

COMMISSIONERS  
Steve Glass, Region I  
Ross Garcia, Jr., Region II  
Vacant, Region III  
Boe Lopez, Region IV  
Vacant, 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**

**March 27, 2024**

**9:00 am**

**Minutes**

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to order and roll call: Commissioner Sharp was absent. All other commissioners were present-see roll call.
2. Clint Harden resignation from the SWCC: Clint Harden resigned from his Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board and since being a commissioner is dependent on his board membership, he is no longer on the SWCC.
3. Approval of agenda: Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.
4. Approval of previous meeting minutes (12/5/2023): Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.

### **New Business**

5. Public comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
6. Claunch-Pinto zoning request: the commissioners reviewed Claunch-Pinto's zoning notice.
7. SWCD Mil Levy resolutions:
  - Chaves \$1.00
  - Socorro \$1.00
  - Claunch-Pinto \$1.00
  - Taos \$1.00

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the mil levy resolutions. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.

8. SWCD supervisor appointments:

- Ute Creek: Deanne Schoonover (position 1), John David Chatfield (position 2)  
Robert Libby (position 4)
- Chaves: John Sisk (position 6), Cody Munson (position 7)
- Dona Ana: Jeremy Griego (position 1)
- San Francisco: Gary Clauss (position 6)

Commissioner Glass asked for clarification regarding what positions are required to be approved by the SWCC. Patricia Depner (New Mexico Department of Agriculture-NMDA) stated that while positions 6 and 7 are approved annually, SWCD boards with 2 or more vacancies must be appointed by the SWCC. Ute Creek and Dona Ana have 2 or more vacancies, so must be appointed by the SWCC. Commissioner Glass moved to approve the supervisors. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.

9. Legislative funding outcomes

- \$2.5 million for SWCDs – Land of Enchantment Legacy (LOE) funding one-time appropriation: Julie Maitland (NMDA) reported the \$2.5 million for the SWCDs was a one-time appropriation, but effort is being made to make it recurring. Katie Kruthaupt (NMDA) reported NMDA conducted 6 work sessions with Ray Ledgerwood (facilitator) for SWCDs to develop LOE project ideas. 33 SWCDs attended the sessions along with three watershed districts. The LOE application period closes Friday May 3, 2024 at noon.
- Capital Outlay: Debbie Hughes (New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts -NMACD) noted in the Zoom chat that the FY24 capital outlay for the SWCDs is about \$850,000.

10. Point system changes for FY24 (current year): Ms. Kruthaupt presented changes to the FY24 point system worksheet-see worksheet. These changes include raising the funding

base from \$2,000 to 10,000, adding the LOE funding applications, and adding more points available to the other areas of potential activities. Chair Vigil asked if this for the current year only, and if the FY25 point system worksheet will be presented to the SWCC in June. Ms. Kruthaupt confirmed this. Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the point system worksheet changes. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.

### **Old Business**

11. Healthy Soil Program (HSP) update: Katie Goetz (NMDA) presented the HSP update-see presentation. Eleven eligible entities were awarded \$347,000 and 36 individual applicants were awarded \$405,000 in FY24. There will be two review committees for the FY25 application cycle: one for individual applications, and one for eligible entities. These committees will include members of the SWCC. Promotion and outreach are part of the HSP as is soil health research in various areas around the state. Ms. Goetz thanked the SWCC for its continued support. Commissioner Glass appreciated the conservation plan deadline, and thanked Ms. Goetz and Dean Bruce (NMDA) for all the hard work they have done for the HSP. Ms. Hughes asked if NRCS is still contributing to the HSP if so, what amount. Ms. Maitland responded that NRCS contributes \$100,000.

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

12. Commissioners: Commissioner Glass reported Ciudad, with the sponsorship of Valencia and support of other entities, held the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Land and Water Summit which was well-attended. Coronado, Edgewood and Ciudad are part of the Sandia Collaborative Outreach and Engagement program. This program is trying to help the Sandia Forest ranger district with their forest health project.  
Commissioner Garcia reported East Rio Arriba had a healthy soil workshop to give more visibility to the local people in the area.  
Commissioner Lopez reported they are preparing for the annual grazing conference that will occur in the summer.

Chair Vigil reported Otero granted contracts to rehab 3 dams and hoped the work would be done before the monsoon season.

13. Governor's Office: none
14. New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA): reported above
15. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): none
16. Forest Service: none
17. Farm Service Agency: none
18. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED): none
19. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC): Chair Vigil reported the WQCC had a meeting this month and the big issue is PFAS and jurisdictional discussions with the US Department of Defense. There will be a meeting in May regarding the rules for recycled water.
20. New Mexico Mining Commission: Dusty Hunt (SWCC liaison) reported the Hard Rock Mining commission met because of a petition to revoke the mining permit of a company to mine in the Mogollon area based on various reasons, including exceeding noise and dust levels, water contamination, and violating the endangered species act. No evidence of these violations was presented or found, and the petition was denied.
21. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD): none
22. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD): Ms. Hughes reported the region meetings are scheduled in conjunction with trainings with Mr. Ledgerwood. The meetings are scheduled for: June 4<sup>th</sup> in Bernalillo for regions 1 and 2; June 5<sup>th</sup> in Clovis for regions 4 and 5; and June 6<sup>th</sup> in Las Cruces for regions 3 and 6. The annual NMACD meeting will be October 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque at the Uptown Sheraton. NMACD is focused on helping the SWCDs with more training and capacity building. They are working on an emergency contract with the Department of Finance Administration to help NRCS assist the acequias with recent fire issues. Josh Smith is the NMACD chair and has also been elected to the NACD as an executive board member. Senate bill 216 passed which amends the New Mexico Finance Authority local government planning fund to allow for \$50,000 grants for inundation maps and archeological clearances for

SWCDs. There is only \$2 million available so anyone wanting this funding should apply soon.

23. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD): none
24. NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES): none
25. New Mexico Conservation District Employees (NMCDE): none
26. Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for June 11, 2024, at 9:00 am via Zoom.
27. Adjourn: Commissioner Garcia moved to adjourn. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present - see roll call vote.