

COMMISSIONERS  
Steve Glass, Region I  
José J. Varela López, Region II  
Duston L. Hunt, Region III  
Gabe Estrada, Region IV  
Tom Sidwell, Region V  
John Norris, Region VI  
Cyle Sharp, At-Large

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## **New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting**

**El Encanto de Las Cruces**

**705 S. Telshor Blvd., Las Cruces, NM**

**October 29, 2018, 3:00pm**

**Final Minutes**

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Sharp, Estrada, and Varela López were absent; all other Commissioners were present-see roll call.
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Sidwell moved to accept the agenda. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion was approved by all Commissioners present.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (06-11-2018): Commissioner Glass moved to accept the June 11, 2018 minutes as presented. Commissioner Sidwell seconded and the motion was passed by all Commissioners present.
4. Open Meetings Resolution: Commissioner Sidwell moved to approve the open meeting resolution. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion was passed by all Commissioners present-see roll call vote.

### **New Business**

5. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
6. Local Election Act regarding SWCDs-Senator Ivey-Soto: Senator Ivey-Soto gave a brief history of elections in New Mexico (NM) and an outline of House Bill 98 (HB98) as related to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). It's unknown if mil levies

passed before June 2018 will still have a 10-year limit and up to 1 mil, or will be limitless and have up to 5 mil assessment. Senator Ivey-Soto said the issue of whether an SWCD loses its existing mil levy if a mil levy increase is put up for vote and fails to pass is unresolved. The Department of Finance Administration (DFA) needs to be consulted for an opinion. County clerks will have a meeting in January and there receive training about HB98.

7. FY20 Water Quality & Conservation Grant (WQ&C) Request for Proposal (RFP) approval-Katie Mechenbier (NMDA): After Discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to approve the FY20 WQ&C RFP. Commissioner Sidwell seconded and the motion was passed by all Commissioners present.
8. East Rio Arriba Supervisor Replacement and Board Eligibility Guideline Request: Ross Garcia (East Rio Arriba) informed the SWCC of the removal of a supervisor-see letter.

### **Old Business**

9. SWCD budget reporting process and approval-Dusty Hunt: The effect of a recent DFA rule change is financial reports are no longer required from special districts receiving under \$50,000 exclusive of state or federal capital outlay or grants. After discussion, the SWCC is not going to change SWCC reporting or approval requirements from what is currently outlined in the point system worksheet.
10. FY19 Point System Worksheet changes and approval-Jim Wanstall (NMDA): Mr. Wanstall presented the updated FY19 point system worksheet. After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to approve the updated worksheet. Commissioner Norris seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all Commissioners present.
11. Edgewood/East Torrance Boundary Modification: Edgewood SWCD submitted a resolution for a boundary modification. Since related required documents have yet to be received and submitted, the SWCC took no action.

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

12. Commissioners: Commissioner Glass reported Valencia, Ciudad, and San Juan SWCDs are collaborating on soil health, urban agriculture conservation, and local food initiatives. Valencia SWCD is working on an expansion of the Whitfield Center, and with NMSU is exploring new bio-reactor technology that creates soil enhancement. Ciudad SWCD is working with the city of Albuquerque and the Nature Conservancy on tree stewardship program, an arid green infrastructure training program, and writing a watershed-based plan for the Tijeras Creek watershed. San Juan SWCD conducted an Urban Agriculture workshop with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies. San Juan is also collaborating with Cuba SWCD on rangeland restoration in northwest part of the state. Coronado SWCD submitted comments about the P&M transmission line, and is involved with the Sandoval County risk management plan. Coronado continues work on restoring the Placitas Open Space.

Commissioner Varela López submitted the region II report-see report.

Chair Hunt reported a court hearing of the lawsuit. Price v. SWCC on October 22<sup>nd</sup>; waiting for the judge's decision.

Commissioner Sidwell presented the region V report-see report.

Commissioner Norris reported the oil fields are busy and the traffic and related infrastructure has been negatively impacted. Oil fields are creating 70 million barrels of produced water in the south part of Lea County, which is being treated for reuse. Need funding to utilize this treated water so it isn't wasted. The Ogallala basin is quickly being depleted. Need to get with the State Engineer's Office to curtail use of this basin.

13. Governor's Office: none
14. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Julie Maitland reported that on October 12<sup>th</sup>, there was an SWCD Act repeal of election rules hearing. There was also hearing on

hemp rules, which over 100 people attended. Ms. Maitland gave a status report on the NM forest plans.

15. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Steve Kadas gave a report about NRCS activities and programs.
16. Farm Service Agency: none
17. New Mexico Environment Department: none
18. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC): Howard Hutchinson reported on the recent issues and decisions of the WQCC.
19. National Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke gave a report on NACD activities.
20. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke presented report-see report.
21. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts: see report
22. NMSU College of Agriculture: none
23. New Mexico Conservation District Employees: Melissa May reported on NMCDE activities and opportunities available.
24. Next Meeting: TBA
25. Adjourn: Commissioner Sidwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Norris seconded and the motion was passed by all Commissioners present.