

Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

January 25, 2022

Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams

Board of Supervisors Attending: Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Richard Bonine, Sue Small, Gail Goodman, and Duana Draszkievicz. Others attending: District Director Andrew Hautzinger, Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez, Education Assistant Natalie Duncan, Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Chris Fogel, Friends of Whitfield Vice President Linda Frazer, and NMDA's Katie Mechenbier. Special guests attending included Cecilia Rosacker, Executive Director of the Middle Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust (RGALT) and RGALT Executive Assistant Lindsey Diaz. Chair Abel Camarena was not able to attend and is excused.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and verified quorum by roll call.

- 1. Agenda Review and Approval:** The agenda was reviewed and modified to reflect that recently re-elected Supervisors Moya and Smith de Cherif and newly elected Supervisor Draszkievicz were sworn in immediately prior to the meeting by local Magistrate John Chavez. Supervisor Draszkievicz moved to accept the agenda, as amended; Supervisor Moya seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Approval of December 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Supervisor Draszkievicz moved to accept the minutes, and Supervisor Moya seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3. Public Comments:** None were received.
- 4. Election of Board Officers:** Supervisor Moya moved to invite the current officers to serve another term; Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote

was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draskiewicz-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. District Staff Monthly Report:** District Director Hautzinger presented a summary of the monthly Staff reports. The full reports will be attached to these meeting minutes and are available on the District website. Supervisor Bonine requested that the VSWCD map be updated to include all Laguna villages. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif requested that our environmental education at Whitfield include children from all our District, including northern Socorro County and the Pueblos of Laguna and Isleta. Supervisor Bonine will help liaise with Laguna teachers in the Spring.
- 6. Guest Speaker Cecilia Rosacker, Exec. Director, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust (RGALT),** a (501)(c)(3) organization, preserves farmland in Socorro, Valencia, Bernalillo, and Sandoval Counties through conservation easement funding programs. Conservation easements are legally binding deed restrictions that remain with the land. One such program, the NM Land Conservation Incentives Act, enables tax credits from conservation easements to be sold at 90 cents on the dollar. RGALT hopes to protect 6,000 acres of farmland with conservation easements by 2027, working to educate people of the “public benefit of private land.”
- 7. Whitfield Committee Update:** Vice Chair Smith de Cherif reported that the Whitfield Committee recommended supporting a contract for a Stand-up Plan for the Rio Abajo Conservation Area (RACA) in order to facilitate an informed public meeting, manage expectations, and support—with data—upcoming grants. Director Hautzinger indicated that the State of New Mexico procurement code for local public bodies permits sole-source selection for contracts less than \$20,000. Supervisor Small moved to authorized Director Hautzinger to contract Mr. Mark Briggs for the RACA Stand-up Plan at a cost of \$8,643; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-No; Draskiewicz-yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.
- 8. Budget and Accounting:**

- a. **Budget Reconciliation:** Two reports were evaluated. The first set, submitted by the District's acting business manager, reflect the ledger balance of approved, cleared transactions. The second set, prepared by CPA Fogel, reflect transactions that are no longer outstanding. Supervisor Moya moved to accept both reports from December 2021; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Abstain; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Second Quarter Financial Report to NM Department of Finance and Administration:** CPA Fogel indicated we underspent what we had forecasted, but that no budget adjustments were required. Supervisor Moya moved to accept the quarterly report ending on December 31, 2021 for submission to DFA; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-No; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.
- c. **Land and Water Summit (presented by Ciudad SWCD), March 2-4:** Supervisor Small moved to authorize \$1,000 of funding for the summit; Supervisor Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-No; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.

9. **Updates/Partner Reports/Correspondence/Other:** Katie Mechenbier indicated that her NMDA monthly report is typically available on the first of each month. Linda Frazer reported that the Friends of Whitfield were conducting their annual membership drive, and that their auction will be in April 2022. Correspondence included a request from Debbie Hughes, Director of the NM Association of Conservation Districts, that all SWCDs support the Land of Enchantment General Obligation Bond before the legislature, as it is the first ever to provide major funding for conservation districts. Atiq Syed informed Director Hautzinger that he is selling his land that borders Whitfield's southern boundary.

Adjournment: Supervisor Bonine moved to adjourn; Supervisor Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-yes. Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Signatures:

Teresa Smith de Cherif, Vice Chair _____ Date _____

Andrew Hautzinger, Director _____ Date _____