

COMMISSIONERS
Steve Glass, Region I
Vacant, Region II
Duston L. Hunt, Region III
Gabe Estrada, Region IV
Vacant, Region V
John Norris, Region VI
Cyle Sharp, At-Large

Soil and Water Conservation Commission
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New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting
Via teleconference (per COVID-19 restrictions)

May 7, 2020

9:00 am

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: All commissioners were present via Zoom teleconference (see roll call).
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Norris moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (10/30/2019): Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Norris seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Glass abstained from voting as he wasn't at the last meeting (see roll call vote).

New Business

4. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): None
5. New Attorney General liaison to the SWCC: Chair Hunt reported the liaison to the SWCC has been replaced by Robert Sanchez. The state attorney representing the SWCC in the zoning lawsuit, Olga Serafimova, resigned and has been replaced by Nick Sido.
6. SWCC delegate to New Mexico Mining Commission and the Coal Surface Mining Commission: Commissioner Sharp moved to appoint Commissioner Norris to serve as the delegate to New Mexico Mining Commission and the Coal Surface Mining Commission. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed. Commissioner Norris abstained from the vote (see roll call vote).
7. Chaves/Carrizozo Boundary Modification: After discussion, Commissioner Norris moved to approve the boundary modification. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

- Claunch-Pinto \$1.00
- Sierra \$1.00

After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to approve the mil levy resolutions.

Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

Old Business

None

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

13. Commissioners: Chair Hunt: Dona Ana is getting involved with community gardens; Grant is waiting for CFRP grant for collaborative forest thinning in Mulberry canyon; Caballo working in the Incon arroyo with EBID to remove sediment.

Commissioner Glass: Region I has been hit hardest by COVID -19 infections. San Juan is still getting field work done with proper social distancing. Valencia has some personnel changes; the district manager has given notice with an undetermined end date and the Whitfield Wildlife Center manager is retired, but the SWCD is still working with producers. They have at \$42K grant program for soil health, they got a couple soil health grants and a couple new soil health champions. Cuidad has 4 new soil health champions; most of the outreach is working with schools so is on hold, but the outreach coordinator is working to find alternatives to in-person activities. Cuidad is finalizing an agreement with the city of Albuquerque to repurpose funds for thinning on open space owned by the city.

Commissioner Estrada: Has one of the healthiest regions with COVID-19. Not much snow runoff and the area is in an extended drought.

Commissioner Norris: Getting vacancies filled in the districts. Lee has a produced water project to treat and clean produced water to apply to the land. This is a new source of water we will need.

Commissioner Sharp: Has no report at this time.

14. Governor's Office
15. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Jim Wanstall reported NMDA is involved with the different aspects of the state reopening. The state budget is impacted and there may be a special session in June to address that. Katie Goetz reported on the Healthy soil

program. Jim Wanstall requested the SWCC send a memo to the SWCDs to remind them to remain accessible to the public during the COVID-19 restrictions.

16. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Debbie Hughes reported NRCS has over 30 new employees, and a new mentoring program aimed at these employees has been implemented.
17. Forest Service
18. Farm Service Agency
19. New Mexico Environment Department
20. Water Quality Control Commission
21. National Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke reported NACD is getting weekly updates from USDA and daily meeting via Zoom. They had to cancel many events because of COVID-19, and are trying to reschedule.
22. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Debbie Hughes presented the NMACD report (see report).
23. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
24. NMSU College of Agriculture
25. New Mexico Conservation District Employees
26. Next Meeting
27. Adjourn: Commissioner Estrada moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).