



Chaves Soil and Water Conservation District

129 East Third St.

P.O. Box 2722

Roswell, NM 88201

575-755-7923

MINUTES

June 10, 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 in person with Hoby Bonham via phone.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Vaz & Cody Munson

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Pierce, Emily Doss, Raquel Chacon, Brody Fox & Judy Webster (NRCS), Mike Richardson, Braxton Wooton & Jake Wagner.

Carrie called the meeting to order at 10:07 am, opening with a prayer.

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

Reports

BLM- absent but texted Jennifer a report that they are working on a game plan to treat salt cedar, gearing up to start spraying Mesquite with state land office. Should be about 15000 ac with NMSLO and 25000 ac through BLM.

NMDA- absent but the report was highlighted and reviewed by Jennifer.

NRCS – Raquel introduced new employees. Judy Webster (Farm Bill Specialist in Carlsbad FO), and Brody Fox (Soil Tech- Roswell FO). She reviewed application deadlines, obligation deadlines, CRMP's, upcoming meetings and personnel as well as national and state news.

Chaves County Extension Agency- absent. No report.

Noxious Weed – Emily reviewed NW report. Has been spraying Rue, working on getting Arc GIS on the same page with BLM (Kayli). Working on the WQ&C report due at the end of the month and lining out treatment of the Hagerman Canal with Bullseye. She participated in a Drone Demo in East io Arriba district, wanting to do a drone demo here on 6/25. And working on salt cedar treatment plans with BLM. She also met with Mr. Richardson in reference to his Russian knapweed dilemma.

District- Jennifer has had several meetings and trainings in the last month and plans to work on MOU's with other districts to expand field work areas. An iPad was also purchased for Brian to utilize in the field and Emily to utilize when Brian is on days off in the field.

Open Discussion- none

Correspondence

There is a Water Planning Open House at PVACD on the 11th from 3-7pm.

Chaves SWCD has been granted the NRCS CTA grant in the amount of \$20,000.00. they are finalizing the paperwork to formerly award. This project will not fund a drone as originally planned. Drone purchase to be discussed under the Drone Demo within the business items.

SW Quay awarded a \$500 check to GHS FFA and a \$75 check for Braxton Wooton for 1st place team and 2nd high individual awards at state FFA judging. Braxton was present to accept his check and gave a brief overview along with Jake Wagner in reference to state judging competition and how it went and how nationals went.

Business

FY 25 Annual Work Plan was reviewed by the district. Travis made a motion to keep the plan as is for the time being. Seconded by Joe, all in favor.

Jennifer has prepped the IPA-OSA AUP for FY24 auditor. We are under contract to utilize Scott Northam CPA. John made a motion to approve the AUP and sign off, seconded by Travis, all in favor.

SW Quay sent the annual sponsorship letter requesting participation in the FFA/4H state contests. Travis made a motion to sponsor \$500, seconded by John, all in favor.

Otero SWCD sent in the calendar order forms for FY 25. Joe made a motion to order 20 calendars, seconded by Hoby, all in favor.

Chaves Sharp Shooters is going to nationals and has 4 individuals going. They are seeking sponsorship. Because it is through 4H, Joe made a motion to sponsor \$400, seconded by Hoby, all in favor.

Jennifer reviewed the Aerial RFP information again with the board and provided an explanation and overview as to why we have this RFP and how it is utilized. Travis made a motion to approve contracting with Devil Dusters through the RFP, seconded by Joe, all in favor.

Jennifer re-reviewed the CES membership to make the board aware that there is an admin fee on purchases of 1.25%. No vote needed because it was previously approved to join.

Jennifer reviewed the Travel Log associated with the drone demo travel from Emily. She has already been paid. No vote needed, the log just needed to be reviewed by supervisors. Travis signed off on the travel log.

Emily is setting up a drone demo with a company in northern NM. The drone demo will be on 6/25/24 at 10am at the ENMSF (south gate). Because a drone was not approved on the CTA grant, Jennifer and Emily would like to have a drone to utilize for monitoring on private land only with land owner permission. Emily showed the board several options of drone. The Blackhawk is the one that would be most advantageous to the board. John made a motion to purchase that drone, seconded by Travis, all in favor.

Pirtle Farms had an approved cost share back in December for solid set sprinklers. They are requesting an extension through September to complete the project. Joe made the motion to allow the extension, seconded by Hoby, all in favor.

Mike Richardson was present at the meeting and discussed with the board the Russian knapweed issue he is observing in his field. He has at least a solid acre of knapweed on his field that is knee high. Emily and Brian did go to the property and saw the issue first hand. There is a correction needed that there was not technically a "lawsuit" but a claim was made against Chaves SWCD in reference to the damage done back in 2016. The issue at hand is retreating the knapweed with a 6ft water table and wanting to plant the field in giant Bermuda now (was previously wanting alfalfa), is the chemical use of Milestone could contaminate the water, which is non desirable, and other chemicals may not be effective. The board is wanting to determine the most effective plan to treat the location. Raquel mentioned having a soil and water test done prior to treatment to help determine the best treatment option. Mr. Richardson was on board with getting both done and bringing the results to the office before a treatment plan is created. No motion needed at this time.

Cody made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jerry. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Pierce _____

Jennifer Pierce- District Manager