



Present: Eddy Harris, Chris Lopez, Lencho Vega, Vernon Leseberg, Will Kolbenschlag, Nyleen Troxel Stowe, Dani Rivera, Katie Mechenbier (NMDA), Gabby Coughlin (MRGCD), Dusty Glidewell (NRCS) and Della Vega.

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:04 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

The **agenda** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.

The **January 9, 2023 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Jimmy Sanchez.

Items:

Financial:

Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payments: See attachments. This was approved as presented on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.

FY 2023 2nd Quarter Budget Report Approval: The second quarter budget report was approved by DFA. Approval letter attached.

Building Update: The Socorro Electric Co-op overcharged us for the initial setup by \$4,969.67. We will request a refund once the electricity is hooked up and active to the new office building. We also were sent a modification to the contract for \$7,374.77 to bring the electricity from the Socorro Electric Co-op pole to the new office building. These changes are due to the lack of communication between our contractor and the Socorro Electric Co-op. The concrete slab was poured, not covered, walked on and had rocks set on it when concrete blankets were finally laid on top. We requested a slab inspection from Construction Industries Division (CID). The slab was approved by CID and the contractor smoothed parts of the slab out to remove the footprints, but it is still not even, especially in the garage section.

Cost Share Program: Updated spreadsheet attached. Twelve applications were received.

- Land leveling application for Tara Jaramillo: This tract has an eleven-hundred-foot ditch that passes through an unknown number of privately owned tracts to deliver water to her field. There is no easement in place for access to the ditch. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg, a letter will be sent informing Tara to get an easement for access to the ditch, signed by the various landowners and filed at the County Clerk's Office and then reapply.
- Land leveling application for Monette Lopez: This application was approved on a motion Vernon Leseberg and second by Lencho Vega. Chris Lopez abstained from discussion and voting on this application as Monette Lopez is his wife.
- Land leveling and concrete ditch application for Al Bergman: Mr. Bergman leased water from NM Tech for ten years. The lease can be cancelled in November of each year, but this is standard language for water lease agreements. Mr. Bergman stated on his application that he does not have an EQIP contract. However, he is currently working with the NRCS Office on a design for his farm for an EQIP contract. He will only have sixty days to complete his project with the Socorro SWCD which is standard



practice for all applications. This passes on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.

- Land leveling application for Robert Schott: This application was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.
- Land leveling application for David Adams: This application was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.
- Land leveling for Albert Romero: This application was not approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg as he does not have an easement in place for ditch access that runs through another private landowner’s property, and his property boundaries are not clear.
- Land leveling for Rosalio Romero: This application was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega.
- The remaining four applications for land leveling (Grace Sahr, Robert Markwell, Linda Rosales and Ken Armijo) are approved with no funding and are on a wait list in the order listed. If a landowner that has been approved with funding cancels their project or does not complete their project in the sixty-day time limit, the next person on the wait list will be notified that they are approved and can begin.
- **Residential application for drip irrigation for David Orozco:** This application was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg.

Healthy Soils Program Procedure: Four applicants applied last year within the Socorro SWCD. Only one applicant followed the procedure and had his project presented at a board meeting. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg, the applicant must present their project with financial information at either the March or April board meetings to receive the letter of support from the Socorro SWCD.

NMDA Report: See attachment. Katie Mechenbier went over the highlights of the report. Election information and dates have not been published by the Secretary of State yet for this year.

MRGCD Report: Gabby Coughlin stated that the MRGCD is developing goals for the CEO and staff of MRGCD. They are also looking at establishing policy for water delivery for cannabis crops. Gabby attended the Hay conference. MRGCD is also anticipating litigation from the WildEarth Guardians.

NRCS: Dusty Glidewell stated that they are working on EQIP contracts and designs.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:39 pm.

Chairman

Date