



**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
1305 Enterprise Rd., Socorro, NM 87801
January 13, 2026 12:00 PM**

Present: Edward Harris, Joe Chris Lopez, Vernon Leseberg, Sefie Anaya, Chanda Vigil, Will Klobenschlag, Daniela Rivera(virtually), Katie Mechenbier, Brian Vigil.

Board Members Not Present: None

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chairman Harris.

Oaths of Office: Joe Chris Lopez and Chanda Vigil read aloud their Oaths of Office. The forms were notarized by Will Klobenschlag and mailed to the Secretary of State's office.

The **agenda** passed unanimously following a motion by Chris Lopez and a second by Sefie Anaya.

The **December 9, 2025** minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Chris Lopez and a second by Vernon Leseberg.

Board Elections: A motion to elect Chris Lopez as Chairman was made by Vernon Leseberg and seconded by Sefie Anaya. This motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the board. A motion to elect Edward Harris as Vice-Chairman was made by Chris Lopez and seconded by Chanda Vigil. This motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the board. A motion to elect Vernon Leseberg as Secretary/Treasurer was made by Chris Lopez and seconded by Sefie Anaya. This motion was passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

Items:

Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payments: See attachments. Following a motion by Chris Lopez and a second by Sefie Anaya, these were unanimously accepted as presented.

FY2026 2nd Quarter Budget Review: See attachments. Will reviewed the status of the budget as of December 31, 2025, and presented the board with the budget spreadsheet and related financial reports, as well as expected BARs and local BARs to be presented at the end of the 3rd quarter.

FY2026 2nd Quarter Budget Report Letter for DFA: See attachment. Chris Lopez made a motion to approve the letter, followed by a second by Sefie Anaya. A roll call vote followed, with all members voting in the affirmative.

FY2025 Audit Update: See attachment. Will Klobenschlag and Chriz Lopez met with Lee Baldwin on December 15, 2025, to review the Tier 6 AUP Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures and Compilation Report of Independent Accountant and Compiled Financial Statements. There were no findings or exceptions, and the Socorro SWCD is in compliance with all procedures. Mr. Baldwin filed the report with the Office of the State Auditor on December 15, 2025.

Signatories Letter for First State Bank: See attachment. Will presented a letter to First State Bank to make all board members signatories for the bank account. Chris Lopez made a motion to approve the letter, followed by a second by Sefie Anaya. A roll call vote followed, with all members voting in the affirmative.



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Office Building Lawsuit Update: Will updated the board on the status of the lawsuit. There will be a review of the expert independent assessor's report with The Moses Law Firm on January 29, 2026 at 9:30AM.

Salt Cedar Project Update: See attachments. This year's salt cedar project is complete, with 13.7 acres extracted and masticated on private land in Contreras, NM. Before and after maps with aerial images were presented to the board, which were prepared by Lanford Excavation.

Bonding Insurance Policy: The Socorro SWCD currently has a bonding insurance policy in place with Western Surety. This policy will expire in April 2026 and will be renewed through Brown & Brown with RLI.

NMDA District Opportunities Grant: See attachment. Will presented the grant announcement to the board, along with possible ideas for the grant, and requested input from the board.

Board Directory Update: See attachment. NMDA requests updated board directories each year. Will presented the current board directory and requested updates. Two corrections were made. The board directory will be updated and sent to NMDA.

Cost Share:

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

Agricultural Application: Snake Ranch, LLC submitted an application for excavation of a settling pond in order to use ditch water for a drip irrigation system. Additional information regarding the project was requested by the board in December 2025's board meeting. This additional information was presented by Will. Following a motion by Chris Lopez and a second by Vernon Leseberg, the application was unanimously approved.

Residential Application: David Johnson submitted an application for a low flow toilet. Following a motion by Chris Lopez and a second by Vernon Leseberg, the application was unanimously approved.

At the request of the board, the cost share limits and policies for low flow toilets will be reviewed at the February 2026 board meeting.

District Manager Report: See attachment. Will reviewed his report on activities for the month.

NMDA Report: See attachment. Katie reviewed the report for the board.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:42 pm.

Chairman

Date