

**Board of Supervisor Regular Monthly Meeting
December 18, 2021
Conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Board of Supervisors attending: Chair Abel Camarena, Treasurer Joseph Moya, Richard Bonine, Sue Small, Gail Goodman, and Duana Draszkievicz. Others attending: District Director Andrew Hautzinger, Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez, Conservation Program Manager Allison Martin, Friends of Whitfield Vice-President Linda Frazer. NMDA's Katie Mechenbier and MRGCD's Agronomist Gabby Coughlin and Board Director Stephanie Russo-Baca also attended. Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif was not able to attend due to personal circumstances and is excused.

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

1) Agenda Review and Approval: The agenda was reviewed and Moya moved to approve the agenda as presented and Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-Yes; and Camarena-Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Approval of November 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Bonine moved to accept the November meeting minutes as amended to include the statement: "Hautzinger requested Goodman to participate in writing the YCC grant." Moya seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz- Yes; Camarena-Yes . The motion carried unanimously.

3) Public Comments: None received.

4) District Staff Monthly Report: Hautzinger presented a summary of the monthly Staff reports. The full reports are available on the VSWCD website and will be attached to these monthly meeting minutes.

5) EVUGP Update (1-29-2022 Community Networking with Sheet Mulching Event): Hautzinger reported on the sheet mulching soil protection / networking demonstration event planned for El Cerro Mission and Meadow Lake community gardens.

6) Whitfield Committee Update: Camarena and Hautzinger updated the board on the December 9, 2021 Committee meeting minutes, briefly highlighting the following items:

- RACA fire mitigation/site planning/outreach 12/1/21 site visit with experts who exclaimed that the RACA property surprised them in the quality and diversity of habitat throughout the area. Fire danger conditions at RACA are serious but treatable if approached at proper scale.
- Entering into an MOA with NM State Division of Forestry was recommended to the Board by the Committee. Small moved that the District enter into an MOA with the NM Division of Forestry to pursue fire mitigation at RACA and Draszkievicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkievicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

- Pursuing FAWRA grants and capital outlay was supported by the Committee for the purposes of developing a RACA master plan and completing removal of building structures and pipe fencing from the property. Partnership opportunities will be explored to ameliorate planning costs but paying 100% out of District funds is an appropriate fiscal obligation, given the high priority need for the master plan. Moya moved to pursue FAWRA grants and capital outlay funding to complete a RACA master plan and remove building structures and pipe fencing. Draskiewicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-No; Draskiewicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. The motion carried by quorum majority.
- Holiday hours at Whitfield conservation area: Closed December 24-25 and December 31-January 1.

7) NM Envirothon Update: Director Hautzinger reported on the outreach strategy meeting held on December 7, 2021. He gave an overview of the NM Envirothon program and past District support of local high schools forming NM Envirothon teams. This District will continue to support this program.

8) Budget & Accounting:

- Treasure Moya reviewed the expenditure report for November and moved to approve the expenditure report and Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draskiewicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. The motion carried unanimously.
- 1/13/2022 Due date for Capital Outlay/ICIP requests (e.g., WWCA Admin building, RACA) will be met.
- VSWCD Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Summer 2022 application (due 12/13/2021). Grant application was submitted by the due date.
- Letter of Support for Valencia County Fire Department YCC grant was signed by Camarena on behalf of the Board.

9) Updates/Partner Reports/Correspondence/Other:

- NMDA November Report by Katie Mechenbier was reviewed.
- NRCS November Report by Martin Mears was not provided.
- MRGCD Report by Gabby Coughlin was reviewed with several upcoming events, activities and workshops being highlighted. Coordination with farmers, irrigators, partners and communities on a variety of water and soil protection issues is ongoing, including the need for an adaptive drought management plan to address continuing water shortage issues.
- FRIENDS of Whitfield November Report by Linda Frazer covered recent approval of new board members, general business, the December newsletter and the 12th birthday celebration of the opening of the Visitor and Education Center at Whitfield.
- Correspondence: Hautzinger read the letter from intern Meadow Storm thanking the District for the opportunity of volunteering at Whitfield.

ADJOURNMENT: Bonine moved to adjourn the meeting and Small seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Moya-Yes; Bonine-Yes; Small-Yes; Goodman-Yes; Draszkiewicz-Yes; Camarena-Yes. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Signatures:

Abel Camarena, Chair _____ Date _____

Andrew Hautzinger, Director _____ Date _____