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Conservation District

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**Board of Supervisors
July Monthly Meeting
July 15th, 2017 9:00 am
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: Administrative Assistant Jasmine Martinez, NMDA Specialist Katie Mechenbier, Friends of Whitfield President Mary Jo McBean, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba;

Absent: District Manager Madeline Miller, NRCS Soil Conservationist Pearl Armijo

Meeting Minutes

- 1) Call to Order:** Chairman Abel Camarena verified quorum and called meeting to order at 9:07 am. Request to defer action on the FY17 Year End Report & Resolution #1-2018 for approval. District Manager calling for a special meeting before the end of July to act upon this item. Remove discussion of environmental education portion from the Whitfield Committee as it is duplicated under New Business.

Motion was made to approve Agenda as amended.

1st: P. Joseph Moya 2nd: Jeff Goebel

No further discussion.

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

Motion carried.

- 2) Approval of June 16th and 17th, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve June 16th, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: P. Joseph Moya

No further discussion.

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

Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve June 17th, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: P. Joseph Moya

No further discussion.

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

Motion carried.

3) Special Business: Dan Goodman Soil & Water Conservation and Environmental Improvement Awardees 2017 presentation: Jared Gonzales was presented with his first place award of \$500 and Isaiah Abeita was presented with his second place award of \$200.

4) Reports

- **NRCS:** Pearl Armijo's written report was provided for Board review. Board discussed possible actions to be able to address the recent directive disallowing NRCS employees, such as Pearl, to attend meetings on Saturdays or outside "work hours". Board discussed communicating with individuals such as Xavier Montoya, State Conservationist, NMDA, SWCC, and State Senators about this issue.
- **NMDA:** Katie Mechenbier was absent but her written report was provided for Board review. NMDA FY17 Points worksheet was review by the Board.
- **Whitfield Manager Report:** Ted Hodoba discussed crop field progress, possible phenology monitoring opportunity for youth, and participation on the Rio Grande Trail Commission Resource Committee which is looking at the environmentally and culturally sensitive sites and areas.
- **Whitfield Education Report:** Jasmine Martinez presented the education report and the school year 2016-17 reports which will be presented to the Los Lunas and Belen School Boards in the coming month.
- **District Manager Report:** Madeline Miller was absent but her written report was provided for Board review. The Board was asked in the report to choose a date for a special meeting to motion on the FY17 Year End Report & Resolution #1-2018 before July 31st.

Motion was made to schedule the special meeting on Monday July 24th, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

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

- **E. Valencia Urban Gardens Program Report:** Lindsey Hamilton reported that the Conservation Fund grant was approved for \$17,500 which will fund two garden coordinators for 10 hours a week, these coordinators will be community members in order to transfer leadership to the community. Looking into Wal-Mart Giving Grant as a future funding opportunity, however, a 501c3 must accept any funds received. The Board discussed that the Friends of Whitfield can act as the fiscal agent to accept potential funding.
- **Rural Climate Policy:** Soils Health Resolution has undergone a couple of minor edits and is ready to go to the State level. Friday July 21st there is an HMI (Holistic Management Incorporated) ranch tour. Supervisor Jeff Goebel and Myrna Castro have been invited to a 'regenerative' agriculture assembly in Mexico City later this year.
- **Coordinated Weed Management Area:** Supervisor Bonine reported on their June 29th meeting with some potential partner agencies. Attending were Yasmeen Najmi with MRGCD, Jasmine Wilson with NRCS, a NMGF representative, Jim Wanstall with NMDA, and Newt McCarty, NMSU Cooperative Extension Agent. Supervisor Bonine recommended that

as lead agency in establishing a coordinated weed management area for the District, he thought VSWCD should wait until after capacity needs were addressed.

5) New Business

- **Richard Bonine, Oath of Office:** Supervisor Richard Bonine was sworn into office as appointed Seat 7.

- **Nomination of Associate Supervisors Jim Lane, Myrna Castro**

Motion to approve Jim Lane and Myrna Castro as VSWCD associate supervisors.

1st: Jeff Goebel 2nd: Richard Bonine, Jr. No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

- **Education position:** Mary Jo McBean reported on her meeting with Jennifer Owen White and Aryn LaBrake at Valle de Oro, which focused on sharing an employee with Whitfield. The preliminary concept was for VSWCD and Valle del Oro to fund and share the employee between the two facilities with Audubon NM providing supervisory oversight. The Board discussed the capacity of current Whitfield education program and if there needed to be a review of the program moving forward. Mary Jo McBean proposed that she, along with Molly Madden and Scot Pipkin meet with the Whitfield Committee to discuss the future of the program.

6) Regular Business

- **Budget & Accounting: 1) June 2017 Expenditures:** The Board reviewed June 2017 expenditures.

Motion was made to approve June 2017 expenditures.

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

- **FY2017 Year End Report & Resolution #1-2018 to approve:** Tabled until Special Meeting on July 24th, 2017.
- **Whitfield Committee: Environmental Education Program:** See "education position" under New Business; **NMDOT Entryway Compliance Contract Approval:** Ted Hodoba requested Board approval for contractor Desert Fox, LLC for completion of this project.

Motion was made to approve Desert Fox, LLC as the contractor for completion of the main entryway.

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

- **Financial Assistance Committee: 2018 Recommendations:** Board discussed determining a time frame for acceptance of 2018 applications. Decision was tabled for further discussion and decision on designating an application period to the August meeting.

