



Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District

129 East Third St.

P.O. Box 2722

Roswell, NM 88201

575-755-7923

MINUTES

April 8, 2024

Conference Room – 129 E. Third

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Barraza, Jerry Vaz & Travis Wagner in person. John Sisk & Cody Munson via phone.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carrie Hollifield & Hoby Bonham

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Emily Doss, Raquel Chacon (NRCS), Katie Goetz (NMDA), Tyrel Carter & Kayli Farmer (BLM), Kevin Newman (Bullseye)

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

Jerry made a motion to approve the Agenda, Minutes and Treasurer's report (emailed previously), seconded by Travis, all in favor.

Reports

BLM- Tyrel Carter reported they are still monitoring. Not currently spraying but about to start on Rue. They are working on field maps, LPC surveys. Getting Pesticide applicator licenses up to date. Currently working with 3500 ac of creosote and 2800ac of juniper. Moving on to mesquite and fencing soon.

NMDA- Katie reviewed previously emailed report. There is an NMDA Noxious Weed Coordinator position open for application until April 17th.

NRCS – Raquel reviewed previously emailed report. There are some staff changes and new employees coming on board and they are working on obligations. Also, there are funding opportunities for brush and irrigated practices through IRA. The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative is open and applications are due 5/26/24. NM Ag in the Classroom is also open for application until 4/27/24

Chaves County Extension Agency- Chaves CES is hosting a “reducing Woody Encroachment in Grasslands” class with CEU's available. Chaves SWCD was asked to provide breakfast/ coffee for the occasion.

Noxious Weed – Emily reviewed previously emailed report. Has been spraying Russian Knapweed, starting to gear up for Rue, and working to reestablish the Chaves CWMA committee.

District- Jennifer has had meetings in the last month with DFA/ICIP , SWCC, and Conoco Phillips. Participated in the LOE training and working on an application for Land Restoration. Conducted a field visit for D. Bell for creosote encroachment. Working with Chaves CES and Jesse Juen to put together a Grant writing training for producers and other agencies. Submitting a grant for the NRCS

CTA grant on the 12th. Planning to attend the Chaves COG meeting on the 12th, and the county commissioners meeting with Border District on the 18th. Prepping to submit grants for HSP, LOE, NACD Climate Smart & NRCS CIG.

Open Discussion- N/A.

Correspondence

SWCC approved the Mill Levy Resolution and the Appointed supervisor applications for both John Sisk & Cody Munson.

Chaves County 24-25 allocation letter was received and Jennifer did submit the 24-25 request letter. If approved, the invoices will be sent out in Aug/Sept of 2024.

Business

NM Envirothon letter from Gabriella Coughlin was reviewed with the HSP pitch to the district. Because there are no students from Chaves District in Envirothon, and the HSP grant does not pertain to the Chaves District, it was motioned to decline both requests by Travis, seconded by Cody. All in favor.

Because there is a new part time employee coming on board, the Employee Policy needs to be amended to accommodate the part time position information, and a Noxious Weed Technician job description needs to be established. John made a motion to accept the changed to the employee policy and the new tech job description, seconded by Cody, all in favor.

New employee documentation for Brian Archuleta was reviewed by the board. No cause for action but did require signature from a board member. Jerry Vaz signed off on the packets.

Jennifer has visited with NMFA to see about what the loan process might be for purchasing a building. She would like to submit the needed documentation to get a preliminary report/ estimate for loan approval on \$350,000.00. Joe made the motion to allow Jennifer to get pre loan approval information from NMFA. Seconded by Travis, all in favor.

2 years ago the district voted to allow the district get a credit card. Jennifer submitted the credit card application to 1st American and has yet to get a response. There is now a business credit card available through JP Stone. Jennifer would like to put in an application for business cards with a max of \$3000. Travis made a motion to approve the applications and acquiring business credit cards for the district. Seconded by Joe, all in favor.

Lastly, Jennifer has all the signature cards ready from the signor changes from the last 2 meetings ready for signature. No action needed.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce
Jennifer Pierce- District Manager