

COMMISSIONERS
Steve Glass, Region I
Ross Garcia, Jr., Region II
Vacant, Region III
Boe Lopez, Region IV
Vacant, Region V
Eddie Vigil, Region VI
Cyle Sharp, At-Large

Soil and Water Conservation Commission
MSC APR
P. O. Box 30005
Las Cruces NM 88003-8005
Telephone (575) 646-2642



New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Meeting
Special Meeting
Via Teleconference
June 30, 2025
9:00 am
Minutes

All Items for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Commissioner Lopez was absent; all other commissioners were present-see roll call.
2. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Glass seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (06/19/2025): Commissioner Garcia suggested a correction on agenda item 12, regarding the appointed representative from Attorney General's office. Commissioner Glass moved to approve the minutes as modified. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

New Business

4. Public Comment (*2 minutes per person*): none
5. Mill Levy Referendum - Mesa SWCD: Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the mill levy referendum request for Mesa SWCD. Commissioner Sharp seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

Old Business

6. NMDA \$9 Million 3-Year Proposal for SWCDs:
 - Point System
 - Capacity-Building Grant

Max Henkels (NMDA) reported the subcommittee met with Secretary Witte to discuss the \$9 million 3-year proposal. Of that \$9 million, there will be \$7.5 million available for SWCDs under the non-competitive capacity-building funding opportunity. The remaining \$1.5 million will go to the point system, increasing the 100-point base funding of \$17,434.25 to an approximate \$28,000 for the next 3 years. The \$7.5 million capacity-building funds will be available during a 2.5 years period, offering each district the opportunity to apply for a maximum of \$160,000. Mr. Henkels emphasized this funding opportunity is not competitive as all districts can apply for an equal amount. Districts will have 1-year to apply for these funds, and have the option to submit a combined application if multiple districts wish to pool funds for a shared project. A second application cycle may be opened after that initial year if little or no applications are received. Any unexpended funding as of February 1, 2028 will be redistributed in the point system to ensure the funding does not revert back to the state. NMDA will distribute the capacity-building application instructions and materials on July 15, 2025. Mr. Henkels clarified districts can choose to plan and spend their budget in the timeframe of their choosing within the 2.5-year period, August 1, 2025 through January 31, 2028. NMDA district specialists will work with districts to ensure a successful application. Quarterly reports on an NMDA provided template will be required to track project progress and ensure accountability to the legislature for the appropriated funds. Commissioners Garcia and Glass asked questions regarding funding flexibilities for districts without immediate funds to pay for additional staff or contractors, and if a district can have more than the \$160,000 capacity-building funds with leftover funding from other districts in year two of this program. Mr. Henkels stated NMDA will work with districts on an as needed basis, providing flexible funding through a disbursement basis, requesting proof of payment after the district uses those funds for staff and/or contractor payment. All districts have one year to apply for the \$160,000. Districts can potentially receive more than that amount by applying in a possible second application cycle, spending the unused funding for its intended purpose before it is redistributed in the point system. Commissioner Sharp thanked Mr. Henkels and Secretary Witte for the

opportunity to voice ideas and concerns with the initial proposal. Commissioner Sharp moved to approve the proposal. Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion passed by all commissioners present-see roll call vote.

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

7. Next meeting: TBD
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.