



**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801
February 14, 2022, 12:00 PM**

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

All five board members toured commercial property at 1111 California St. with realtor Keisha Herron as potential space for new office. No official SWCD business conducted during this time.

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:07 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

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

The **January 2022 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by James Sanchez.

Items:

Financial:

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

2nd Quarter Budget Report Approved: FYI, see attached email. The Department of Finance and Administration approved our second quarter budget report.

NMFA Loan for Office: After not having any success using the State of New Mexico Procurement Contract for Construction, staff called two realtors and visited several properties for sale in Socorro. The property at 1111 California St. will meet our needs for a new office space and a secure location for vehicles. It will require remodeling as it was most recently used at the Fraternal Order of Eagles club. Staff contacted the NM Finance Authority to see if it would be possible to amend the scope of work from new construction to purchase and remodel of commercial property. NM Finance Authority met with their lawyers and said the loan could be amended for this. It will go before their board at their March meeting. The NM Finance Authority will require an appraisal of the property. The Socorro SWCD will need to pay for this. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by James Sanchez, the Socorro SWCD will move forward with getting an appraisal and inform the realtor that the Socorro SWCD is interested in purchasing the property once NM Finance Authority has approved our change in scope of work for our funding.

Cost Share:

Agricultural: See attached spreadsheet. Applications were received for concrete ditch from Ernest Cordova and for a Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) turnout and interior fencing from Maile Leyba (both received prior to January board meeting) and a new application for irrigation pipeline from Charles Gabaldon. MRGCD turnout replacement and upgrade projects have been removed from the list as the MRGCD is now not charging for this. New turnouts are still eligible for cost share. We are now under budget. On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by James Sanchez, Ernest Cordova is approved for cost share for concrete ditch lining.

Water Bank Projects: Staff asked for clarification for funding on water bank projects-no funding for water bank projects at all or no funding for water bank projects when the MRGCD has curtailed water bank? On a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Lencho Vega, no cost share funding for water bank projects. The MRGCD is not hopeful that the water bank will exist in the future. They have curtailed all water bank users since last spring. The cost share application will reflect this change.

NMDA Report: See attachment. Katie went over the report highlighting the important items.



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MRGCD Report: Gabby Coughlin gave an update on the MRGCD projects and the new soil lab. The MRGCD is voting on the fee schedule for the soils lab today. The MRGCD will be charging their system and moving irrigation water to Socorro for first use in March. Gabby had been assisting landowners with gathering soil samples and will help them interpret the results when they come in.

NRCS Report: See attachment. Rafael reviewed his report with the Board.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:03 pm.

Chairman

Date