



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

Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

December 21, 2023

Conducted in person and remotely via Microsoft Teams

Board of Supervisors attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Treasurer Duana Draskiewicz, Richard Bonine, Gail Goodman, Priscilla Abeita, and Pam Cordova.

Others attending: District Staff—Director Andrew Hautzinger, Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez, Environmental Education Manager Laura McCann, and Business Manager Megan McCready. Soil Conservationist Savannah Johnson of the Los Lunas office of the Natural Research Conservation Service (NRCS), Rebecca Dow of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), and the District's consultant, Mark Briggs, also attended.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Abel Camarena called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

- 1) **VERIFY QUORUM, CONDUCT PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND REVIEW AGENDA:** Chair Camarena verified that a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Supervisor Bonine**. The meeting agenda was reviewed. Supervisor Bonine moved to approve the agenda, as revised (Rebecca Dow was added after Public Comments); Treasurer Draskiewicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Supervisor Cordova moved to approve the September 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; Vice Chair Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Vice Chair Smith de Cherif moved to approve the November 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None received.

- 5) **GUEST SPEAKER FROM NMACD:** Rebecca Dow briefed the Board about NMACD initiatives to increase funding for New Mexican SWCDs during the upcoming legislative session.
- 6) **DISTRICT STAFF MONTHLY REPORT:** District Director Hautzinger and District staff presented highlights of the monthly Staff reports. The full reports are available on the District’s website and will be attached to these monthly meeting minutes.
- 7) **UPDATES/PARTNER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER:** NRCS Soil Conservationist Johnson announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing nearly \$30 million to the WaterSMART Initiative (WSI), encouraging producers to apply for conservation assistance funds to improve irrigation and conserve water. Producers in the Middle Rio Grande are one of the WSI’s 8 priority areas.
- 8) **OPEN MEETINGS ACT (OMA) RESOLUTION:** Supervisor Bonine moved to OMA Resolution No. 3 for 2024; Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) **RIO ABAJO STAND UP PLAN:** The District’s consultant, Mark Briggs, highlighted the main messages in the Rio Abajo Stand Up Plan.
- 10) **DISTRICT SUPERVISOR HANDBOOK:** Chair Camarena gave an overview about the handbook he wrote with assistance from Business Manager McCready. Vice Chair Smith de Cherif moved to approve the District Supervisor Handbook; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—abstain; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) **EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROPOSAL:** The Board discussed this proposal, and the consensus was not in favor.
- 12) **TREASURER’S REPORT (Budget and Accounting):**
 - a) **Reconciliation Detail:** Supervisor Bonine moved to accept the Reconciliation Report ending on November 30, 2023; Supervisor Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b) **Capital Outlay Request to the NM Legislature:** Supervisor Bonine moved to approve Capital Outlay Requests to fund the purchase of a District work truck, SUV, and trailer; Supervisor Smith de Cherif seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith

de Cherif—yes; Draszkievicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—no; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.

- c) Grant updates: Director Hautzinger briefed the Board about three pending grant applications and one denied grant application.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Bonine moved to adjourn; Treasurer Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Smith de Cherif—yes; Draszkievicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Camarena—yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair _____ Date: _____

Andrew Hautzinger, District Director _____ Date: _____