



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

VSWCD Board of Supervisor Monthly meeting April 17, 2021 Conducted Remotely via Microsoft Teams

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 Supervisor Duana Draszkiwicz.

Others Attending: Business Manager Amanda Carrasco, Lead Field Technician Johnny Chavez and District Director Andrew Hautzinger, **SPECIAL GUEST:** Mike Hamman (MRGCD CEO), additionally Gabriella Coughlin (NRCS Albuquerque), Katie Mechenbier (NMDA SWCD liaison), Marty Moore (Rio Communities City Manager), local farmer Kristen Couevas and several other unidentified conference call participants.

- ◆ **Call to Order:** Chair Abel Camarena verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:06 am
- ◆ **Agenda Review:** As there was no Land Use Committee meeting per Committee Chair Supervisor Richard Bonine this item can be struck from the meeting-agenda. **Minutes:** Vice-Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif moved to accept the removal from the agenda of the Land Use Committee report, and to table the March 20, 2021 minutes awaiting further corrections. Supervisor Sue Small seconded the motion. A unanimous roll call vote was conducted and motion carried.
- ◆ **Public Comments:** No public comments were received by the meeting time (at public-input@valenciaswcd.org). Smith de Cherif mentioned a nice letter "Whitfield is a gem" in the News-Bulletin on April 15 by Linda Zaragosa (who serves on the Friends of Whitfield Board).
- ◆ **District Staff Activities:** Director Andrew Hautzinger provided a brief overview of staff activities over the last month (largely summarizing the staff reports included in the Board meeting attachments.) Review of educational programs and our many upcoming April 30-May3 events (e.g., Earth Day/Science Fiesta Event, City Nature Challenge and Friends of Whitfield Silent Auction). Johnny Chavez and Hautzinger are working to use a cloud server to store the meeting documents. County Commissioner Troy Richardson agreed to sponsor the District Director to be on the April 21st, 2021 agenda of the Valencia County Commission to request funding support of the East Valencia Urban Gardens Program. Thank you to supervisors Joseph Moya, Smith de Cherif & Small with their efforts in working with Richardson.
- ◆ **Partnering for Soil Health:** Gabriella Coughlin (NRCS, Albuquerque) presented information regarding soil health partnerships and possible Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) through NRCS. The Board expressed unanimous verbal support for the ideas Coughlin brought forward.
- ◆ **Special Guest: MRGCD's CEO Mike Hamman:** Mike Hamman presented information on the drought situation, the declining levels of available water, a 96,000 acre-foot waters of the Rio Grande debt NM owes to Texas, and MRGCD's 2/22/2-21 letter to MRG irrigators regarding the dry conditions. Hamman offered to help VSWCD in improving our measurement and management of water at WWCA.
- ◆ **Budget & Accounting:**

- Board Treasurer Moya presented the monthly **Bank Reconciliation** through for March, 2021. Bonine moved to accept the Bank Reconciliation. Smith de Cherif seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and all voted yes, except for Supervisor Gail Goodman who abstained. The motion carried on a quorum basis.
- The **FY21 3rd Quarter Budget** report was presented by Moya. After review, Moya moved to accept the FY21 3rd Quarter Budget report; Smith de Cherif seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and all voted yes, except for Goodman who abstained. The motion carried on a quorum basis.
- **Pass Annual Mil Levy Rate Resolution (#7-2021):** Smith de Cherif moved to accept Resolution #7-2021, which was seconded by Small. A roll call vote was conducted, and all voted yes, except for Goodman who abstained. The motion carried on a quorum basis.
- **Board Meeting Stipends:** Hautzinger received input from board members who were all in favor of changing the stipend amount except for Goodman, who preferred the status quo. Smith de Cherif moved that for the remainder of the calendar year we have a \$50 stipend (or mileage) for board meetings and no stipends (nor mileage) for committee meetings. Small seconded the motion; a unanimous roll call vote was conducted and the motion carried.
- **Selection of Auditor James Hartogensis:** Hautzinger and Business Manager Amanda Carrasco interviewed a potential new Auditor, James Hartogensis, whose credentials were presented to the Board. Smith de Cherif moved to accept James Hartogensis as our District’s new Auditor. Bonine second the motion. A roll call vote was conducted, and all voted yes, except for Goodman who voted no. The motion carried on a quorum basis.
- **Resolution#8-2021:** Hautzinger proposed the Board consider granting authority to the District Director to apply for grant opportunities. The Board reviewed the draft resolution and was generally supportive. The Board directed Hautzinger to clean up the draft resolution and bring it back to the Board in May.
- ◆ **Memorializing Dale Jones:** Camarena and Hautzinger are putting together a letter for the Jones family and will ask members of the Board to add their input.
- ◆ **VSWCD Outreach Efforts:** Hautzinger and District Educator Allison Martin will plan to bring updated information on the District’s outreach efforts by the May meeting.
- ◆ **Updates/Partners Reports/Correspondence/other:** NMDA April-2021 Report (Katie Mechenbier)—Reminder that DFA Preliminary FY22 Budget is due in May and that SWCD elections are coming up in November.
- ◆ **Supervisor Round Robin:** Supervisor Round Robin: Small, Draszkievicz and Goodman attended Valencia County Commissioner meetings during the preceding month, including one on the county’s Comprehensive Plan. Goodman and Small both attended webinars re: the Southern and Northern NM Wetlands. Smith de Cherif provide background expertise at a Minnesota trail related to the Say His Name George Floyd proceedings
- ◆ **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:09 per motion put forward by Smith de Cherif motioned with Bonine’s second. A unanimous roll call vote was conducted and the motion carried.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, *Chair*

Date

Andrew Hautzinger, *District Director*

Date