



**Present:** Joe Chris Lopez, Edward Harris, Vernon Leseberg, Chanda Vigil, Will Kolbensschlag, Daniela Rivera, Katie Mechenbier, Rebecca Dow (arrived at 12:10), Cassidy Cordova (left at 12:20), Breanne Lucero (left at 12:20), Giovanni Gutierrez (left at 12:20), Joshua Chavez (left at 12:20).

**Board Members Not Present:** Sefie Anaya

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:01 pm by Chairman Lopez.

The **agenda** passed unanimously following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Vernon Leseberg.

The **March 10, 2026** minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Vernon Leseberg.

The **March 16, 2026 Special Meeting** minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Vernon Leseberg.

The **April 7, 2026 Special Meeting** minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Chanda Vigil and a second by Edward Harris.

Cassidy Cordova, Chapter Advisor for the Socorro 4-H, introduced Socorro High School Students and 4-H members Breanne Lucero, Giovanni Gutierrez and Joshua Chavez as the winning team in the state competition for Land Judging. Breanne Lucero gave an overview of the competition and discussed the team's victory, as well as the spot they have earned in the national competition May 5-7 in Oklahoma. The team is seeking funds to support their efforts, which will be an action item on the May 2026 Socorro SWCD agenda. See attachment.

**Items:**

**Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payments:** See attachments. Following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Vernon Leseberg, these were unanimously accepted as presented.

**Office Building Update:** Will updated the board on the status of the negotiations.

**FY2026 Q3 Budget Approval Letter:** See attachment. Will presented the FY2026 third quarter budget report and approval letter. Following a motion by Chanda Vigil and a second by Edward Harris, the letter was unanimously approved.

**FY2026 BAR #2026-6 & Local BARs:** See attachments. Will reviewed the current status of the budget. NMDA changed a portion of the state allocation to Soil & Water Conservation Districts to a grant rather than an allocation, and changes in Object Codes 47190 (State Allotment to Soil & Water Conservation Districts) and 47499 (Other State Grants) are necessary as a result. Will presented resolution #2026-6, which was read aloud by Chairman Lopez. Edward Harris made a motion to approve the resolution. Chanda Vigil seconded the motion, and a roll call vote followed: Joe Chris Lopez: yes, Edward Harris: yes, Vernon Leseberg: yes, Chanda Vigil: yes.



Will reviewed changes to expense line items necessary to reflect actual expenses (local BAR). Following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Vernon Leseberg, these changes were unanimously approved.

**Grants Update:** Will reviewed the grants that the Socorro SWCD has applied for FY2027.

**Supervisor Training in May/June Prior to Board Meeting:** See Attachment. In order to accommodate farming schedules during the growing season, the board asked Will to request this training for November 10, 2026 at 10:30 AM.

**MOA with Bureau of Reclamation for Rio Grande Basin Study:** See attachment. Chanda Vigil made a motion to table this item until the May 2026 board meeting in order to allow more time to review the MOA. Vernon Leseberg seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all members voting in the affirmative.

**Leopold Conservation Award:** See attachment. Will presented the nomination form and asked the board to consider potential nominees. No action was taken.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Socorro Community Conversation On Water, April 18:** See attachment. Chairman Lopez indicated that he is likely to attend.

**Tablets/chromebooks for board meetings:** Will suggested that tablets or chromebooks be purchased for board meetings as an alternative to printing hardcopy documents for each board member as a cost savings measure. Edward Harris made a motion to purchase tablets for this purpose. Chanda Vigil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cost Share:**

Update: See attachment. Daniela updated the board on the status of the cost share program.

Residential Applications:

Elaine Padilla applied for Residential Cost Share to install three low water use toilets.

Kirstin Keller applied for Residential Cost Share to install two low water use toilets.

Following a motion by Edward Harris and a second motion by Chanda Vigil, these applications were unanimously approved.

**Employee Reports:** See attachments. Will and Daniela reviewed their activity reports for the month.

**NMDA Report:** See attachment. Katie reviewed the NMDA report.

Rebecca Dow reviewed the status of her declaration of candidacy for the House of Representatives, grant opportunities, and independent contractors available for conservation work.



Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District  
1305 Enterprise Rd., Socorro, NM 87801  
April 14, 2026 12:00 PM

**Adjourn:** Following a motion by Edward Harris and a second by Chanda Vigil, the board voted unanimously to conclude the meeting at 1:43 pm.

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date