



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

**Board of Supervisors
April Regular Monthly Meeting
April 25th, 2020 9:00 am
By teleconference with livestream for public attendance**

Board of Supervisors Attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Andrew Hautzinger, Supervisor Richard Bonine, Supervisor Sue Small, Supervisor Joseph Moya, Supervisor Gail Goodman.

Others Attending: District Manager Madeline Miller, Education Manager Allison Martin, East Valencia Urban Gardens Coordinator Lindsey Diaz, Whitfield Manager Ted Hodoba, Lead Field Technician Johnny Chavez, NMDA Soil and Water Conservation Specialist Katie Mechenbier, NRCS Acting District Conservationist Team 2 Roxanne Moore, CPA Johnny Mangu, Soil Health Champion Kirsten Cuebas.

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order: Chair Abel Camarena verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

• **Approval of Agenda**

Kirsten Cuebas Soil Health Champion updates and travel requests would be presented after Public Comments.

Motion was made to approve the agenda as amended.

1st: Joseph Moya 2nd: Teresa Smith de Cherif No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger- Yes, Joseph Moya -Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Richard Bonine -Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.

Motion carried.

• **Approval of February 15th, 2020 Minutes:**

Motion was made to approve the February 15th, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Andrew Hautzinger No further discussion.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.

Motion carried.

- **Public Comments Received:** Public comments from County Commissioner Gerard Saiz, residents Vicki Husbands, and Newt (Jasper) McCarty were read by the District Manager as submitted. All expressed an interest in the Rio Abajo Conservation Area to include an archery park.

- **Budget & Accounting item (agenda change):** Soil Health Champion Presenter Kirsten Couevas spoke with the Board about her attendance at the NACD Annual Conference in February. Kirsten expressed interest in working with the District by offering future soil health workshops with a focus on regenerative farming. Madeline discussed the total request for Kirsten's reimbursement travel to the NACD Conference in February was \$330.87. Discussion was made to support this request as a small farm initiative in the county.

Motion to cover the cost of travel at \$330.87 for Kirsten Couevas and to support the initiative of her leading soil health workshops proposed for small farmers in our area.

**1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Sue Small *No further discussion.*
For: all Against: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0
Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.
Motion carried.**

- **Special Guest: Assurance Accounting FY2019: Agreed Upon Procedures Report Presented by Johnny Mangu.**

Mr. Mangu presented his report for the 2019 Agreed Upon Procedures approved and released by the State Auditor's Office. In reviewing findings, Mr. Mangu noted no findings were 'material' but with these attestations (not full audits) materiality is not factored in. One of the findings was the mileage rate being out of alignment with DFA's 80% rule (previous Board resolution to correct previous year finding) when the rates changed during the year, he recommended the mileage rate could be a set rate determined by the Board that is less than the last year IRS rate which would prevent repeat findings on the matter (the rate was more and less than the DFA 80% rate during the year. Mr. Mangu also noted that he was able by law to contract for one more audit year (his sixth year) then the District would need to hire another auditor. He encouraged to start the audit as early as July to not miss the December deadline for submittal. Action item: District Manager and Treasurer will provide corrective procedures and policies to Board for findings at the May meeting.

2) Regular Business:

- **Memorandum of Agreement with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-annual review.** Board reviewed the standing Memorandum of Agreement with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). There was discussion about changes and to plan for a more thorough review at the next local work group meeting. The current version could be approved in the interim. Richard specified that NRCS has in the past provided details through mapping of where conservation practices are occurring. During a local work group session with

NRCS, he thought this mapping helpful in collaborative planning for conservation delivery to the greatest extent possible.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as written, and to plan for discussion of changes at the next local work group meeting.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.

Motion carried.

• **Land Use Plan Committee Update:**

1) Rio Grande Partnerships; Rio Grande Basin Study MOA, National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Rio Grande Basin study, Isleta Reach Stewardship Association (IRSA) membership Andrew discussed with the Board the opportunity to be a signatory on the Rio Grande Basin Study Memorandum of Agreement which is a Department of Interior and Bureau of Reclamation initiated WaterSmart funded program noting there was no cost or funding commitment in being a signatory though with engagement with the network community an opportunity to collaborate on important watershed scale projects in the future.

Motion was made to support becoming a signatory on the Rio Grande Basin Study Memorandum of Agreement.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

National Academy of Science Basin Reservoirs Study is looking specifically at evapotranspiration rates of reservoirs in the Middle Rio Grande reach to consider storage at higher elevations (Cochiti Lake to Elephant Butte) resulting in putting forward what could be an operational change on how we can best manage the water in the basin. The District's partnership initially is to support this important research of water conservation in the reach.

Motion to support the National Academy of Science Basin Study by becoming a partner for the study.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

Meeting with Pattern Energy regarding RETA/Western Spirit Transmission line project, letter. The Committee reported back (written report distributed) to the Board on their inquiries and meeting with Pattern Energy about the Western Spirit Transmission line already under development. The Board discussed their standing with regard to the project, and the lateness in reviewing community impacts in the southern portion of the District. Gail commented she knew the project could not be stopped but the lines could be buried where posing risks. The Committee recommended that the District send a letter to RETA and Pattern Energy which would express their concerns regarding unresolved issues with community members adversely impacted by the line and encourage open and honest dialogues with the public. Andrew would prepare the letter for Board consideration at the May meeting.

- **Budget and Accounting:**

1) February and March expenditures. The Board reviewed the February and March 2020 expenditures.

Motion was made to accept the reconciliations of expenditures for the month of March 2020.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made to accept the Wells Fargo bank reconciliation of expenditures for the month of February 2020.

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

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

2) Capital Outlay updates: An additional \$75,000.00 of capital outlay was received through the State legislator 2020 session for Phase II Building at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. The total amount received is now \$175,000.00. The Board discussed exploring a low interest loan with the NM Finance Authority. Abel stated the Whitfield would bring a proposal for this at a future Board meeting.

3) Whitfield equipment needs:

The Board reviewed the tractor, stair well and mower equipment needs. The Board discussed possible less expensive options for purchase of a new tractor. Richard offered to assist with reviewing options. Gail Goodman was asked and agreed to assist with further review. Also considered were the need for the stairwell for the second floor completed in the maintenance building, and replacement of an electric mower for conservation area maintenance (stolen in June 2018). The tractor purchase was tabled until the next meeting. It was noted funding to replace tractor tires for the present tractor was previously approved by the Board. These tires were not yet purchased, and the mower and stairwell were recommended to be purchased with those funds instead for more immediate maintenance needs.

Motion was made to approve the cost of \$700.00 for a stairwell and \$815.00 for a field mower not to exceed \$2,000.00 total to include shipping.

1st: Andrew Hautzinger 2nd: Sue Small No further discussion.
For: 6 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- No, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small- Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

- **Personnel Committee:** Abel provided a written proposal of staff reorganization options following committee consideration of budget cuts needed start of the new fiscal year. There were two proposed reconfigurations of staff based on departure of the Whitfield Manager end of May and the District Manager likely end of June or soon after.

Motion to approve Option A for staff transitions starting end of this fiscal year and for the full next fiscal year.

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Richard Bonine No further discussion.
For: 6 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- No, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee planned to further refine staff reorganization using the proposed 'Option A' implementation for presentation to the Board at the May meeting.

- **Whitfield Committee:** The Whitfield Complex Comprehensive Management Plan draft was presented to the Board by Ted Hodoba. Some discussion was a response to the public comments proposing an archery park be considered and included in the plan for the Rio Abajo Conservation Area unit. Additionally, the Board discussed how the Plan, a living document, will be reviewed and revised into the future. Richard suggested the plan could include standard operating procedures (SOPs). Andrew asked the Board to provide comments to Ted for any possible changes before requesting their approval of final draft at the May meeting. The Board also considered options for public review and input on the Plan.

Motion to accept the interim draft of the Whitfield Complex Comprehensive Management Plan Draft as presented. (Note: Version 4 distributed to the Board by Andrew Hautzinger April 11th)

1st: Teresa Smith de Cherif 2nd: Richard Bonine No further discussion.

For: 6 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- No, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.

Motion carried.

• Letter to Editor March 12th, 2020 from Supervisor Gail Goodman.

The Board reviewed Supervisor Goodman’s Letter to the Editor in the Valencia County News Bulletin published on March 12th. There was discussion about the comments in the letter relating to committee work of public Boards and if Supervisor Goodman was speaking about the Valencia SWCD Board committees.

• Supervisor Round Robin:

-Teresa asked that everyone stay safe and continue with social distancing during this time.

-NMDA Conservation Specialist Katie Mechenbier mentioned to have the mill levy resolution for collection next year sent to the Soil & Water Commission for their meeting in June.

-Sue Small noted she is participating as a judge for the New Mexico Envirothon this year which is being held remotely due to COVID19 restrictions in place.

3) Adjournment

Motion was made by Richard Bonine at 1:05 pm to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Smith de Cherif seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Andrew Hautzinger-Yes, Joseph Moya- Yes, Teresa Smith de Cherif-Yes, Gail Goodman- Yes, Richard Bonine-Yes, Sue Small-Yes, Abel Camarena-Yes.

Motion carried.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair

Date

Madeline Miller, District Manager

Date