



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

**Board of Supervisors
May Regular Meeting
May 17th, 2019 6:00 pm
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Education & Visitor Center
2424 Hwy 47, Belen, NM**

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

Others Attending: District Manager Madeline Miller, Education Manager Allison Martin, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, BEMP educators Kim Eichhorst and Liz Gallagher, Friends President Eileen Beaulieu, residents Eugene Pickett, Gail Goodman, and Valencia County Fair President Dan Goodson.

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order: Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Eileen Beaulieu, President of the Friends of Whitfield requested to give an update during the reports section.

Motion was made to approve the May 17th Agenda with omission of the Rio Abajo Committee update.

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

2) Approval of April 19th 2019 minutes: The Board reviewed and no changes were made.

Motion was made to approve the April 17th, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

**1st: Richard Bonine 2nd: Sue Small *No further discussion.*
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 *Motion carried.***

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

Friends of Whitfield Report: Friends President Eileen Beaulieu thanked the Board of Supervisors for the approval of Johnny Chavez onto the Friends of Whitfield Board. Johnny has volunteered to manage the Friends website. Eileen also mentioned the joining of Linda Fraser to their Board. They now have six Board members. Eileen commented on the May 11th meeting that they approved \$1,000.00 for the Teacher’s Summit. She also mentioned the importance of fundraisers and that the next one would be this coming Saturday, May 18th from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm. She concluded with the mention of a notice being sent out on June 29th for their upcoming annual Volunteer Appreciation Day.

Whitfield Manager Report: Ted Hodoba went over the conclusion of Master Naturalist Program for this year stating that four people had finished and earned their certificate. He mentioned The Stacey Unit fence has been replaced and a gate has been installed at the back of the property. Johnny Chavez is photographing and documenting what is going on in there weekly.

4)Special Business:

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program Annual Update: given by Kim Eichhornst, Co-Director of BEMP. Kim discussed a total 1200 student hours were recorded across all sites in the field collecting data this past year. Kim noted BEMP has a total of 34 sites now and data has been collected for over 22 years. The data looks at relationships and changes of ground water and plant species over time. Kim commented that Belen ground water is doing better than all of the Albuquerque sites where cottonweed top die off is occurring. Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif commented that information of what data the schools in Valencia County are contributing and on the BEMP website would be beneficial. Kim also provided an annual budget request for Valencia or VSWCD wide monitoring sites for FY2020 for \$21,914.

Motion was made to approve \$10,000.00 for the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program to match the funds distributed from last year.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Jeff Goebel Discussion was made that if the District could find additional funding for more than the proposed amount of \$10,000.00 the the District would revisit the total award for FY20.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

5)Regular Business:

Budget and Acctg. The Board reviewed the expenditures for April 2019. Madeline noted that the transfer from United Business Bank of \$60K to cover the Rio Abajo demolition contract

expenditures was not completed yet and thus the general fund reconciliation reviewed for April expenditures did not reflect that revenue.

Motion was made to approve the expenditures as detailed in the reconciliation report for April 2019.

1st: Richard Bonine 2nd: Sue Small Further discussion included requesting that the District Manager label the document as 'Expenditures Report' in the future.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

3) **Preliminary Budget 2020:** The District Manager opened that the Preliminary Budget was due to DFA by June 1st. She provided the proposed DFA Preliminary Budget, Unmet Needs Sheet for May 2019, and the Income Statement and Balance sheet through April 2019. Madeline noted that the internal Budget spreadsheet for 2019 and 2020 and correlating control sheet were not ready for the meeting. **The Board discussed whether or not there was enough information for review of the**

Motion was made to table unmet needs discussion and the proposed FY2020 Preliminary Budget and schedule a special meeting to meet the June 1st deadline.

1st: Richard Bonine 2nd: Sue Small The Board reviewed schedules and the District Manager would follow up on meeting either May 24th at 6 pm or May 25th at 9 am once a quorum is verified for either time.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

Personnel Committee Update:

Motion was made to postpone Personal Committee Recommendations related to the 2020 budget for review at the FY2020 Preliminary Budget Special Meeting.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Sue Small No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

Dan Goodman Award Committee Recommendations 1. Applications and Awards

Sue reported there were two applicants who turned in their applications, Elijah Trujillo from Los Lunas High School and Dakota Woodard from Valencia High School. A recommendation was made to select Dakota Woodard as 1st place awardee with award of \$500 and select Elijah Trujillo as 2nd place awardee with a \$250.00 award.

Motion was made to approve the recommendation of the Dan Goodman Award selection committee as presented.

1st: Richard Bonine 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger No further discussion.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

East Valencia Urban Gardens Program Update: 1) **The Memorandum of Agreement discussion was tabled for additional considerations.** 2) Shade structures built at both community centers which help volunteers and interns at the East Valencia Gardens was discussed. The Board discussed the County request for the District to provide some cost share for the shade structures which were completed for ~\$7500 each. Following discussion, the Board requested more information on previous discussions with the County before making a decision. Andrew recommended that the EVUGP Committee meet to discuss and bring needed information to the next regular Board meeting.

Mil Levy Committee Update: 1.) Sue Small updated that the Committee was still recommending pursuit of an increase of the mil levy by vote during the November 5th local election cycle on November 5th 2019. The Board discussed their reluctance to take action without knowing the result of the action on the existing mil levy. The Board was also presented a drafted mil levy ballot question.

Motion was made for the Mil Levy Committee to reach out to the other NM Soil and Water Conservation Districts that have existing mil levies and who may want to increase their levies pursuant to the new law (HB 407) in the next election cycle and send a letter to the New Mexico Attorney General requesting an opinion within 10 days to provide for unresolved matters including needed clarification on mil levies originally obtained with a sunset.

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

Motion was made for the Mil Levy Committee to prepare a resolution for the next Board meeting on moving to collect a one mil levy.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Sue Small Richard Bonine commented that he did not intend to vote regarding pursuing additional mil levy because he serves as representative for Laguna Pueblo and they are not taxed.

For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 1 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

2) The Board reviewed the updated postcard for outreach if pursuing an increase of mil levy in November. Sue recommended to take out "annual" on the second bullet on the updated card.

Financial Assistance Program Update: 1) The 2020 Program recommendations were not ready for review.

Motion was made to table 2020 Program changes until the next regular Board meeting.

1st: Richard Bonine 2nd: Sue Small No further discussion.
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 2 Motion carried.

2) Karen Shae Martinez application: Andrew updated that the committee was still developing proposed actions for this request and as referenced in the District Manager’s report, the committee was moving away from the proposed installation of walls.

Rio Abajo Committee Update: 1) Update on visioning, 2019 action plan items were tabled until the next regular meeting. 2) Andrew noted there has been no receipt of funds owed to VSWCD by Ott and that the court collection process has started. Teresa noted that the Court collects for their costs and legal in collection.

• Announcements, notices, comments:

- 1) Madeline mentioned she was working on soil health workshops for the upcoming year. There might not be enough time to have David Johnson revisit on composting this year. Richard recommended inquiring with Mid-west Labs for soil health testing and stated he would speak with his contact with Servi-Tech Labs as to any changes in their testing they may be considering to better measure soil health.
- 2) Richard Bonine discussed his attendance at the Local Work Group training and Farm Bill 2018 update; he did not think the updates for the Farm Bill were too informative. There was discussion about sending a letter to the State Conservationist requesting the State Technical Committee meet at least quarterly to adequately address their responsibility in providing recommendations to NRCS national headquarters and Farm Bill prioritizing. With resuscitation of the local work group process and engagement with the State Technical Committee, quarterly meetings would allow more relevant prioritizing at the national level.
- 3) Richard also mentioned in the ongoing process of removing cattle off some of Laguna rangelands allowing the land to rest, and with the rains, grasses are coming back. Richard also noted Tom Sidwell, President of the Cattleman Grower’s Association is speaking at the Laguna Pueblo with all livestock associations on May 28th about effective grazing management for optimal soil health and vegetative cover.

6) Adjournment

Motion was made by Richard Bonine to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Sue Small seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Signatures:

<i>Teresa Smith de Cherif, Vice-Chair</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Madeline Miller, District Manager</i>	<i>Date</i>