



Providing resource conservation for a quality environment demonstrated through active leadership and partnership

Board of Supervisor Regular Monthly Meeting **DRAFT MINUTES**
March 22, 2022
Conducted in-person and remotely via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDING: Chairman Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Supervisors Richard Bonine, Sue Small, Gail Goodman, and Duana Draszkievicz. Others attending included Director Andrew Hautzinger, Conservation Program Manager Johnny Chavez, Interim Business Manager Madeline Miller, Friends of Whitfield Vice President Linda Frazer, New Mexico Department of Agriculture Technical Specialist Katie Mechenbier, USDA-NRCS Resource Conservationist Athena Cholas, and Save Our Bosque Taskforce Board Chair Gina Dello Russo and Program Director Danielle Hensley.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Camarena called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1) VERIFY QUORUM, CONDUCT PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND AGENDA REVIEW:

Chairman Camarena verified that six Supervisors were present, constituting a quorum. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Chairman Camarena. The meeting agenda was reviewed; Supervisor and Moya moved to approve the agenda as submitted, and Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-Yes; Moya-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. Motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Bonine was delayed and joined the meeting a few minutes after the roll call vote.

2) APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022 MINUTES: Supervisor Smith de Cherif moved for approval of the February 22, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted; Supervisor Moya seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-Yes; Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS: None received.

4) DISTRICT STAFF MONTHLY REPORT: Hautzinger presented highlights of the Staff monthly report and informed the Board that Educational Manager Allison Martin will resign her position effective May 27, 2022. He will work with the Personnel Committee to review job descriptions for both the Business Manager and Education Manager positions and proceed to advertise and fill as soon as possible. This task is high priority above other District work. Hautzinger will prepare a list of work items that Supervisors can assist in accomplishing during the period of reduced staffing. Additionally, Chavez provided a summary of a recent District Outreach survey.

- 5) APRIL 22-23 SCIENCE FIESTA/EARTH DAY CELEBRATION EVENT AT WWCA:
Hautzinger reported this event is on schedule with over a dozen groups and presenters committing to participate on both days. Educational Manager Allison Martin is the point of contact for the event.
- 6) WHITFIELD COMMITTEE UPDATE: The activities reported at the February board meeting are moving forward as planned. Director Hautzinger summarized public feedback regarding the possibility of opening Whitfield to six days per week from the current three days. He voiced concern over managing three more days of public visitation, given reduced staff. Supervisors asked Director Hautzinger to report his recommendation at the April Board meeting.
- 7) GUEST SPEAKER GINA DELLO RUSSO: Dello Russo discussed the history of the Save Our Bosque Taskforce in Socorro and Sierra Counties, public involvement in identifying issues, concerns and opportunities, implementation of habitat improvement projects, forging of public and private partnerships into non-profit status, fund raising efforts, etc. Supervisors expressed appreciation for the presentation and offered to increase coordination with the Taskforce in the future, given precinct 16 of northern Socorro County is in our District.
- 8) BUDGET & ACCOUNTING: Supervisor Moya moved that the expenditures report for February 2022 be approved; Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-Yes; Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkiwicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. Motion carried unanimously.
Director Hautzinger reported that the District will be applying for the SWCC water quality conservation and NMDA healthy soil project grants.
Director Hautzinger reported that the District received a \$3,500 dollar donation from Fortis Construction, Inc. to be used in supporting environmental education programs such as the statewide New Mexico Envirothon. Two local high school teams from Valencia County are planning to participate in this year's New Mexico Envirothon.
- 9) UPDATES/PARTNER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER: NMDA specialist Mechenbier was not able to give highlights of her monthly report, owing to a power outages that affected virtual connectivity. NRCS employee Athena Cholas shared that the ability of NRCS staff to participate in the Board meetings is limited, owing to reduced staff and local rules about after-hours work She will make sure someone from NRCS is able to continue coordination with the Board as much as possible. Linda Fraser, Vice President for the Friends of Whitfield, shared that the Friend's annual online auction will run from April 1-23. She encouraged Supervisors to bid on the featured items. Director Hautzinger reminded Supervisors of the Friend's membership drive and urged all to renew their membership.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Supervisor Moya and seconded by Supervisor

Goodman. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-Yes; Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draskiewicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair **Date**

Andrew Hautzinger, District Director **Date**
