

**New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting**

**Approved Minutes**

NMDA main conference room

3190 S. Espina

Las Cruces, New Mexico

June 3, 2016, 11:00 am

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Pipkin, Norris, and Varela López were absent. All other Commissioners were present (see roll call).
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (10/27/2015): Commissioner Glass moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.

**New Business**

4. Election of Officers: Commissioner Sanchez moved to keep Commissioner Hunt as chair of the SWCC. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners. Commissioner Sanchez moved to keep Commissioner Norris as vice chair. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.
5. Spencer Pipkin resignation: Commissioner Pipkin resigned in April, and Chairman Hunt asked if the Governor's office had made a decision on a new commissioner. Debbie Hughes (NMACD) stated nominees had been presented to the Governor's office and Jeff Witte (NMDA) would be asking the Governor to make a decision. A letter of recognition and a plaque will be presented to Mr. Pipkin for his service to the SWCC.
6. Open Meetings Resolution: Commissioner Glass moved to adopt the open meetings resolution. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.
7. Colfax SWCD request to become 7-member board/appointed supervisor approval: After discussion, Commissioner Estrada moved to approve Colfax SWCD becoming a 7-member board. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners. Commissioner Glass moved to approve the appointed supervisors. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.
8. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service: Chairman Hunt stated the MOU between the SWCC and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was created 5 years ago

to foster cooperation between the USFS and the SWCC, and also to serve as a template for the SWCDs to develop MOUs with the USFS. Chairman Hunt asked if the MOU was necessary, and if renewing the MOU should wait until needed. After discussion, Chairman Hunt stated he would contact region 3 of the USFS to renew the MOU.

9. WQ&C FY17 Grant recommendations, awards, and review committee guidance: Patricia Depner (NMDA) presented the WQ&C grant review committee recommendations to the SWCC. After discussion, Commissioner Sanchez moved to approve the grant award recommendations of the committee. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.

Ms. Depner Stated the review committee had concerns about proposals that funded cost share programs, the issue being the funds may be distributed to purposes other than the WQ&C grant intent. Ms. Depner also asked the SWCC to think about funding priorities for FY18 grant funding, and review committee nominees. Chairman Hunt asked these issues be put on the next SWCC agenda.

10. Point System worksheet FY17 approval/potential changes: Jim Wanstall (NMDA) presented some options to update the point system worksheet. Commissioner Sanchez stated the SWCDs work hard to get the maximum points possible, and recommends to keep the current worksheet. Commissioner Estrada stated the idea in updating the point system is to incentivize the SWCDs to grow. After further discussion, it was decided to survey all the SWCDs regarding the changes to the point system and to research having a breakout session at the NMACD annual meeting. Mr. Wanstall will send out the survey to the SWCDs.
11. Mil Levy resolution approval: Commissioner Estrada moved to approve all the mil levy resolutions. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.
12. Appointed Supervisor approval: Commissioner Glass moved to approve all the supervisor appointments. Commissioner Estrada seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.

### **Old Business**

13. SWCC logo update: Chairman Hunt presented the letter from the Zia Pueblo denying the SWCC request to use the Zia sun symbol in the proposed SWCC logo. Commissioner Sanchez will rework the logo.
14. SWCC Election/Referendum Rules Advisory Committee: Mr. Wanstall stated the proposed election rule updates were put on hold because of HB143. This bill would move the SWCD elections to the November general election dates is expected to be reintroduced in the FY17 legislature.
15. Dam Inundation Mapping Project update: Lacy Levine (NMDA) provided an update the dam inundation mapping project.

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

16. Commissioners: Commissioner Sanchez: attended the NM Mining Commission meeting. It is more important than ever to be involved with this commission because of the recent EPA Gold King Mine spill.  
Chairman Hunt: San Francisco SWCD and Salado SWCDs are working on forest thinning contracts with the Forest Service. Salado and Sierra SWCD are working on the Cibola and Gila forest planning. Deming and Hidalgo SWCDs are working with the BLM on brush control. Grant SWCD is working on the with USFS on Royal John Mine, an old lead mine, has a lot of lead content on the ground and is leaching into Coal Creek and its impaired.  
Commissioner Estrada: The Salt Cedar program involving the Ute, Canadian, and Conches watersheds has treated over 10,000 acres, and is now working on spraying mesquite. The soil and water conservation movement has saved topsoil during the current drought. Commissioner Estrada will be attending a ranch management conference for young farmers and ranchers. This conference will introduce new technologies and promote the continuation of ranching and farming.  
Commissioner Glass: The San Juan SWCD has created a watershed based plan that has opened up good non-point source funding, and is also working on noxious weed removal. San Juan received a USFS Wildland Urban Interface Stewardship grant, and is a collaborative agency with USFS on the Carson national forest revision plan. Lava SWCD hosted Ag Days and a poster contest for Stewardship week. Grant SWCD is working on Salt cedar control. Valencia SWCD is a representative with the Cibola forest revision in Region 1, and is also working on a Land Use Plan. The Whitfield Center added 42 acres via donation. Ciudad SWCD is working on the Cibola national forest revision plan. Ciudad SWCD received forest thinning funding, so will start cost share thinning, and finished several integrated resource management workshops.
17. Governor's Office : none
18. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Julie Maitland introduced Marshal Wilson, a new policy analyst for the APR division. APR has been involved in the state forest revision plans.
19. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Blake Glover stated the EQUIP program received 22 million and is 90% completed. CSP will receive 1 million acres this year. The joint chief's initiative has a June 17<sup>th</sup> application deadline.
20. New Mexico Environment Department: none
21. Water Quality Control Commission: Howard Hutchinson's report was reviewed.
22. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Debbie Hughes presented the NMACD report. NMACD is trying to stop HB 143 from passing, and is fighting the sunset clause changes to the SWCD mil levys.
23. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts: Marsha Wright presented the NMCCD report.

24. NMSU College of Agriculture none
25. New Mexico Conservation District Employees: none
26. Public Comment: Jerry Schickedanz (Dona Ana SWCD) stated the BLM planning rule 2.0 may hamper ability for agencies to cooperate.
27. Next Meeting: TBA
28. Adjourn: Commissioner Glass moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sanchez seconded and the motion was passed unanimously by all present Commissioners.