

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

Upper Hondo *Soil and Water Conservation Commission*
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New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting
Via teleconference
Tuesday, June 22, 2022
9:00 am
Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Glass and Sharp were absent. Commissioner Harden joined late. All other commissioners were present-see roll call
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Bierner moved to approve the agenda and commissioner Garcia seconded. The motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (4/6/2022): Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the minutes and commissioner Lopez seconded. The motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.
4. Open Meetings Resolution: Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the open meetings resolution and commissioner Bierner seconded. The motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

New Business

5. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*)-none
Commissioner Harden joined the meeting at this point.
6. Mil levy resolutions
 - Claunch-Pinto \$1.00
 - Taos \$1.00
 - Socorro \$1.00
 - Hagerman-Dexter \$1.00
 - Lava \$1.00
 - Mora-Wagon Mound \$1.00

- Upper Chama \$1.00
- Edgewood \$1.00
- Western Mora \$1.00
- Carrizozo \$1.00
- Tierra y Montes \$1.00
- East Torrance \$1.00
- Guadalupe \$1.00
- Sierra \$1.00
- Ute Creek \$1.00
- Mesa \$1.00
- East Rio Arriba \$1.00
- Cuba \$1.00
- Caballo \$1.00
- Upper Hondo \$0.75
- Carlsbad \$0.70
- Central Valley \$0.50
- Penasco \$1.00
- Valencia \$0.25

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

7. Santa Fe-Pojoaque Elected Supervisor Vacancy Appointments (2 positions):

- Michelle Holland, Mark Nelson, Lorenzo Dominguez, Matthew Encinias,
Edmund Flanigan, Gary Dellapa

Commissioner Garcia moved to appoint Michelle Holland in position 2 and Mark Nelson in position 3. Commissioner Lopez seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

8. Appointed Supervisor Appointments:

- San Juan: James Maes (6), Lydia Velose (6), Steve Wanel (6), Nadine Chavez-Maes (7), Laura Ryan (7), Leo Pacheco (7)

Patricia Depner, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) informed the commission San Juan did not submit a recommendation or preference for the supervisor appointments. Chair Vigil asked if anyone from San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was available to comment. Gary Hawthorn (San Juan SWCD Invasive Weed Coordinator) joined the meeting and recommended Steve Wanel in position 6 and Leo Pacheco in position 7, as they had previously served on the board. Chair Vigil moved to approve Steve Wanel and Leo Pacheco as appointed supervisors. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

9. Appointed Supervisor Approvals:

- Taos: George Long (6), Mary Lane Leslie (7)
- East Tarrance: Jason Brumley (6), Patrick Pacht (7)
- Upper Hondo: Lela Wright (6), David Cox (7)
- Sierra: Randy Coil (6), Willard Hall (7)
- Roosevelt: Sharon Davies (6), Kendell Buzzard (7)
- Colfax: Andy Yates (6), Kim Barmann (7)
- Southwest Quay: Kandy Hutchens (7)
- Otero: Richard Baish (6), James Evrage (7)
- Carrizozo: Lee Sultemeier (6), Kendal Wilson (7)
- Edgewood: Juan Sanchez (6), Jim Frost (7)
- Caballo: Slim Whitlock (6), Harvey Morrow (7)
- Hidalgo: Miera Gault (6), Walt Anderson (7)
- Central Curry: Rachel Armstrong (6), KC Schooley (7)
- Guadalupe: Earl Sena (6), Mary Baca (7)
- Grant: Johnny Reed (6), Niel McDonald (7)
- Carlsbad: Fred Beard (6), Henry Vasquez (7)
- Dona Ana: Dave Lowry (6), Joshua Sanchez (7)
- Cuba: Frank Chacon (6), Ricardo Duran (7)

- Deming: Will Shafer (6), Jamie Viramontes (7)
- Central Valley: Jason Patton (6), Lance Conklin (7)
- Penasco: Bernard Cleve (6), Camille Graham-Figueroa (7)
- Claunch-Pinto: Jack Lockridge (6), Susan Rose (7)

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the appointed supervisors. Commissioner Lopez seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

10. Water Quality and Conservation FY22 Grant Review Subcommittee Funding
Recommendations and Awards: Katie Mechenbier (NMDA) presented the grant review subcommittee recommendations for funding. Chair Vigil moved to approve the subcommittee recommendations. Commissioner Bierner seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.
11. FY23 Point System: Katie Mechenbier stated NMDA had no recommended changes to point system worksheet. Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the FY23 point system worksheet with no changes. Commissioner Bierner seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.
12. Wildfires in NM-discussion: Katie Goetz (NMDA) reported that SWCDs can partner with other entities to implement the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. The Calf Canyon and the Black fires are setting records in terms of their size, but containment is very good. 72% on the Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak fire and 68% on the Black fire, and the rains have gone a long way to help so really where everyone's concern is right now is in that post-fire flooding potential. Rigo Lopez from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, reported "the NRCS Chief, Terry Cosby, and an under secretary for the forest service toured burned areas last week. EWP requires sponsorship from a governmental agency with a 75/25 cost share rate. NRCS had asked prior to last week's visit for 90/10 cost share rate for Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak community and got that accepted. But last week the chief announced that any of the work that's done through the EWP program for any of those areas will be a 100% paid by the agency in the Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak area. We're working diligently in that area we have 3 teams in that

burn area. While the sponsors have responsibilities, they won't have to pay anything." Chair Vigil asked if there was a sponsor for the McBride fire. Mr. Lopez said they is a sponsor. Debbie Hughes, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts reported Upper Hondo SWCD is involved in the Mc Bride fire, the Cuba SWCD is involved in the fire in Hamas, and the New Mexico Acequia Association is trying to help. Adrian Tafoya (NRCS) reported they are having multiple meetings to discuss the Black fire and get sponsorships. Jason Mark Martin (NRCS) reported is a sponsor the Cerro Pelado fire. Completed a damage survey report for Cook's Peak fire and is being sponsored by Colfax SWCD.

Old Business

13. \$3 Million SWCD Legislative Appropriation: Pre-proposals from SWCDs: Patricia Depner reported there were 52 preproposals requesting in excess of \$13 Million dollars. Chair Vigil stated the appropriation subcommittee will arrange a time to meet and review the preproposals.
14. Healthy Soil Program (HSP) Grant Update: Katie Goetz reported the FY23 HSP program has about \$1.4 Million dollars available for grants and research projects, particularly within New Mexico State University cooperative extension to advance the science behind soil health in the desert southwest. The HSP grant program was updated and streamlined to make it easier to understand. The grant application period ended May 19th, and there were applications from about 15 eligible entities and 50 individuals. The technical review committee will make recommendations to Secretary Jeff Witte and he will make the final decision. The intent is to notify people in mid-July if they were successful or not. Work should begin mid-August and continue through may of next year.
15. Agriculture Workforce Development Grant Update: Katie Mechenbier reported this has been successful with 27 interns. This year the funding is increased to \$375 thousand and the maximum reimbursement allowed is raised to \$15 thousand. The new application period opened June 10th for interns starting July 1st or later.

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

16. Commissioners: Commissioner Garcia reported his SWCD submitted a preproposal on a weed management program that partners with other SWCDs.
Commissioner Lopez reported they are trying to get people to apply for the HSP program. The fires have been hard on them.
Commissioner Harden reported Roosevelt SWCD started cloud seeding; Central Curry is making progress along the Ogallala land and along the water conservancy district paleo channel most have agreed taking water out of production. New Mexico water is building pipeline Clovis to Texico to get water to that part of the county.
17. Governor's Office-none
18. New Mexico Department of Agriculture -Julie Maitland reported 4 positions closed but have are not filled yet. Jim Wanstall's position has not been filled yet, so the division is very short-handed.
19. Natural Resources Conservation Service -Rigo Lopez reported they have a couple EWP projects in Ruidoso; doing some work in Hondo Valley and Apache Creek; will begin surveying in the Ruidoso area sometime next week.
20. Forest Service-none
21. Farm Service Agency-none
22. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)-none
23. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC)-Chair Vigil reported the WQCC had a meeting last week and hearing on the outstanding natural resource waters. The concern is how the fires will affect these waters.
24. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD): Brent Van Dyke reported the NACD summer meeting will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 17th, and there will be representation from New Mexico; the regional Southwest region/Pacific region meeting will be in Hawaii on September 9th-12th. Mr. Van Dyke was reelected as chair of the foundation, and the activities include the next generation leadership Institute, which is in its second class.

25. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Debbie Hughes reported the region meetings are set to happen in July. The annual conference will be November 7th -9th at the Uptown Sheraton in Albuquerque.
26. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts-none
27. NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES): Leslie Edgar (ACES) reported they are helping in many of the burned areas with active fires, and continue to add support in those areas where possible. When the Herman Peak and Calf Creek fires combined, it threatened one of our research stations in mortar, and NMDA and the SWCDs provided support for us to be able to relocate some of our seedlings. This is the only research center in the state of New Mexico, and one of 5 within the southwest, that grows seedlings to be able to support the fire effort. In fiscal year 2023, we will expand from the existing 66 weather stations in the State to 215. This is critical for our state we're really pleased that we have the opportunity to assist producers in this way
28. New Mexico Conservation District Employees (NMCDE)-none
29. Next Meeting-TBA
30. Adjourn: Chair Vigil moved to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.