

New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2017
8:00am
Sagebrush Inn
1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur
Taos, NM
Final Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Norris and Estrada were absent. All other Commissioners were present.
2. Approval of Agenda: Chairman Hunt asked if public comment should be allowed at the beginning of the meeting instead of at the end. After discussion, the issue will be put on the next SWCC meeting agenda. Commissioner Sanchez moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Varela Lòpez seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all commissioners present.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (06/15/2017): Commissioner Glass moved to approve the 06/15/2017 minutes. Commissioner Varela Lòpez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.

New Business

4. Open Meetings Resolution: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the open meetings resolution. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.
5. Appointed Supervisor Approval
 - Chaves: A. Dunn (6), J. Barraza (7)
 - Santa Fe-Pojoaque: C. Green (6)Commissioner Glass moved to approve the appointed supervisors. Commissioner Varela Lòpez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.
6. WQ&C FY18 reallocation of returned funds approval: Patricia Depner (New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)) stated the Tierra y Montes SWCD received funding from other sources to fund their project so have returned the WQ&C grant award. After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to award the returned funds to Hidalgo SWCD. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.

7. WQ&C grant RFP approval: Ms. Depner presented the FY18 WQ&C grant RFP. As there were no changes from the previous RFP, no action was needed.

8. Boundary modification approval

- Hidalgo/Grant

Commissioner Varela Lòpez moved to approve the boundary modification. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.

9. Boundary legal description consolidation and map approval

- Socorro
- Western Mora
- Taos
- Northeastern
- San Juan
- Santa Fe-Pojoaque
- Tierra y Montes
- Valencia
- Salado
- McKinley
- Lava
- San Francisco
- Mesa
- Ute Creek
- Border
- Claunch-Pinto
- Canadian River

Commissioner Varela Lòpez moved to approve the boundary description consolidation. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.

Old Business

10. Region 3 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Forest Service update: Commissioner Sanchez gave a status update on the MOA with the Forest Service. Commissioner Sanchez will continue to work on getting an MOA in place.

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

11. Commissioners:

Commissioner Glass: Conservation efforts continue in Region 1. Lava had a good annual meeting, and is getting up to speed on their audits. Valencia is planning a soil health and new farming techniques workshop next month in Belen. Valencia, San Juan, and Ciudad received an urban conservation grant and will be collaborating to deliver urban agricultural conservation across the region. Ciudad district coordinator, Jennifer Moss, resigned in September and the search for a replacement is continuing. Supervisor Donald Rudy also resigned and was replaced by Mary Young. Coronado is conducting the annual review of the Piedra Lisa dam, as well as continuing to do good work in the Bernalillo area.

Chairman Hunt: The Upper Gila Watershed district, under the Grant SWCD, was sued as it was contended the 1985 boundary modification was illegally done. The district judge has ruled the boundary expansion essentially followed the Watershed District Act. Thousands of acres of mesquite are being sprayed in Region 3 coordinated by the Sierra SWCD.

Commissioner Varela Lòpez: All SWCDs in region 2 have had or are soon to have their annual meetings. The SWCDs in the region have expanded partnerships with federal and state entities.

Commissioner Sanchez: Participated in the grand opening of the new Taos SWCD building. This is a state-of-the-art building highlighting conservation techniques. Commissioner also attended the Taos SWCD annual meeting.

12. Governor's Office: N/A

13. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Ms. Depner gave an update on the Inundation Map and Emergency Action Plan project.

14. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Adrian Tafoya gave a report.

15. Farm Service Agency (FSA): N/A

16. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED): N/A

17. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC): Howard Hutchinson gave a report.

18. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD): Brent Van Dyke (NACD) gave a report.
19. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD): Jim Berlier (NMACD) gave a report.
20. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD): Commissioner Varela Lòpez (NMCCD) gave a report.
21. NMSU College of Agriculture: N/A
22. New Mexico Conservation District Employees (NMCDE): Melissa May (NMCDE) gave a report.
23. Public Comment: None
24. Next Meeting: TBA
At 9:30 am, Commissioner Varela Lòpez moved the SWCC go into closed session. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.
Pursuant to Section 10-15-1-H NMSA of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, the following topics were discussed in closed session: Meet with attorney regarding pending lawsuit against SWCC.
At 10:11 am, Commissioner Sanchez moved the SWCC come back into open session. Commissioner Varela Lòpez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all the commissioners present.
25. Adjourn: Commissioner Glass moved to adjourn. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all commissioners present.