

COMMISSIONERS
Steve Glass, Region I
Vacant, Region II
Duston L. Hunt, Region III
Gabe Estrada, Region IV
Tom Sidwell, 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
Whitfield Wildlife Center
2424 NM-47, Belen, NM 87002
Wednesday, June 19, 2019
11:00am
Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioners Sidwell and Estrada were absent; all other commissioners were present (see roll call).
2. Approval of Agenda: Chair Hunt presented a letter from Valencia soil and water conservation district (SWCD) to be added to the agenda. Commissioner Norris moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (04/16/2019): Commissioner Norris moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

4. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
5. Guadalupe Boundary Modification: Patricia Depner with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) reported Guadalupe was in the process of obtaining required documentation and did not have it in time for consideration at this meeting. Commissioner Glass moved to table this item. Commissioner Norris seconded and the motion passed.
6. Healthy Soils Act: Julie Maitland (NMDA) reported NMDA is in the planning stage of how to utilize the funding received for the healthy soils act. A July meeting is planned for stakeholders to learn about the progress NMDA is making and provide feedback. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is adding \$100,000 in 1:1 matching for education/outreach. NMDA is working with various agencies to ensure it is a statewide program to fulfill the elements of the agreements. A portion of the healthy

soils funding is for testing and research. A grant program will be created and be a voluntary program for producers, and can be accessed through the SWCDs. Quivera requested a grant with the US climate alliance. A steering committee will be set up with about 12 people that should include a member of the SWCC. Commissioners Sharp and Glass volunteered to be on the steering committee, perhaps on a rotating basis. Xavier Montoya (NRCS) commented this is the time to take bold action to see what will work. NRCS is committed to the success of this program.

Commissioner Norris asked what the goal is in terms of putting practices on the ground or education. Ms. Maitland stated the goal is to educate producers about what could they do or inform what programs are available to put healthy soil practices in place.

Commissioner Sharp asked if youth groups such as FFA could be included for education and soil testing, and Ms. Maitland said they certainly can. Jeff Goebel (Valencia SWCD) commented as soil health improves, water increases and so does profitability.

7. Agricultural Workforce Development: Julie Maitland reported NMDA has been having meetings with various stakeholders to discuss how to implement the program for internships on farms and ranches. Commissioner Glass suggested Bernalillo County's Grow the Growers program as a model. Grow the Growers is an internship program similar to the workforce development program.

8. Mil Levy Resolutions

- Claunch-Pinto \$1.00
- East Tarrant \$1.00
- Cuba \$1.00
- Mora-Wagon Mound \$1.00
- Caballo \$1.00
- Guadalupe \$1.00
- Carlsbad \$0.70
- Sierra \$1.00
- Lava \$1.00
- Valencia \$0.25
- Central Valley \$0.50
- Penasco \$1.00

After discussion, Commissioner Norris moved to approve the mil levy resolutions.
Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed.

9. Appointed Supervisors

- Roosevelt: Sharon Davies (6), Quentin Carnes (7)
- Otero: Thomas Mendez (6), James Evrage (7)
- Carlsbad: Fred Beard (6), Henry Vasquez (7)
- Sierra: Steve Janos (6), Willard Hall (7)
- Upper Hondo: Lela Wright (6), David Cox (7)
- Santa Fe-Pojoaque: Champe Green (6)
- Lava: Anthony Martinez (6), Ernest Molina (7)
- Grant: Johnny Reed (6), Niel McDonald (7)
- Hidalgo: Miera Gault (6), Walt Anderson (7)
- Caballo: Slim Whitlock (6), Harvey Morrow (7)
- Deming: Will Shafer (6), Don Hartman (7)
- Central Valley: Darrell Brown (6), Lance Conklin (7)
- Penasco: Camille Brown (6), Bernard Cleve (7)
- Dona Ana: Steve Wilmeth (6), Dudley Williams (7)
- Taos: George Long (6), Mary Lane Leslie (7)
- San Juan: Emma Lee Deyo (6), Cash Carruth (7)
- Edgewood: Juan Sanchez (6), Art Swenka (7)
- Chaves: John Sisk (6), Aubrey Dunn (7)
- Claunch-Pinto: Richard Shovelin (6), Daniel Williams(7)
- Cuba: Ricardo Duran(6), Frank Chacon (7)
- Central Curry: Rachel Armstrong (6)

After discussion, Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the appointed supervisors.
Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed.

10. Valencia mil levy letter: Valencia will vote on whether to try to increase their mil levy from \$0.25 to \$1.00 at their next meeting on June 21st. If they pass a resolution, they

request the SWCC consider having a meeting before July 8th to vote on approving the resolution. Chair Hunt said if Valencia passes a resolution, the SWCC will try to meet before July 8th.

11. WQ&C grant FY20 funding recommendations: Ms. Depner presented the WQ&C grant review subcommittee recommendations. After discussion, Commissioner Glass moved to approve the recommendations. Commissioner Norris seconded and the motion passed.
12. FY20 SWCD operations point system worksheet: Ms. Depner presented the FY20 operations point system worksheet with no changes from FY19. Commissioner Norris moved to approve the worksheet. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business

13. none

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

14. Commissioners: Commissioners Sharp and Norris had no reports at this time.
Chair Hunt: Region III meeting would be tomorrow in Deming. The Coalition of Borderland Districts' chair has stepped down and the vice chair, Jim Woods, is serving as the chair. Grant SWCD received a grant for wildland urban interface work and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) funding to thin forest in Mulberry canyon in the Burro Mountains, but the money has been delayed; received \$600,000 in reclamation funds from Phelps Dodge to restore a riparian area in the Burro Mountains called the Burro Cienega. Grant and Hidalgo jointly administer the noxious weed program and are spraying African rue and Malta star thistle. Sierra is completing the cost share program for the year.
Commissioner Glass: Ciudad is completing a forest thinning project and working on an intergovernmental agreement with Bernalillo County for forest thinning, environmental education and Grow the Growers. Ciudad has also taken on Bernalillo County master naturalist program in the absence of a coordinator at the open space in Bernalillo County but they've hired someone; working with nature conservancy to put on workshops for low impact development (LID) in green storm water structure in urban environments;

collaborating with others on the Tijeras Creek watershed collaborative and Sandia collaborative that focuses on the Cibola forest plan; demonstrating the rolling rivers trailer-very popular, but hard to find volunteers; holding workshops next week to fulfill obligations to Association of Counties for forest health education. Coronado finished WQ&C project; received \$200,000 in capital outlay to rehab reservoirs; holding soil health shops in partnership with Sandia collaborative and Rio Puerco management committee. San Juan has been demonstrating the rolling rivers trailer; rain harvest and LID workshops-well attended; will have weed and wildlife workshop; Vista Americorps volunteer is holding junior gardeners camp. Valencia is soil testing; offering financial assistance for agricultural and community projects-3 agricultural projects and 2 community projects; working on building a bioreactor with Dr. Johnson; pursuing funds through the healthy soil act; considering increasing mil levy to \$1 per mil; developing comprehensive plan for the Whitfield land expansion-started restoration projects in that area; east Valencia urban gardener programs received \$18,000 to build hoop house, hold workshops, and buy related supplies; Garden Food Fiesta will be Aug. 4th; environmental outreach with a teachers summit will be held the 23rd-26th for learning about next gen science standards, test curriculum and the Whitfield 4th grade program.

15. Governor's Office: none
16. New Mexico Department of Agriculture: Ms. Maitland had nothing more to add to the NMDA report.
17. Natural Resources Conservation Service: Mr. Montoya reported there 115 employees out of 147 positions available, and NRCS is working to fill the vacancies. The RFP closed last week for soil health-\$70,000 is available. There were 6 applications for over \$450,000. NRCS hopes to fund 2 or 3 of the applicants.
18. Farm Service Agency: none
19. New Mexico Environment Department: none
20. Water Quality Control Commission: see report
21. National Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke presented report (see report)
22. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts: Brent Van Dyke presented report (see report)

23. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts: none
24. NMSU College of Agriculture: none
25. New Mexico Conservation District Employees: none

Chair Hunt invited Ericka Luna from the Forest Service (FS) to give a report. Ms. Luna gave an update on the forest plan revisions. The FS is also focused on the shared stewardship, which strategy is to ensure agencies are working on a landscape level. The working agreement MOA with the SWCC is still in process. This year the national Christmas tree(s) will be selected from New Mexico. There will be opportunities for people from New Mexico to decorate ornaments and a fourth grade student will be chosen to light the tree in Washington D.C.

26. Next Meeting: TBA
27. Adjourn: Commissioner Norris moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed.