

**VSWCD Board of Supervisors**  
**Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting on 11/20/2021**  
**Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Board of Supervisors attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Richard Bonine, Sue Small, Gail Goodman, and Duana Draszkievicz. District staff attending: District Director Andrew Hautzinger and Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez. Gabbriella Coughlin, agronomist of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), was a guest speaker. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Smith de Cherif.

**Call To Order**: Chair Abel Camarena called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and verified quorum.

- 1) **Agenda Review and Approval**: Supervisor Bonine moved to approve the agenda and Supervisor Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **October Meeting Minutes**: Supervisor Smith de Cherif moved to accept the October 16, 2021 meeting minutes and Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-abstain; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Public Comments**: None were received.
- 4) **Staff Monthly Reports**: Director Hautzinger presented a summary of the monthly reports from the staff. The full reports are available on the VSWCD website and will be attached to these monthly meeting minutes.
  - **Update from the MRGCD**: Gabbie Coughlin informed the Board that CEO Mike Hammand and Tony Lopez have moved on. Their positions will be filled as soon as possible. Gabbie shared information on future MRGCD events, initiatives, and programs. She highlighted aspects of her Agronomist Fall Outreach Report and asked to be included in future Board meetings as a cooperating agency. She indicated that water managers and engineers have not thought about soils and the interaction of water with soil. Several supervisors then commented on the need to address soil salinity, monitoring needs, and overall water quality. Agronomist Coughlin also indicated that \$500K is available for conservation assistance. She also indicated that February 9<sup>th</sup> is the Envirothon.
- 5) **Annual Assets and Equipment Inventory**: Director Hautzinger reviewed the required inventory. Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez indicated that he will work toward updating the assets and inventory system. Supervisor Camarena offered to work with Director Hautzinger to form a standing committee to assist in future asset and equipment inventories. Chavez noted the new system will address the placement of tags on new items and a depreciation schedule. Supervisor Moya moved to approve the annual assets and equipment inventory and Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-abstain; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) **Open Meetings Act Resolution and Decision on the date & time of Board meetings:** The Board discussed the date and time of the 2022 monthly Board meetings. Supervisor Smith de Cherif moved to hold the 2022 Board meetings on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.; Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-no; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-no; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried 5 to 2. The Board then turned to the official Open Meetings Act Resolution. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The resolution (Number#3-2022) carried unanimously.
- 7) **Post-election re-cap and comments:** Chair Camarena thanked Supervisors Smith de Cherif, Moya, and Draszkievicz for running. Each offered comments on their individual experiences and stated they are looking forward to continued service on the Board.
- 8) **District Brand & IT Proposal:** Supervisor Smith de Cherif urged that all District communications, programs, and projects clearly identify VSWCD authorization and brand in order to promote public understanding, acceptance, and support. The District Logo is to be used as our brand. Director Hautzinger will report on his research about computer tablets at the December Board meeting.
- 9) **Rio Abajo Conservation Area (RACA) update:** Supervisor Smith de Cherif indicated that there is an opportunity to submit a capital outlay funding for request before the upcoming legislative session in February. The funds would be for natural resource restoration and wildfire protection on the RACA property. A Whitfield Committee will be convened within the next two weeks to prepare recommendations.
- 10) **Financial Assistance Committee FY 2022 Conservation Project Awards:** The committee recommended that seven project proposals totaling \$29,984 dollars be awarded. Stand-alone conservation equipment requests totaling \$10,000 have already been awarded. Supervisor Bonine moved to approve the committee's recommendations; and Supervisor Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small yes; Goodman-no; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried by quorum majority.
- 11) **Budget & Accounting:** Treasurer Moya reviewed the expenditure report for the month of October and moved that it be approved; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-abstain; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Hautzinger reported that he will renew the annual Adobe license and FileCenter data management applications, as previously approved by the Board.

A District letter in support of a joint Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) and Ciudad SWCD application for a grant from the Environmental Protection Area was discussed. Supervisor Smith de Cherif so moved, and Supervisor Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

A Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) grant submission that is due December 15<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Director Hautzinger mentioned he had asked Supervisor Goodman to assist with this grant. Supervisor Bonine moved that District Director Hautzinger prepare and submit the YCC grant application; Supervisor Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Hautzinger reported that the FY22 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report was submitted and approved by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). He noted that the State Auditor's office approved and signed the contract with auditor James L. Hartogensis. Journal entries were reviewed by the Board and data refinements will be made, as necessary. Supervisor Smith de Cherif moved to approve the Journal entries; Supervisor Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; and Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

12) **Updates/Partner Reports/Correspondence/Other:** NMDA specialist Katie Mechenbier provided highlights from her monthly report. NRCS Conservationist Meairs has not responded to Director Hautzinger's requests to attend our meetings. Linda Frasier, vice president of the Friends of Whitfield, was welcomed by the Board. Supervisor Smith de Cherif thanked the Friends for the outreach booth they provided at the Belen Halloween event, where hundreds of people visited, received a Whitfield treat, and learned all about our District's work. Friends President Eileen Beaulieu submitted a letter to the editor of the *Valencia News Bulletin* for publication in November.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Bonine moved to adjourn the meeting and Supervisor Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif-yes; Moya-yes; Bonine-yes; Small-yes; Goodman-yes; Draszkievicz-yes; Camarena-yes. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Hautzinger, Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_