

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

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New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting
Via teleconference
August 2, 2022
11:00 am
Minutes

All items for discussion and possible action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: All commissioners were present-see roll call.
2. Jennie Bierner Resignation: Commissioner Bierner will be leaving the SWCC sometime in November. She will submit a resignation date to NMDA so the governor's office can look for a new commissioner.
3. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (6/22/2022): Commissioner Bierner moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed with commissioners Glass and Sharp abstaining-see roll call vote.

New Business

5. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
6. Appointed Supervisor Approvals:
 - Lea: Brent Van Dyke (6), John Norris (7)
 - San Juan: Penny Sterling (6)

Chair Vigil moved to approve the supervisors. Commissioner Glass seconded, and the motion passed-see roll call vote.

7. Quemado soil and water conservation district (SWCD) missed meetings/supervisor vacancies: Katie Mechenbier (NMDA) reported the Quemado board missed 4 consecutive meetings, so all supervisors are off the board. Also, the point system worksheet wasn't submitted so they will only get \$500 in operations funding per the point system rules. Jimbo Williams (Quemado) reported Ruth Ann did all the paperwork

and when she quit and the board didn't get the point system worksheet submitted. Mr. Williams will contact the supervisors to be on the board. Chair Vigil stated the SWCC must appoint the supervisors. Mr. Williams said all but one former board member is willing to serve again. Chair Vigil suggested to appoint the former board members at this time. Commissioner Glass asked which board members were willing to serve. Jimbo Williams, Buster Green, John Pearson, Nancy Stieq, and Burl Adams are willing to serve. Commissioner Glass stated the board needs to sign oaths of office and elect officials. Commissioner Glass moved to appoint the former board members to the board. Commissioner Sharp seconded, and the motion passed-see roll call vote.

Old Business

8. \$3Million SWCD Legislative Appropriation: Pre-proposals from Districts:
 - Request for full proposals approval: Chair Vigil reported the subcommittee met twice to review 52 preproposals. Commissioner Glass stated it was difficult to narrow down all the great projects from 52 to 22. Chair Vigil said the proposal subcommittee will also have to narrow the proposals down from \$5 million to \$3 million in funding allocations. Patricia Depner (NMDA) presented the request for proposal (RFP) template. Commissioner Glass asked if questions for partial funding on the RFP should be included. Commissioner Garcia and Chair Vigil thought it was a good idea. Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the recommended preproposals for invitation for RFP. Commissioner Hardin seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.
 - Subcommittee members: Chair Vigil recommended each commissioner submit one person for the proposal review committee. Commissioner Glass suggested the review committee be technical experts in the areas of conservation as outlined in the RFP template. One name and an alternate should be submitted for the subcommittee. The deadline to form the subcommittee will be August 15th. Commissioner Glass moved to approve the subcommittee formation with one person from each region commissioner. Commissioner Sharp seconded with the amendment of including a nomination from the at-large commissioner.

Commissioner Glass accepted the amendment. Commissioner Bierner seconded the amended motion. The motion passed-see roll call vote.

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

9. Commissioners: Commissioner Glass-6 of 7 region 1 SWCDs submitted preproposals. San Juan lost its district manager and education manager, and need to replace those employees. Deanna McKee (San Juan) reported San Juan has hired new staff. Ciudad is going to put \$2.5 million in conservation grants on the ground in 2023. Commissioner Garcia-the NMACD region 2 meeting was July 12, where the region chair and vice chair were elected. Commissioner Bierner-none at this time.
Commissioner Bierner left the meeting at this point
Commissioner Lopez-at the NMACD region meeting the same officials were reelected. Establishing zoning within the districts for money requests and conservation stewardship program (CSP) lump sums were discussed. Commissioner Garcia asked when the capital outlay workshop mentioned at the region meetings would be. Debbie Hughes (NMACD) replied the date of the workshop is uncertain but will be held at the annual NMACD meeting. He also asked if the timeframe for the healthy soil program (HSP) can be changed to better match the growing season of June to August instead of September to May. Julie Maitland (NMDA) reported the HSP program is currently sending out memorandums of agreement to over 50 successful applicants and will have more information at the next meeting.
Commissioner Sharp left the meeting at this point.
Commissioner Harden-didn't attend the NMACD region 5 meeting, but understands it was well attended. He attended the Water and Natural Resource committee meeting. Chair Vigil-attended the NMACD region 6 meeting. Lots of information was provided about financial assistance available for SWCSs. They are still looking for new region 6 chair and vice chair.
10. Governor's Office-n/a
11. New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA): Julie Maitland-no report at this time.

12. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Rigo Lopez (NRCS)- the biggest issue currently is the emergency watershed protection program (EWP) to help burn areas. They are working with the Forest Service and NMDA to try to have one those agencies to be sponsors to do work needed in the hermit's peak/calf canyon area-primarily mulching and aerial seeding on 20-30 thousand acres. NRCS will then submit a second request funding for structural practices in the area such as sediment basins and trash racks. They visited with 730 people to get permission to do work in the area. The NRCS bureau chief said they would do 100% of the work at no cost to sponsors. NRCS is continuing to work with the environmental quality incentive program (EQIP) to finalize and obligate funds. They also received an additional \$4.6 million for the CSP.
13. Forest Service: n/a
14. Farm Service Agency: n/a
15. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED): n/a
16. Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC): Chair Vigil-no report at this time.
17. National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD): n/a
18. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD)-Debbie Hughes-NMACD hosted 6 region meetings and they all went well. The annual meeting is November 7-9 in Albuquerque. NMACD signed 2 of the regional conservation partnership program (RCPP) contracts that were awarded in 2019-\$4 million for ranchers with federal lands and \$2 million for eastern grass lands. The Forest Service contacted NMACD to possibly use NMACD contractors to help document infrastructure status in the calf canyon burn area. They will also help host a dinner for Water and Natural Resource committee in Clovis on August 25th or 26th, and hope to make a request for additional funding for SWCDs.
19. New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD): n/a
20. NMSU College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES): John Boren (ACES)-The cooperative extension service has realigned personnel to help people impacted by fires with focus on livestock programs, soil health and watershed management, behavior health and wellness, and water quality along with social economics. Thanks to NMACD for helping with the installation and implementation of

weather stations across the state. Ms. Hughes just received maps of areas where weather stations are still needed, and will ask SWCDs for locations to place them.

21. New Mexico Conservation District Employees (NMCDE): n/a
22. Next Meeting: TBA
23. Adjourn: Commissioner Glass moved to adjourn. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed-see roll call vote.