

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)

April 7, 2021

9:00 am

Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Garcia and Harden, and Chair Vigil were absent (joined the meeting later)-see roll call vote
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bierner seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all Commissioners present-see roll call vote.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (10/12/2020): *Chair Vigil joined the meeting at this point.* Patricia Depner (NMDA) reported a typo on the draft minutes. Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Bierner seconded and the motion passed unanimously by all Commissioners present-see roll call vote.

New Business

4. Legislative recap: *Commissioners Harden and Garcia joined the meeting at this point.* Secretary Jeff Witte (NMDA) gave a legislative recap to the SWCC.
5. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
6. Public comment policy: Ms. Depner asked if the SWCC wanted any changes to the public comment policy. No changes were made.

7. Ute Creek mil levy referendum: Commissioner Glass moved to approve Ute Creek's request to have a mil levy referendum. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.

8. Mil levy resolutions:

Claunch-Pinto\$1.00: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the mil levy resolution.

Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.

9. San Francisco SWCD supervisor vacancy appointment by SWCC

- Patti Swapp-position 2
- William Powell-position 3
- Brent Laney-position 5
- Janet Porter Carrejo-appointed position (conditional on becoming 7-member board)

Commissioner Glass noted until the SWCD resolved to become a 7-member board and it was approved by the SWCC, Ms. Porter in position 6 wouldn't be able to vote.

Commissioner Sharp moved to appoint the suggested supervisors. Commissioner Bierner seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.

10. WQ&C grant program: Katie Mechenbier (NMDA) asked if the SWCC had any changes to the program. Commissioner Glass moved that the every-other-year restriction on education projects be changed to a 2-year allowance. Commissioner Harden seconded and the motion passed unanimously-see roll call vote.

The SWCC verified that cost share projects with unspecified expenses are allowed for grant consideration.

11. FY22 Healthy Soil Program (HSP) update: Katie Goetz and Dean Bruce (NMDA) presented an update of the HSP.

12. FY22 Point System: Jim Wanstall (NMDA) presented proposed changes to the point system worksheet. After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to table any decision

until the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously by all Commissioners present-see roll call vote.

13. State Climate Change Task Force Natural and Working Lands (NWL): Max Henkels (NMDA) presented an update.

Old Business

14. NM Attorney General response letter regarding mil levy questions related to the 2018 Local Election Act: Julie Maitland (NMDA) presented the NM Attorney General opinion letter regarding mil levy questions posed by the SWCC in 2019.

Commissioner Sharp left the meeting after this presentation.

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

15. Commissioners: Commissioner Glass reported much inter-district collaboration in region I, including the Zuni mountain collaborative with Lava and McKinley on the Cibola forest plan, the Sandia collaboration with Ciudad and Coronado on the Sandia district forest plan. Valencia has an Earth Day science fiesta in April, Coronado has a firewise pilot project in Placitas, Cuba is hiring a new district manager and San Juan received the 2020 outstanding district award and has begun work on a new office.

Commissioner Garcia reported East Rio Arriba has a new supervisor, Ron Martinez.

Commissioner Bierner reported Sierra's projects will hopefully get started up again.

Commissioner Lopez had no report at this time

Commissioner Harden reported Central Curry is acting as the lead for the Department of Defense REPI grant to ensure there's enough water for Canon air force base; this involves creating a land trust. This SWCD is also involved with an RCPP grant. These grants will increase Central Curry's audit requirements. Additionally, they are working on playa restoration and creating MOUs with other SWCDs related to this project.

Region V is also involved in weather modification.

Chair Vigil had no report at this time.

16. Governor's Office: Secretary Witte had nothing further to report.

17. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Ms. Maitland mentioned the upcoming Open Meeting Act and Inspection of Public Records Act training.
18. Natural Resources Conservation Service
19. Forest Service: none
20. Farm Service Agency: none
21. New Mexico Environment Department: none
22. Water Quality Control Commission: no report as this commission hasn't met recently
23. National Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke gave a verbal report.
24. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Debbie Hughes gave a report-see attached.
25. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts: none
26. NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences: none
27. New Mexico Conservation District Employees: none
28. Next Meeting: TBA
29. Adjourn: Commissioner Harden moved to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion unanimously by all Commissioners present-see roll call vote.