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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  
March Regular Meeting  
March 15th, 2019 6:00 pm  
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Education & Visitor Center  
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM**

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

**Others Attending:** District Manager Madeline Miller, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, Education Manager Allison Martin, Whitfield Friends Board Member Ron Goens, Michael Hamman MRGCD CEO, Glen Duggins, Chairman of MRGCD Board, and NMDA Program Specialist Katie Mechenbier, Dusty Ryan, Mike Mechenbier

**Meeting Minutes**

**1) Call to Order:** Chairman Abel Camarena verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

**Recommend by Madeline that we table the March 15th Agenda for item number 1, 2, 4 and second number 3. Madeline also would like to table the entire Personnel Committee section.**

**Motion was made to approve changes of Agenda.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger    2<sup>nd</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif**

**For: all      Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 1      Motion carried.**

**2) Approval of February 15th, 2019 meeting minutes:** The Board reviewed the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

**Motion was made to approve the February 15th, 2019 meeting minutes as written.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Teresa Smith de Cherif      2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Small      No further discussion.**

**For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 1      Motion carried.**

**3) Reports:** The written monthly NMDA, District Manager, Whitfield Manager, East Valencia Urban Gardens and Education manager Reports were provided for review before the meeting. **Friends**

**Update:** Ron announced the National and Regional Awards the Friends of Whitfield had received from USDA NRCS. Ron announced that on April 6<sup>th</sup> the Friends of Whitfield will have their annual meeting and invited all Board of Supervisors to attend.

*Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif took over for Abel at 6:38 pm as chair.*

**3) Special Business; New funding in Farm Bill 2018 is the** NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPOP). Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) CEO Mike Hamman met with the Board about preparing for this federal funding to address upland flooding events. It was noted that Senator Tom Udall as well NRCS State Conservationist Javier Montoya would like to see this funding go to the Middle Rio Grande Valley area and the MRGCD is focusing on Valencia County. Mr. Hamman proposed to partner and long-term plan with our district and Socorro SWCD in pursuing the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program funding. Further discussion included other funding initiatives being developed to help leverage funding for landowner participation in managing for flood control. MRGCD is coordinating a meeting planned for April and will keep the district informed. The Board supported moving forward with developing this partnership.

**4) New Business:**

- **Capital Outlay for Whitfield Visitor Center:** The Board discussed moving forward with a loan component for full funding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> building at Whitfield if capital outlay funding did come in. The Board supported the District Manager exploring the possibility.
- **Soil & Water Conservation Commission Water Quality Grant cycle for 2019:** The District Manager discussed two proposals she would like to submit for the SWCC Water Quality Grant Program 2019 funding.

**Motion to approve funding for Soil and Water Health Workshops.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jeff Goebel      2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Small      *No further discussion.*  
For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 2      *Motion carried.***

**Motion to approve submitting an SWCC proposal for a water quality study in collaboration with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) to be completed in fiscal year 2020.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger      2<sup>nd</sup>: Jeff Goebel      *No further discussion.*  
For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 2      *Motion carried.***

**5) Regular Business:**

- **Budget and Accounting:** Items 1, 2, and 4 were tabled. The Board discussed banking transfers for payment on the Rio Abajo demolition contract being completed.

**Motion to transfer \$20K from the United Banking money market account for the Rio Abajo Grant and pay the balance (~40K) due for the demolition project in progress thru the general fund to be reimbursed when balance of RACA grant for restoration is moved from the CD to the UB mm account when CD matures in April 2019.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jeff Goebel      2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya      *No further discussion.*  
For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 2      *Motion carried.***

- **East Valencia Urban Gardens Program:** Teresa Smith de Cherif briefed that Jason Marks did review the memorandum of agreement for the EVUGP community gardens and had recommended minor changes. The Board discussed whether or not to include potential transfer of deed of property beyond the District's first five year commitment and Jason did not think it necessary to include it at this time. The revised draft for the board for next meeting.
- **Mil Levy Committee Update:** Sue Small suggested that the Board think about going up for .75 mil increase. The Board discussed waiting to vote on amount of possible mil levy referendum until after signature of the Governor on HB407 expected to occur April 5<sup>th</sup>. HB407, 'the Election Law 50 Year Tune Up' includes changes that may affect the Board decision and action was tabled until the April meeting. The Board also reviewed the draft brochure developed by the committee. Teresa suggested that the prototype be used to create a first brochure about what the current mil levy brings to District communities. The committee asked for additional feedback from the Board.
- **Financial Assistance Program:** The committee presented changes and additional requests for 2019 financial assistance. The Board reviewed correction to the Sanchez-Bilal award, addition to the Feldbusch request, deferred practice on 2018 Brannan award and also reviewed the diagram and proposed work for the Martinez community application. The Board

**Motion to approve Sanchez and Bilal request of increase from \$8,376 to \$10,963**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jeff Goebel      2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya      *No further discussion.*  
For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 2      *Motion carried.***

The Board reviewed possible removal of award for native seed planting on Moya Farms but opted to keep award without changes; there was discussion that he may still do this planting.

**Motion to approve Feldbusch to provide an additional \$825 to his original approval amount of \$1100 to now make it a total of \$1,650**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Sue Small    2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger      *Discussion included that Mr. Feldbusch's revised land use plan includes keeping pollinator habitat around the perimeter of the entire property.*  
For: all    Against: 0      Abstain: 0      Absent: 2      *Motion carried.***

**Motion to approve Dan Brannan request of \$2060 for beehive installations.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Sue Small      2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph Moya  
Discussion was made by Jeff Goebel if the beehives would be benefitting the public.**

**For: 5    Against: Jeff Goebel    Abstain: 0    Absent: 2    Motion carried.**

Karen Martinez requested for \$5000 for retaining wall with amendments for preventing water runoff from property on west mesa bluff. Andrew Hautzinger commented that the work requested is not on the tenant's property. The vote was tabled until next meeting.

- **Whitfield Committee: Wildfire Management Plan:** Ted talked about Whitfield serving a public service and the plan that Rob Barr put together. "Fire Protection on Mil Levy"

**Motion to approve Johnny Chavez, staff member to be on Friends of Whitfield Board.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Andrew Hautzinger    2<sup>nd</sup>: Sue Small    No further discussion.**  
**For: all    Against: 0    Abstain: 0    Absent: 2    Motion carried.**

- **Rio Abajo Committee:** Teresa Smith de Cherif updated on RACA Unit that the divorce deed is finally resolved. She passed around the signed document to the attendees.
- **Announcements:** Sue Small presented the Southern New Mexico Wetlands Roundtable on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Las Cruces.
- **Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Jeff Goebel to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Sue Small seconded the motion, all were in favor, meeting adjourned.**

**Signatures:**

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**Abel Camarena, Chair**

**Date**

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**Madeline Miller, District Manager**

**Date**