



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

Board of Supervisors Monthly Regular Meeting

February 20, 2021 9:00 am-Noon

Conducted Remotely via Microsoft Teams Video/Teleconference

Board of Supervisors Attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Supervisor Richard Bonine, Supervisor Sue Small, Supervisor Gail Goodman and (nominated) Supervisor Duana Draskiewicz. **Others Attending:** Business Manager Amanda Carrasco, Lead Field Technician Johnny Chavez and District Director Andrew Hautzinger, as well as Katie Mechenbier (NMDA SWCD Liaison), Linda Fraser (Friends of Whitfield) and several other unidentified conference call participants. Notes: A few minutes before the start of the meeting, Supervisor Goodman informed the group that her phone was not working and she would travel to the Whitfield Office for the meeting. As the meeting start time had arrived, and there were enough Supervisors to form a quorum (no less than four), Chair Camarena decided to continue the meeting. Then, at approximately 9:15 AM, Duana Draskiewicz's computer went down, and she informed the Board that she too would travel to the Whitfield Office to participate in the meeting. Both Gail and Duana arrived at Whitfield at about 9:30 AM with the meeting in progress

- **Call to Order:** Chair Abel Camarena verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.
- **Agenda:** Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to approve the agenda as presented; Richard Bonine provided the second. A roll call vote was conducted, with all present (i.e., Camarena, Smith de Cherif, Moya, Bonine and Small) voting yes; the motion carried.
- **Minutes:** Richard Bonine moved to approve the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes as presented; Teresa Smith de Cherif seconded. Roll call vote was conducted, all present (i.e., Camarena, Smith de Cherif, Moya, Bonine and Small) voted yes—motion carried. For the Special Meeting on January 28th, 2021 Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to approve the January 28th, 2021 meeting minutes as presented; Richard Bonine second. A roll call vote was conducted, with all present (i.e., Camarena, Smith de Cherif, Moya, Bonine and Small) voting yes; the motion carried.

Public Comments: Two public comments were received by meeting time (at public-input@valenciaswcd.org). At the request of the Chair, Andrew Hautzinger read the comments that contained names and addresses. Belen City Manager Andrew Salas made a public comment advocating that the City of Belen and the District work collaboratively as regards reopening the Willie Chavez Park (more discussion in March on this topic). Second comment was read from Dr. Geri Rhodes, expressing her support of the Valencia SWCD ¼ mil levy and, relatedly, her opposition to recently tabled piece of legislation brought forward by Sen. Greg Baca entitled Senate Bill 332.

District Staff Activities: Andrew Hautzinger provided a brief overview of staff activities over the last month (largely summarizing the staff reports included in the Board Meeting packets), including the District's continuing efforts to operate safely in compliance with Covid-19 NMDOH guidance as we staff Whitfield,

and as we consider options regarding reopening the Whitfield grounds to the public. The Board supported putting District staff reports on the website

- **Committee VSWCD Assignments:** The Board discussed changes to a few committee assignments. Sue Small requested to vacate her position on the Land Use Committee, while it was agreed to add Gail Goodman and Duana Draskiewicz (Richard would continue to Chair the LUP Committee). Sue Small requested to be appointed to the Whitfield Complex Committee. Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to accept the modifications for the committee assignments; Sue Small seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, with all present (i.e., Camarena, Smith de Cherif, Moya, Bonine and Small) voting yes; the motion carried.
- **Reopening WWCA grounds:** To reopen Whitfield hours being Thurs-Saturday 8:30 to 4:30 with all of the COVID-19 precautions as agreed upon previously. Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to reopen the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. Sue Small seconded the motion. A unanimous and positive roll call vote was conducted and the motion carried (Goodman was present for this vote).
- **Oath of Office:** Duana Draskiewicz took her oath of office to fulfill the remaining time in Seat #2's four-year term (that started 1-1-2021). The form was signed by Duana Draskiewicz and witnessed by supervisors Joseph Moya and Gail Goodman (and will be recorded in the County Clerk's Office).
- **Budget & Accounting:** The monthly financial report for period ending December 31, 2020 was reviewed and discussed. Richard Bonine moved to approve the December 2020 reconciliation; Sue Small seconded. Roll Call vote was conducted, all voted yes, the motion passed. The monthly financial report for period ending January 31, 2021 was reviewed. Richard Bonine moved to accept the 1-31-2021 reconciliation, which was seconded by Teresa Smith de Cherif. A roll call vote was conducted and all voted yes; the motion carried. While the mid-year budget reports reviewed by the Board on 28JAN21 were accepted by DFA, Business Manager, Amanda Carrasco and CPA, Chris Fogel need to reconfigure the reports that are submitted to DFA to utilize new document formats supplied by DFA.
- **Board Support of extending NACD EVUGP grant to 12/31/2021 from 6/30/21:** Presented by Lindsey Diaz to extend the dates. Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to approve the extension. Sue Small seconded and a roll call vote was conducted and all seven board supervisors voted yes; motion carried.
- **Board support for District request to VCC for \$15K to fund EVUGP Garden Keepers:** Presented by Lindsey Diaz. Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to support this action; Sue Small seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and all seven board supervisors voted yes except Goodman who abstained; motion carried by quorum majority.
- **Board support for applying to USDA Community Food Project Grant (with YDI):** Presented by Lindsey Diaz to apply for a grant in helping fund the District's urban garden initiatives. Richard Bonine moved to support pursuing this grant and Teresa Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted and all seven board supervisors voted yes; the motion carried.
- **Niagara Bottling Company:** Presented by Duana Draskiewicz, Niagara Bottling Company requested more water, they have since retracted their request apparently due to public expressions of concern (e.g., via the citizen group Valencia Water Watchers). Board reached consensus this is an appropriate matter for the District to be involved in, and related work on this or similar topics (e.g., Facebook is also looking to doubling their water uses in Los Lunas) will go through the Land Use Plan Committee.

- **VSWCD Strategic Planning Operational Buckets:** District Director, Andrew Hautzinger presented the Operational Buckets that the staff proposed be used to further organize the District’s work and in supporting planning efforts to help determine and communicate the District’s priorities. Andrew and staff are organizing an outreach meeting with members of the community as an invite only meeting. Richard Bonine, Teresa de Charif and Duana Draskiewicz commented positively on the staff’s efforts. Chair Abel Camarena agreed and told District Director Andrew Hautzinger that the efforts are in strong alignment with the District’s Mil Levy Funding Plan, and will serve to support annual and out-year planning efforts.

- **Supervisor Round Robin:** Richard Bonine stated that the Laguna Pueblo worked closely with the NRCS to clear cactus; he also attended a great talk by Jorge Hernandez ((NM Association of Range Management) and thinks we should have a similar talk at Whitfield, and look for WWCA to host the association 2022 national meeting (being held in ABQ). Board discussed tribal collaboration opportunities, both with Laguna and Isleta pueblos. Gail Goodman and Sue Small attended the 2-17-21 Valencia County Commissioner meeting and heard Lindsey’s presentation on EVUGP (Gail: “Very informative”), and watched the four quality Permaculture educational videos Lindsey recently finalized per the NACD Permaculture Grant.

- **Adjournment:** Teresa Smith de Cherif moved that the meeting be adjourned; Richard Bonine seconded. Roll call vote was conducted with all seven board supervisors voting yes; the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 pm.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair _____

Date _____

Andrew Hautzinger, District Director _____

Date _____