

COMMISSIONERS  
Steve Glass, Region I  
Ross Garcia, Jr., Region II  
Jennie Bierner, Region III  
Boe Lopez, Region IV  
Clint Harden, Region V  
Eddie Vigil, Region VI  
Cyle Sharp, At-Large

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**New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting**  
**Via teleconference (per COVID-19 restrictions)**  
**October 12, 2020**  
**9:00 am**  
**Minutes**

Due to new SWCC appointments, the chair and vicechair positions were vacant. Jeff Witte, Director/Secretary of Agriculture, led the meeting until the officers were selected.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: All commissioners were present-see roll call.
2. Welcome and Introductions (Jeff Witte)
3. Chair and Vice Chair Selection: After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to make Commissioner Vigil the SWCC chair. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.  
After discussion, Commissioner Sharp moved to make commissioner Glass the SWCC vice chair. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.
4. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lopez seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (06/30/2020): Commissioner Glass moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.

**New Business**

6. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
7. Open Meetings Act during COVID-19 memo from Jeff Witte: Secretary Witte presented the memo to the SWCC.
8. SWCC Commissioner Training Presentation (NMDA): NMDA personnel presented the SWCC training.

Commissioner Garcia had to leave the meeting at this point.

9. Open Meetings Resolution FY21: Commissioner Bierner moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
10. Appointed Supervisors
  - Valencia: Sue Small (6), Richard Bonine (7)Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the supervisors. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
11. Water Quality Control Commission Designee Appointment: Commissioner Bierner moved to keep Howard Hutchinson as the designee. Commissioner Harden seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
12. SWCC Delegate To New Mexico Mining Commission and The Coal Surface Mining Commission: Chair Vigil moved to appoint Dusty Hunt as the delegate to both commissions. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
13. Water Quality & Conservation (WQ&C) FY21 Grant RFP Approval: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the RFP. Commissioner Harden seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
14. WQ&C FY20 grant funding for Roosevelt refused: Because of the restriction that prevented Roosevelt from selling the shade balls for a profit-which is used to further fund the shade ball program-they refused the WQ&C award. After discussion, Commissioner Sharp moved to remove the profit restriction from the award. Chair Vigil seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
15. Point System Worksheet FY21 (NMDA): Due to COVID-19 restrictions on SWCD programs and events, the FY20 SWCD operations funding was evenly distributed among the 47 districts as long as the first 5 items on the point system worksheet were completed, as required by law. After discussion, Chair Vigil moved to evenly distribute the FY21 funding as was done for FY20. Commissioner Glass offered a friendly amendment that the SWCDs should also submit the point system worksheet. Commissioner Harden also suggested to penalize any SWCDs that don't submit the worksheet. Chair Vigil accepted the amendments. Commissioner Glass seconded the amended motion and it passed-see roll call vote.

## **Old Business**

16. Update on Zoning Lawsuit Appeal: Julie Maitland (NMDA) apprised the SWCC of the zoning lawsuit and judgement against the SWCC and the pending appeal.
17. Potential Executive Session Pursuant to Section 10-15-1-H NMSA of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act for Zoning Lawsuit Appeal: no need for executive session.

## **Reports/Verbal Highlights (5 min. each; written reports required 72 hours in advance)**

18. Commissioners: Commissioner Glass reported Cuba had a local workgroup meeting and Ciudad, Valencia and Coronado had a combined local workgroup meeting; a collaboration among Valencia, Ciudad, and Dona Ana on a watershed master conservationist program; Valencia has a new district manager, Andrew Hautzinger; Coronado is trying to reconstitute the defunct Rio Puerco management coalition (RPMC) as a new coalition to continue the work of the former RPMC; San Juan has a buy fresh but local program to encourage local agriculture across the region.  
Commissioner Bierner reported there were many programs with schools that have been on hold due to COVID-19; Sierra has been very busy with various projects.  
Commissioner Lopez reported Colfax just had a local workgroup meeting;  
Commissioner Harden reported Central Curry has been involved with a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration grant to Canon Air Force Base, and programs to help with the Ogalala-many people have no water. Commissioner Harden asked who protected the SWCC and the individuals is sued. Patricia Depner (NMDA) stated the NM Attorney General represents the SWCC. Secretary Witte stated the SWCC is an agency of the state and the state will protect the commissioners if there's no negligence.  
Commissioner Vigil had no report at this time.  
Commissioner Sharp had no report at this time.
19. Governor's Office: Secretary Witte had no report at this time.
20. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Julie Maitland updated the SWCC on the HSP program.
21. Natural Resources Conservation Service: n/a
22. Forest Service: n/a
23. Farm Service Agency: n/a
24. New Mexico Environment Department: n/a

25. Water Quality Control Commission: n/a
26. National Association of Conservation Districts: n/a
27. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: n/a
28. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts: n/a
29. NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences: n/a
30. New Mexico Conservation District Employees: n/a
31. Next Meeting: Commissioner Sharp moved to have the next meeting when needed. Chair Vigil seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
32. Adjourn: Commissioner Sharp moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.