



Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District

129 East Third St.

P.O. Box 2722

Roswell, NM 88201

575-755-7923

MINUTES

July 8, 2024

Conference Room – 129 E. Third

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Barraza, Travis Wagner, John Sisk, Carrie Hollifield, Jerry Vaz and Cody Munson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Emily Doss, Katie Goetz, Drew Garnett, Mark Naranjo, Kimber Naranjo, Laci Naranjo, Melissa Williams, Caitlin Campbell, Robbie Scott, Caleigh Scott, and Raquel Chacon and Michael Lackey via zoom.

Carrie called the meeting to order at 10:01 am, opening with a prayer.

Travis made a motion to approve the Agenda and Minutes (emailed previously), seconded by Cody, all in favor.

John made a motion to approve the Financial report (emailed previously), seconded by Travis, all in favor.

Presentation

Kimber Naranjo and Caleigh Scott spoke about their experiences at the NMYRMC and described it as an incredible experience. They were able to meet new friends from all over the state, learn about the financial and physical tasks that a ranching operation must undergo and even got to help process a beef that the participants ate on

Reports

BLM- absent

NMDA- Katie Goetz reviewed the NMDA report (previously emailed). There were highlights on the HSP eligible entity grantee training, the AWD program through NMDA, the NMSU/NMDA NM Soil Health and Soil Carbon Conference in ABQ 7/31-8/1, and the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau statements.

NRCS – Raquel reviewed the NRCS activity report for June/July. They are still taking applications for all programs, and announced that Virtual Fence will be offered on FY25 contracts for Grazing Management. CIG grant deadline is still unknown at this time.

Chaves County Extension Agency- Drew reported that Chaves County fair starts on 7/19 and livestock should be there by 7/21. There is a pecan weevil workshop scheduled for July 29, and they will be bringing in a pecan specialist sometime in September.

Noxious Weed – Emily reviewed previously emailed NW report. She is finishing up African Rue and starting on Russian Knapweed. Updated permission forms for spraying and working to clarify mapping with BLM. WQ&C final report and invoicing is due the end of the month and she will be working on turning that in.

District- Jennifer has had several meetings and trainings in the last month and plans to work on MOUs with other districts to expand field work areas. She has applied for 4 grants and so far, 3 of the 4 have been partially or fully funded. NRCS-CTA Land Restoration Field Day & Workshop = \$20,000.00, LOE Juniper Project = \$133,000.00, and NMDA HSP= \$100,000.00. Awaiting news on the NFEF grant submitted last fall. Also, the WQ&C grant submitted by Emily for NW treatment was funded in the amount of \$4811.12.

Open Discussion- Mark Naranjo with NMSLO stated they are still waiting on the conditions to be right to start their mesquite work, and they submitted a letter of support for PLJV for their LPC RCPP proposal.

Correspondence

Roosevelt Cloud Seeding report was passed around for the board and others present to review.

Final report from Beau Bamberg for the shade ball cost share was reviewed.

OSE Groundwater flyer was passed around to all in attendance.

Eastern NM Water Conservation Summit flyer was passed around to all in attendance.

NMACD Annual conference, and the supervisor training opportunity was discussed with the board, as well as the contact list that is available on the NMACD website for the board members. All board members were told that their personal information was available to the public. A list of what was available online was passed around and each member was able to make off what they didn't want advertised. Jennifer will send that in to Linda Hood to have the information updated on their website.

Border SWCD is having a Soil Compaction Demo on 7/22 at 5:30. The flyer was passed around to all in attendance. Jennifer and Brian will be attending this free event.

Business

Jennifer and Drew have been working together several months to organize a Producers Day and Grant Writing Training for the public. Sponsorships will be utilized to pay for the specialist Jesse Juen and beverages/meals for the training and then other agencies and districts will have the opportunity to tell producers what programs, grants/ funding they have available for a live interaction with both producers and agencies. Cody made a motion to approved the outreach on 8/13/24m seconded by Travis, all in favor.

Bids for 3 pickup trucks and 3 utv's were reviewed by the board. Travis made a motion to allow Jennifer Pierce to purchase a 2024 4x4 RAM 2500 on behalf of the District from Richland Auto Group in Roswell, NM in the amount of \$54,706.00, seconded by Jerry, all in favor. Cody made a motion to allow Jennifer Pierce to purchase the 2024 John Deere Gator on the behalf of the district, in the amount of \$18,300 +TTL from John Deere in Roswell, NM, seconded by Travis, all in favor. The board requested that staff gather 3 bids for a tandem axel utility trailer as well for next month's meeting, and discussed donating the old single axel trailer to Border SWCD.

The resignation letter from Hoby Bonham was reviewed by the board. No action needed.

Position 3 is currently open with the recent resignation of Hoby Bonham. Hoby suggested in his resignation to appoint Michael Lackey, a producer within Chaves District. Joe made a motion to appoint Michael Lackey to position 3, seconded by John, all in favor.

Mr. Thatcher came into the office and is requesting assistance with Russian Knapweed and filled out a cost share form for Noxious Weed Control. Due to the location of the property which Mr. Thatcher resides, a soil test and water test were requested by Jennifer at the time of application submission. Once the samples are reviewed, the board can the vote on the cost share form.

Ricky Pearce with Pearce Trust submitted a brush control cost share application for FY25. He is hoping to spot treat a little over 3000 acres of private land. John made a motion to approve the cost share 50% up to \$5000, seconded by Travis, all in favor.

Jennifer brought forward the opportunity to tour the building on Garden that the district has considered purchasing. Once the board visited the building, Jerry made a motion to put in an offer on the building at \$300,000, seconded by John, all in favor.

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 12:10 pm. Executive session in reference to Section 10-15-1 H-2 for limited personnel matters in regards to PERA & Insurance benefits provided to staff.

The board went into open session after deliberation at 1:30 pm and a statement regarding the open session was made by Jennifer. Due to the recent increases of .5% in PERA and another 10% in health insurance through NM, the board has elected to adjust the benefits for district manager Jennifer Pierce to reflect the hard work and dedication shown in the last year. Cody made the motion for the district to now cover 75% of the total premiums for Jennifer and her family coverage, and Jennifer would pay the other 25% out of her check, seconded by Travis, all in favor.

When calculating how much was to be taken out of payroll back in January when insurance went up the initial 10% (total increase of 20% since January 2024), Jennifer miscalculated the amount that is taken out of her check each month. She was taking \$759.79 per check and when re-adjusting the current increase, she discovered the amount should have only been \$711.64. There have been 12 pay periods that insurance has already been deducted from Jennifers pay resulting in an over payment from Jennifer by \$577.80. Travis made a motion to reimburse Jennifer the \$577.80, seconded by Cody, all in favor.

Cody made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce _____

Jennifer Pierce- District Manager