



**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801
May 9, 2022, 12:00 PM**

Present: Eddy Harris, Chris Lopez, Vernon Leseberg, Lencho Vega, Jimmy Sanchez, Will Kolbenschlag, Nyleen Troxel Stowe, Rafael Sierra-Castro and with Katie Mechenbier by Zoom Meetings.

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:02 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

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

The **April 11, 2022 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega.

Items:

Financial:

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

FY 2022 3rd Quarter Budget Report Approved: See attachment. The third quarter budget report was approved by DFA.

Letter to First State Bank Authorizing ACH Payment on NMFA Loan: See attached letter. This letter will authorize ACH monthly payments for our NM Finance Authority Building loan PPRF-5486 from our General Fund Bank Account. These payments will be initiated each month after a bill is generated in the same manner as NM PERA contributions are paid. This letter was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Jimmy Sanchez. Letter will be taken to First State Bank.

Healthy Soils Applications: Staff have been working with two landowners who desire to submit applications for the Healthy Soils Program. Both landowners sent in their letters of support for approval and signature. Letters of support were approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg. These will be emailed to the landowners. See attachments.

Cost Share:

Agricultural: See attached spreadsheet. Ernest Cordova cancelled his concrete ditch project and Charles Gabaldon canceled his irrigation pipeline project. This unencumbers \$8,000 in the budget for cost share. Denise Sanchez submitted an application for land leveling of forty-eight acres. This was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg. James Sanchez abstained from discussion and voting on this motion.

MRGCD Report: Gabby Coughlin updated the board on the progress of the soil testing lab. They have encountered a few problems with notification of payment from the landowner and to then proceed with the testing. These issues have been corrected. Gabby also advised on how landowners can notify the NRCS and give permission for their EQIP contract designs to be given to the actual contractor performing the work. The landowner should reference the contract number in the letter and list the individuals, SWCD, contractors, etc. who have permission to receive the design/information. MRGCD has been working on the RCPP funding and how this program will work.

NRCS Report: Rafael read his report to the Board.

NMDA Report: Katie Mechenbier went over the highlights of the NMDA report.



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Closed Session:

On a motion by Jimmy Sanchez and second by Chris Lopez, the Board went into Executive Session for annual personnel reviews pursuant to NM State Statutes 10-15 1. Roll call was as follows: Eddy Harris, yes; Lencho Vega, yes; Chris Lopez, yes; Jimmy Sanchez, yes and Vernon Leseberg, yes. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg, the Board came out of Executive Session after personnel reviews with no final action taken pursuant to NM State Statutes 10-15 1 and went into regular session. Roll call was as follows; Eddy Harris, yes; Chris Lopez, yes; Lencho Vega, yes; Jimmy Sanchez, yes and Vernon Leseberg, yes.

Regular Session:

On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Vernon Leseberg, the board approved a 7% salary increase for the Socorro SWCD employees beginning with the first pay period in FY 2023 (July 2022). The numbers for the salary, FICA and PERA categories were adjusted on the draft budget that was sent to the board members for review prior to the meeting. The audit line item was discussed. Our current auditor emailed stating that due to employee costs, we would probably not be able to afford his services. This line item was at \$3,000 based on cost for the last several years. This line item was increased to \$5,000. Contract services line item was increased for FY 2023 to \$124,000 reflecting \$50,000 for the BLM FY 2022 Salt cedar project on the Sawtooth, the anticipated \$34,000 of State funding for our Salt cedar projects and \$40,000 for noxious weed spraying for FY 2023 for the BLM. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by James Sanchez, the draft FY 2022-2023 budget was approved. See attachments.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:45 pm.

Chairman

Date