



MINUTES

August 14, 2023

Conference Room – 129 E. Third

The meeting was also held via ZOOM for others to attend.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Barraza, John Sisk, Carrie Hollifield, Cody Munson, Doug Whitney Jerry Vaz and Hoby Bonham

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Raquel Chacon (NRCS), Drew Garnett, Ty Carter & Kayli Farmer (BLM), Wyatt Curry & Emrie Naranjo in person and Katie Mechenbier (NMDA) via zoom.

Joe called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Carrie made a motion to approve the Agenda, Minutes x2 and Treasurer's report (emailed previously), seconded by John, motion passed unanimously.

Wyatt Curry was present to give a report as the top high individual and team for the 4h P&R team. He reported that the contest was done at the same time as the state ffa contest and that he looks forward to participating in more competitions in the future. A thank you card was given to the district for their sponsorship.

Emrie Naranjo gave a report on the NMYRM Camp. She stated she learned a lot, met a lot of great connections and really enjoyed the camp over all and is very thankful for the sponsorship! She said her favorite parts of camp were the cow c-section and the wildlife and ranch management plan.

Reports

BLM reported that 50000 ac of mesquite have been treated, and they are working on finishing up the master agreement. Also 50 acres of Rue have been monitored and treated.

NMDA was represented by Katie. Reminded the district that when submitting the WQ&C we need to CC Katie.

NRCS report was reviewed by Raquel (attached). There are several NRCS positions open in the state. Programs are well underway and the are currently accepting FY application for CSP, RCPP, EQIP & IRA.

Chaves County Extension Agency was represented by Drew Garnett. County fair went well and they are now prepping for State and Eastern. Upcoming pecan weevil workshops are Aug 16 & 17 @ 5:30 pm. Also have a gardening event at the library on Saturday August 19. There will also be a pecan workshop out at Whitney Ag on September 19th.

Noxious Weed – Jennifer has been working with Ty & Kayli getting chemical and agreement documents underway. Still working on getting a replacement for the Noxious Weed Coordinator. Jennifer has spoken with Ty, Kayli, and the current contractors about providing field training for the new hire once on board which they are more than willing to assist with. We are also going to try to start using the BLM mapping so that we can keep better records on hand. Jennifer will get with Emily once there is a new hire.

Correspondence

The Village of Ruidoso sent a form asking the district if a new tour destination/ emergency center building would affect the business. Jennifer answered the survey and submitted.

Clovis Livestock Market news published an article on July 21 stating that Quay County filed a lawsuit along with 24 counties suing the Governor's administration over the GSD situation. Carrie asked Jennifer to get with the commissioners to see if Chaves did the same. Jennifer will report to the board next month.

Business

Central Curry SWCD sent a sponsorship form for the Innovative Ag Conference to be held in Clovis at 12-6-23. Because that is not in our district the board decided not to sponsor the event at this time.

DFA sent a letter stating that they need an approved/ signed resolution acknowledging the FY22 Audit findings. The district did not have any findings on the FY22 Audit; however, an acknowledgement was presented to the board showing there were no findings. Carrie moved to accept the resolution, Doug seconded, all in favor. Each member signed off on the letter.

In light of the NW position being open the SWCD is not currently using the work truck. The BLM contracted employees currently use whatever BLM truck is available. The district was asked if the contractors would be able to use the district truck while it is not being used. Carrie made the motion to allow them to use the truck with the district being responsible for fuel as long as a milage and usage chart is kept, Doug seconded the motion, all in favor.

Ross Chesser submitted a cost share application for a solar pump to replace a windmill. John made a motion to approve the cost share, seconded by Hoby. All in favor.

Beau Bamberg with Lazy Rafter B, LLC submitted a cost- share application for shade balls has already purchased. Jennifer advised the board that this is not something that the district has ever done as it is not on the NRCS cost-share list. With recent research there is evidence that the shade balls really help with evaporation and algae. Doug made a motion to approve the cost share with the stipulation that Beau submit a quarterly report of his findings with photos and a letter. John seconded the motion, all in favor aside from Carrie who abstained from voting due to having a work relationship with Beau.

In other business, Jennifer received late correspondence from Border SWCD who want to spread the word about an RCPP meeting on September 7 at 5pm in Elida. They are also looking for a sponsor for an Africa Rue Field Day on October 5th. This will be discussed in business at next months meeting.

Executive Session

John made the motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Cody all in favor. The executive session was brought to order at 11:15 am. Executive session in reference to Section 10-15-1 H-2 for limited personnel matters in regards to Resumes submitted for the Chaves Noxious Weed Coordinator position.

The board went into open session after deliberation at 11:50 am and a statement regarding the open session was made by Jennifer.

2 out of 3 resumes for a full-time position have been considered and the board would like to set up interviews on 8/21/23. Jennifer will contact the applicants and schedule interviews.

Cody made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57, seconded by John, all in favor.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce- District Manager