developing effective management of invasive weeds.
- **Whitfield Committee: 1) Friends of Whitfield Memorandum of Understanding:** Jeff Goebel inquired whether the Friends had opportunity to review following finalizing of the draft presented at the April meeting. Friends President Mary Jo signed off on the MOU following approval by the Friends Board at their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. **2) Maintenance Building project budget:** Ted stated there was an increase in the quoted cost for the maintenance building project though the additional cost would be a consideration for the next budget year.

**Motion was made to approve the Friends of Whitfield Memorandum of Understanding as written.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Joseph Moya** There was some discussion about whether further review was expected. Madeline noted the Friends Board had reviewed and approved at their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with no changes to the draft developed in two meetings with the Friends at the Committee level. The draft for consideration today was distributed at the April meeting for review and feedback and no changes made by VSWCD or the Friends. Jeff commented he thought full VSWCD Board review should have been had before signing off on the document.

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

- **Financial Assistance Committee:** the Committee reported that in review of current information, the Board was supportive of the Torres application. There was additional discussion about changes for next year's program year; Teresa Smith de Cherif expressed

the Committee would meet to review and plan for changes to next year's program including a period for application submittals.

- **Dan Goodman Committee:** Andrew presented for the Committee (AH, Jim Lane, and Joseph Moya) recommendations for the winners of the award. There were five applications received. The Committee recommended Jared Gonzales as 1<sup>st</sup> place awardee with \$500 award, Isaiah Abeita as 2<sup>nd</sup> place awardee, with \$200 award, and for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Paige Hunter with a \$100 award.

**Motion was made to accept the Dan Goodman Committee recommendations for the 2017 Awardees and award amounts as presented.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Richard Bonine 2<sup>nd</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif** No further discussion.  
**For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.**

- **Rio Abajo Conservation Area Committee:**

Vice Chair Smith de Cherif reported that presently there were no challenges from counsel for the NM Dept. of Game and Fish in finalizing the land division. Rather, to complete, the final details to be carried out included easements with the neighbors to be signed and changes to gates and locking for restricted access between parcels.

With regards to the Ott case, Mr. Ott was deposed and District Counsel Marks presented the deposition to the Committee for review. Also the Committee and District Manager were answering Ott's 2<sup>nd</sup> set of interrogatories.

**8) FY18 Preliminary Budget review, resolution (moved from Budget and Acctg.):**

Madeline Miller presented the Preliminary Budget for Board review noting the preliminary budget did include salary for Lindsey Hamilton to continue the E. Valencia Gardens Program but did not include the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program proposal for 4 water quality monitoring sites in the District. The Board discussed anticipated additions and changes to the budget not reflected in the preliminary budget for final budget approval.

**Motion was made to approve the Preliminary budget with amendments to the benefits for Johnny Chavez and Lindsey Hamilton; Johnny Chavez benefits addition if he elects to obtain, and to add Lindsey Hamilton's benefits which were not yet added.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger 2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Joseph Moya**  
**For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.**

Further discussion was had; Jeff Goebel discussed what he would like to see in presentation of the budget for Board review and requested a special budget meeting to review the final

budget prior to the June Regular meeting. The Board scheduled a special budget meeting for Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

**9) Adjournment**

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: P. Joseph Moya 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jeff Goebel**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

**Signatures:**



**Abel M. Camarena, Chair**

  
**Date**



**Jasmine G. Martinez, Administrative Assistant**

  
**Date**