



Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District

129 East Third St.

P.O. Box 2722

Roswell, NM 88201

575-755-7923

MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Conference Room – 129 E. Third

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Barraza, Carrie Hollifield & Jerry Vaz in person with John Sisk and Hoby Bonham via phone.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cody Munson, Doug Whitney

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Rocky Gonzales (NRCS), Katie Mechenbier & Katie Goetz (NMDA).

Joe called the meeting to order at 10:10 am, opening with a prayer.

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

Reports

BLM - absent

NMDA was represented by Katie and reviewed the previously emailed report. Reminded the district that when submitting the WQ&C we need to CC Katie M. Katie Goetz with NMDA stated she can help with Healthy Soils grant info and gave a brief overview of that. There will possibly be a meeting on 10/13/23 to address some voting info along with DFA etc. Katie M will send the information once finalized.

NRCS report was reviewed by Rocky (attached). There are several NRCS positions open in the state. Programs are well underway and they are currently accepting FY application for CSP, RCPP, EQIP & IRA. The NRCS employees in the state are all taking turns on detail to help with the Hermits Peak/ Calf Canyon assessments.

Chaves County Extension Agency was absent, but Drew Garnet sent in a flyer for an NMSU Pecan Workshop on September 19th at 9am at the Whitney Farms.

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 will submit WQ&C reports as well as work on the RFP that expires in October as of right now. Jennifer will also coordinate the fair booth and volunteers to run the booth.

Correspondence

NMACD sent over a Sponsorship/Exhibitor form for their 76th Annual Conference. Because we are not members the board decided not to do a sponsorship at this time. NMACD also is requesting to see what supervisors have had training and see if there is interest in training. Both Joe and John had

interest, Jennifer will report that to NMACD. Jennifer did ask to addend the training to gain knowledge. Carrie made the motion to allow Jennifer to attend the training, seconded by John. All in favor.

Jesse Juen sent over some Eastern Plains Grassland RCPP information to the board with the names of potentially eligible RCPP locations. Jennifer will contact those producers and provide the information to them. As far as hosting an RCPP producer meeting, the board does not have a motion or a vote to do anything at this time.

Business

Border SWCD submitted information for their African Rue Field Day on October 5th. Jennifer has posted the flyer online and in local ag related businesses. Border was also looking for sponsors for the catered field day. Jerry made the motion to sponsor \$100 toward the event for drinks or catering for the participants, seconded by Carrie. All in favor. Because the field day is during ENMSF, Chaves SWCD staff will not be able to attend.

Brush Control Cost Share application, from Dominic Bell, for the treatment of 15 acres of creosote was reviewed. Because there has not been a decision on hand application or aerial application, the cost share has been tabled at this time. Dominic does not have an applicators license and while the chemical is not restricted, it is advised that it be applied by someone with experience as to not harm surrounding trees/ plants and vegetation.

Cost Share application for Vaz Dairy Partnership was reviewed. They would like to replat 1100ft of gaited pipe. All guideline requirements are met and they are eligible. Carrie made a motion to approve the cost share application with a max of 50% up to \$7500, seconded by John. All in favor. Jerry did abstain from voting.

Cost Share application from the Assurance home for hose irrigation was reviewed by the board. The property has been in production several years as they irrigate grass to feed horses for their horse therapy they offer. Carrie made a motion to approve the cost share application for 50% up to \$7500, seconded by John, all in favor.

The October meeting falls on a holiday. Carrie made a motion to move the regular meeting to October 16th at 10am. Seconded by Joe, all in favor.

In other business, Carrie mentioned the past approved cost share for Beau Bamberg with Lazy Rafter B for the share balls. It was discussed that moving forward, the board will need to be more strenuous with what is being approved. While the share ball side is a great project, moving forward any cost share applications need to stick with the requirement that projects may not be started until AFTER the board has approved the project.

Executive Session

Joe made the motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by Carrie all in favor. The executive session was brought to order at 11:30 am. Executive session in reference to Section 10-15-1 H-2 for limited personnel matters in regards to Performance Reviews and selecting a candidate for the Chaves / Hagerman/ Dexter Noxious Weed Coordinator position.

The board went into open session after deliberation at 12:50 pm and a statement regarding the open session was made by Jennifer.

Performance Review for Jennifer Pierce was completed and there are no changes to her job description or compensation at this time. After much deliberating, the board selected Emily Doss for the NW position with a 6-month probationary period, \$40,000 salary, health benefits and PERA. Jennifer will send the job offer letter over to Emily which will need to be accepted or denied by 9/25/23.

Jerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 pm, seconded by Carrie, all in favor.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce- District Manager