

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)

June 24, 2020

9:00 am

Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: All commissioners were present via Zoom teleconference (see roll call)
2. Approval of Agenda: Chair Hunt corrected Dona Ana SWCD's appointed supervisors on the agenda. Commissioner Glass moved to approve the corrected agenda. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (05/07/2020): Commissioner Norris moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

New Business

4. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
5. Appointed Supervisors:
 - Roosevelt: Sharon Davies (6), Quentin Carnes (7)
 - Carrizozo: Lee Sultemeier (6), Kendal Wilson (7)
 - Chaves: John Sisk (6), Aubrey Dunn Jr. (7)
 - Grant: Johnny Reed (6), Niel McDonald (7)
 - Hidalgo: Miera Gault (6), Walt Anderson (7)
 - Carlsbad: Fred Beard (6), Henry Vasquez (7)
 - Taos: George Long (6), Mary Lane Leslie (7)
 - Edgewood: Juan Sanchez (6), Arthur J. Swenka (7)

- Dona Ana: Steve Wilmeth (6), Jeff Flores (7)
- Otero: Colt Howland (6), James Evrage (7)
- Central Valley: Jason Patton (6), Lance Conklin (7)
- Penasco: Camille Graham (6), Bernard Cleve (7)
- Sierra: Randy Coil (6), Willard Hall (7)
- Upper Hondo: Lela Wright (6), David Cox (7)
- Colfax: Andy Yates (6), Kimberly Barnann (7)
- Deming: Will Shafer (6), Jamie Viramontes (7)
- Caballo: Slim Whitlock (6), Harvey Morrow (7)
- Central Curry: Kaye Schooley (6), Rachel Armstrong (7)
- Lea: Brent Van Dyke (6), John Norris (7)

After discussion, Commissioner Estrada moved to approve the appointed supervisors. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

6. Mill Levy Assessment resolutions:

- Carlsbad \$0.70
- Hagerman-Dexter \$1.00
- East Rio Arriba \$1.00
- Western Mora \$1.00
- Mora-Wagon Mound \$1.00
- Chaves \$1.00
- Socorro \$1.00
- Mesa \$1.00
- Tierra y Montes \$1.00
- Cuba \$1.00
- Central Valley \$0.50
- Penasco \$1.00
- Caballo \$1.00
- Upper Hondo \$0.50
- East Trrance \$1.00

- Valencia \$0.25

After discussion, Commissioner Sharp moved to approve all the mil levy resolutions except East Torrance's. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

In 2018 the local election act eliminated the 10-year sunset clause, and in 2019 the tax law cleanup bill clarified that the SWCD mil levies must operate under the laws that existed at the time the mil levy was first approved. Based on the 2018 local election act eliminating the sunset clause to the mil levies, East Torrance went out of debt. Cheri Lujan (East Torrance) explained East Torrance's mil levy history and that based on the 2018 changes to the mil levy sunset clause and information they were given and available at the time, they went out of debt and maintain they don't have to be in debt to continue their mil levy which would have expired in 2018 without the elimination of the sunset clause. Ms. Lujan stated the SWCC approved their resolution in 2019 although they weren't in debt and the resolution had identical wording. After discussion, the commission wanted some time to think about this issue. Commissioner Glass moved to table this issue until the next SWCC meeting. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

7. WQ&C FY21 grant awards: After discussion, commissioner Glass moved to approve the review committee funding recommendations. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

Having a non-voting commissioner at the grant review meeting as had been the case in the past was discussed. Commissioner Glass volunteered. Commissioner Norris moved to have Commissioner Glass sit as chair and a non-voting member of the grant review committee. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).

8. Point System-potential changes for FY20: Jim Wanstall (NMDA) reported that much of the activities that the SWCDs do that earn points on the point system worksheet for operations funding happen in the spring. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, many of these activities were cancelled, and will affect how many points can be earned. Mr. Wanstall suggested that the operations funding for FY 20 be evenly distributed to the

SWCDs as long as they met the point system requirements required by law. After discussion, commissioner Norris moved to evenly distribute the operations funding as long as the SWCDs meet the reporting requirements required by law. 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)

9. Commissioners: Chair Hunt: more people are trying to withdraw from the watershed district; Grant is putting together a joint chiefs initiative with NACD, NRCS and USFS for work in the Bear Creek drainage.

Commissioner Glass: Lava and McKinley are still working with the Zuni mountain collaborative with the USFS; Coronado and Ciudad continue with the Sandia collaborative to improve the Cibola national forest; Ciudad is hosting the land and water summit in 2021; Valencia is helping Valencia county with watershed-related information for the county comprehensive plan, and also doing a ranger program at the Whitfield wildlife center; San Juan sponsored webinars called “The Animas and San Juan Watershed”; Cuba continues its noxious weed program.

Commissioner Estrada: went through adjudication over water rights in the Gallinas watershed. This allowed inter se, and the DOI tried to adjudicate on 44 parcels on Gallinas river, but a judge overruled the inter se by the DOI. They are still fighting over pueblo water rights.

Commissioner Norris: hopes a good solution can be reached for East Tarrant’s mil levy issue.

Commissioner Sharp: none at this time

10. Governor's Office
11. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Julie Maitland reported the 1.8 million for the SWCC to do pilot projects has been cut.

12. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Xavier Montoya reported some office are starting to go back in person, but with no or limited visitors. There will be about 145 employees in the next few months. NRCS programs are still going strong.
13. Forest Service
14. Farm Service Agency
15. New Mexico Environment Department
16. Water Quality Control Commission
17. National Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke reported several meetings were cancelled because of COVID-19 restrictions and the National Environthon contest was postponed for a year. The annual meeting is still scheduled for February.
18. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Debbie Hughes gave the report (see attached report)
19. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
20. NMSU College of Agriculture
21. New Mexico Conservation District Employees
22. Next Meeting: Commissioner Glass moved to hold the next meeting on June 30th. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).
23. Adjourn: Commissioner Glass moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed (see roll call vote).