



Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801
January 10, 2022 12:00 PM

Present: Eddy Harris, Chris Lopez, James Sanchez, Lencho Vega, Will Kolbensschlag, Nyleen Troxel Stowe, with Gabby Coughlin, Alicia Lopez, Katie Mechenbier and Rafael Sierra-Castro by Zoom Meetings.

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

The **agenda** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega.

The **December 2021 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega.

Oath of Office: Chris Lopez and Lencho Vega both read and signed their oath of office documents. These will be sent to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Board Re-organization: On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega, the board will stay the same with Eddy Harris as chairman, Chris Lopez and vice-chairman and Vernon Leseberg as secretary/treasurer.

Items:

Financial:

Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payments: See attachments. These were approved as presented on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega.

2nd Quarter Budget Report: this was sent to board prior to meeting for review. See attachment.

Final Agreed Upon Procedures FY 2021 Report: The report submitted by Porch and Associates has been accepted by the Office of the State Auditor and is now available. Copy attached.

Mileage and Per Diem 2022: See attachment. Policy following State Statute and Administrative Code was approved on a motion by James Sanchez and second by Chris Lopez.

TopCon Hyper V Repair: Our survey equipment has developed faulty radio boards. GeoShack in Albuquerque had us ship the equipment to their main headquarters in Dallas for repair. They can upgrade the boards to operate on VHF frequency instead of only the UHF. When we hear from the repair center, we will let the board know the cost(s). Until then, surveying is down.

Recurring Salt Cedar FY 2022 Funding: See attached spreadsheet. Sanchez Demolition did not respond to request for a price for the Contreras tract. We have less than \$20,000 left in his funding agreement, so staff contacted Lanford Excavation for a price. Attached are quotes for the 13.69 acre Contreras tract in Contreras, NM and the 4.21 acre Thom tract in La Joya. If both quotes are accepted, the Socorro SWCD will have to use an extra \$1,185.99 from the General fund to complete both tracts. Smaller tracts are harder to contract for the work, unless they are close to larger tracts. That is the case with these next two tracts. On a motion by James Sanchez and second by Chris Lopez, these quotes are accepted and contract for this work will be printed and signed.

Cost Share:

Agricultural: See attached spreadsheet. Applications were received for concrete ditch from Ernest Cordova and for a MRGCD turnout and interior fencing from Maile Leyba. We are currently already slightly over budget on cost share. On a motion by James Sanchez and second by Chris Lopez, these two applications are not approved and they will be placed on the waiting list should another project not be completed. Will Kolbensschlag then asked Alicia Lopez with the MRGCD to update the board on the policy for turnout replacement/new turnout installation. MRGCD now has policy that they only charge for a new turnout. If a turnout needs to be replaced due to damage or needs to be upgraded to meet the one hour per acre watering time, then they will



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do it at no charge. There is an application process-application with a \$50 fee that the landowner submits, ownership and water right checked and then scheduling with District office for installation.

Water Bank Cost Share Projects: The MRGCD currently has a policy that they will not install or upgrade turnouts for landowners that are on water bank. Water Bank irrigation water leasers are curtailed at this point in time due to no storage in El Vado and the deficit owed to the State of Texas. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega, the Socorro SWCD shall follow the same criteria: cost share applications for projects on land that uses leased water bank water shall not be approved when the water bank is being curtailed by the MRGCD.

Building Update: We are having zero luck getting responses from Contractors. Staff suggested getting quotes for the Geotechnical Survey, awarding that contract, getting quotes for the building structure before prices increase or steel is not available and then bidding out the construction portions. Staff hope to have quotes by February board meeting.

NMDA Report: See attachment. Katie went over the report highlighting the items that need to be done ASAP.

MRGCD Report: Gabby Coughlin gave an update on the MRGCD projects and the new soil lab that will be up and running in a month or so. The signup for fallowing your land will begin this month. MRGCD, FSA and NRCS will be meeting to discuss the items that will be needed from each entity to work with landowners on infrastructure for the RCPP funding that MRGCD received.

NRCS Report: See attachment.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:05 pm.

Chairman

Date