



MINUTES

September 9, 2024

Conference Room – 129 E. Third

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Hollifield, Michael Lackey, Joe Barraza, John Sisk, Jerry Vaz & Travis Wagner via phone

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cody Munson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Emily Doss, Katie Goetz, Kayli Farmer-Davis, Kelli Goodpasture, Aron Balok, Drew Garnett, Katie Goetz, Art Buentello, Shawn Denny, Raquel Chacon

Carrie called the meeting to order at 10:06 am, opening with a prayer.

John made a motion to approve the Agenda and Minutes & Financials (emailed previously), seconded by Joe, all in favor.

Reports

BLM- Kayli reported 25,000 ac of mesquite, helped NMSLO with 15,000 ac. Working with ranchers on NRCS contracts to finish up another 10,000 ac or so.

NMDA- Katie Goetz reviewed the NMDA report (previously emailed). There were highlights on the NMCEWL grant writing webinar, the Jornada Symposium, NMACD conference, and Open Meetings Act.

NRCS – Raquel reviewed the NRCS report as attached. Deadlines were highlighted and covered, and new staff members of the RFO were introduced (Art Buentello & Shawn Denny).

Chaves County Extension Agency- Drew discussed the upcoming Pecan workshop on 9/12, as well as the ENMSF deadlines and schedule. There will also be an Urban Horticulture Symposium on Nov 19th that was briefly mentioned along with Master Gardener info.

Noxious Weed – Emily reviewed previously emailed NW report. She is finishing up Russian Knapweed. She was awarded the NMDA Nox Weed grant for around \$57k and preparing to get RFP to start that project.

District- Jennifer report as attached was reviewed, she has had several meetings and trainings in the last month and plans to work on MOUs with other districts to expand field work areas. There will be a Juniper Tour with brush specialists and partners the week of the 24-27 to finalize locations for Juniper treatment through LOE grant.

Open Discussion- PVACD staff Kelli Goodpasture and Aron Balok were in attendance. They introduced themselves and discussed the water table, and PVACD related projects. They are hopeful to include the district in upcoming meetings, events and partnerships.

Correspondence

SW Quay Sponsorships- Thank you letters from Shayla & Riley Rodgers for their sponsorship checks were read to the board. Due to their new school schedules, they were unable to attend the meeting in person and will come by after school hours to grab their sponsorship checks.

Roosevelt SWCD- Aerial reports for cloud seeding projects were available for the board to review.

NMSU Ag Research Center is hosting a field day on 9/26 and has requested the district to attend. The event is free of charge and no sponsorship required. Board agrees to allow Jennifer & Emily to attend.

NMDA/NMSU Operations funding was reviewed. Chaves SWCD received \$74,764.78 after the approval of the point sheet submitted by Jennifer Pierce.

Carlsbad SWCD extended an invitation to attend the Restore NM Brush party. 2 million acres have officially been treated in SENM! Jennifer will be in Carlsbad that day anyway, and asked to attend to represent Chaves SWCD. No vote needed as it is a free event.

BLM RAC will be having a meeting/tour on 9/16-17, Jennifer will be in attendance to represent the SWCD. BLM Carlsbad (Rebecca & Sydney) have requested the use of the SWCD gator to complete a NRCS UTV training on 9/25. Per the board that should be fine, Jennifer will compose liability waivers for the CFO employees and their direct supervisor to sign off on.

DFA sent an approval letter for the FY25 final budget.

Business

Contract for Bullseye Weed Control through the Ground Treatment was reviewed. Joe made a motion to extend the contract as presented for an additional year, seconded by Michael, all in favor.

Carlsbad SWCD has offered Chaves SWCD partial booth space in Santa Fe for Ag Fest. Booth fees are \$750 total. Jennifer also mentioned trying to obtain local ag products (edible) to take up to Ag Fest, it was mentioned trying to obtain 12oz bags of shelled pecans from Normex for \$4.10 per bag. 300 bag are needed to attend totaling \$1230. Jerry mentioned that it would be really great to try to get fair life to sponsor milk to represent the dairies in the area as well. Jerry made the motion to go ahead and allow the partial booth for AG Fest with hotel, but to wait on ordering outreach items, seconded by John, all in favor.

Roswell Science & Art festival will be held on 10/12. Kelli with PVACD asked Chaves SWCD to partner on a free booth space to attend the event as it is focused on conservation. Joe made a motion to allow Jennifer to attend the event with Kelli, seconded by Michael, all in favor.

The HSP grant that was awarded for Chaves SWCD had an additional admin fee available in the amount of \$14444.25, Jennifer would like to take that money and hire a part time temporary employee to assist with grant paperwork and office administration to try to keep up with the current workflow. John made the motion to allow Jenny to direct hire a part time temporary office admin, seconded by Joe, all in favor.

ENMSF is quickly approaching. Jennifer would like to order new outreach information, and order the board members name tags. Jennifer would also like board members to sign up to work the booth and also include NRCS employees. Due to past encounters with other agency staff, only NRCS will be asked to share booth space with the district. Michael made the motion to order name tags and outreach items, seconded by John, all in favor.

The October and November board meetings fall on Federal Holidays. Jennifer suggested moving the meeting to the next scheduled business day. October would be on 10/15 and November would be on November 12. Michael made the motion to move the dates accordingly, seconded by Jerry, all in favor.

Cost Share specs, guidelines and applications were reviewed by the board. It would vastly assist producers to allow the district cost share (not state or federal money) to assist with the gap on EQIP related projects. After extensive deliberation and reviewing the last several years of cost share usage, Travis made the motion to allow the new cost share applications to cover the gap with EQIP and grant projects and to help with arc clearance for projects. \$30,000 of the already established cost share program will now be eligible for EQIP and Grant related applications. These applications can apply for 50% up to \$5000. Joe seconded the motion, all in favor.

Heather and Olan Borg brush control cost share application is back up for review. Due to the previously discussed information, Travis made the motion to approve the application, seconded by Joe, all in favor.

Mike Hurst submitted a cost share application to put an under sling on a newly erected pivot. This will protect the pivot, and extend the life of the pivot as well as conserve water resources. After reviewing the application and location, Jerry made a motion to approve the application, seconded by John, all in favor.

Executive Session

Joe made the motion to enter into an executive session, seconded by John all in favor. The executive session was brought to order at 12:36 pm. Executive session in reference to Section 10-15-1 H-2 for limited personnel matters in regards to employee reviews and employee probationary period.

The board went into open session after deliberation at 2:08 pm, and a statement regarding the closed session was made by Jennifer.

Employee reviews for Brian Archuleta, Nox Weed Tech, Emily Doss, Nox Weed Coordinator and Jennifer Pierce, District Manager were implemented by all present board members and superiors within the office. That information is held in the employees' personnel files. Emily Doss and Brian Archuleta were excused from the meeting after reviews were administered and discussed. No major issues to reprimand or further discussion is required at this time.

Jennifer Pierce presented that the probationary period for Nox. Weed Coordinator, Emily Doss, expires at the end of the month. Her probation was already extended once. Information regarding the employee and performance status were discussed extensively. Joe made the motion to end the probationary period and have Emily Doss as a permanent employee, seconded by Michael, all in favor.

Jerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joe, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:13pm.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce

Jennifer Pierce- District Manager