



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

**Board of Supervisor Regular Monthly Meeting  
September 18, 2021  
Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Board of Supervisors attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Richard Bonine, Sue Small, Gail Goodman, and Duana Draszkievicz. District Staff attending: Business Manager Amanda Carrasco, Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez, and District Director Andrew Hautzinger. Other attendees: Friends of Whitfield board member Linda Fraser, NMDA's SWCD Specialist Katie Mechenbier, and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's (MRGCD) agronomist, Gabriella Coughlin.

**Call to order:** Chair Abel Camarena verified quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

- 1) **Agenda Review and Approval:** Supervisor Bonine moved to accept the agenda; Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Small-yes; Moya-yes, Bonine-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **August Meeting Minutes:** Supervisor Smith de Cherif moved to accept the August 21, 2021 meeting minutes; Supervisor Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Public Comments:** No public comments were received.
- 4) **Staff Monthly Reports:** District Director Hautzinger presented a summary of the monthly reports from staff. The full reports are available on our website and will be attached to these meeting minutes.


A highlight of the month was Andrew and Amanda's visit with the Rick Chavez of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) who indicated, "Your books look strong from my review, and from DFA's perspective, everything is in good order." Andrew also noted the satisfaction in observing the professional growth of our District staff. Andrew and Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez reported that Whitfield's Rio Abajo (RACA) unit had been vandalized, again. Andrew filed a police report, is researching a possible insurance claim, and will investigate Bonine's suggestion that we install surveillance cameras. Andrew requested that a Whitfield Conservation Complex committee be convened to chart long-range needs at RACA. Andrew reported that he and Supervisors Smith de Cherif, Small, and Draszkievicz attended newly elected Member of the U.S. Congress, Melanie Stansbury's listening tour at the Meadow Lake Community Center on 9/7/2021 to apprise her of our District's work and to invite her to tour our Community Gardens and Whitfield.

- 5) **Soil Conversations by Gabriella Coughlin (MRGCD):** Gabby thanked our District for being the first to welcome her when she began work at NRCS. She requested that our District participate in helping MRGCD develop its conservation program for soil and water. She noted that MRGCD is having to plan for both drought and monsoon flooding. She indicated the MRGCD's ON FARM Program

funding application is due September 30<sup>th</sup>. Gabby also plans to establish a Middle Rio Grande Soil Health Network among the four local Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

- 6) **VSWCD Annual Report:** Andrew submitted the report to NMDA. Supervisor Smith de Cherif will assist with final edits, including adding page numbers. Supervisor Bonine also suggested creating a compendium of the District's videos.
- 7) **EVUGP Committee Reorganization:** Committee Chair Smith de Cherif requested the nomination of Supervisor Draszkievicz to the Committee and updating its charter (and all committee charters) to include participation of resource advisors (as needed); notation that committee meetings are work groups closed to the public; and reminder that committees should work toward recommendations by consensus to the full board. Bonine moved to add Supervisor Draszkievicz to the EVUGP committee and to amend all committee charters as discussed; Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-abstain; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 8) **Land Use Committee Update:** Committee Chair Bonine reported the committee met on September 10<sup>th</sup>, will convene again in October, and hopes to finish its Land Use Report by the end of December.
- 9) **Education Programs:** Andrew reported that Education Manager Allison Martin will send the Board information about Outdoor Learning Week (September 27--October 1) and about Outdoor Learning Day at Whitfield on October 2, from 11:00 to 1:00.
- 10) **Budget & Accounting: Month of August 2021 expenditures review and approval:** Bonine moved to accept the August 2021 reconciliation summary; Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously. **The DFA Approval of FY21 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report and FY22 Final Proposed Budget:** Hautzinger noted that these reports will be available on the District's website.
- 11) **Reports from Cooperating Agencies:** NMDA's Katie Mechenbier reported that NMDA accepted the District's Annual Report. She requested that the Board help inform the public about NMDA's new funding program for farmers and ranchers to hire and train interns. The NM mask mandate is extended through October. Andrew reported that he and Johnny will take the on-line course noted in Katie's report, Adaptive Planning and Practices.
- 12) **Adjournment:** Smith de Cherif moved to adjourn; Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Small-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously; the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

**Signatures:**

  
Abel M Camarena (Oct 19, 2021 09:27 MDT)

10-16-21

**Abel Camarena, Chair**

**Date**

  
Andrew Hautzinger, District Director

**Date**

10-16-21






# 18Sept2021 VSWCD Board MtgMinutes

Final Audit Report

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