



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

## **Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting**

**January 18, 2024**

*Conducted in person and remotely via Microsoft Teams*

**Board of Supervisors attending:** Chair Abel Camarena, Vice Chair Teresa Smith de Cherif, Richard Bonine, Priscilla Abeita, Pam Cordova, Nicholas Baca, and James Fischer.

**Others attending:** District Staff—Director Andrew Hautzinger, Conservation Manager Johnny Chavez, Environmental Education Manager Laura McCann, and Business Manager Megan McCready. Acting District Conservationist for the Natural Research Conservation Service (NRCS), April Luna; New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Technical Specialist Katie Mechanbier; and President of the Friends of Whitfield Rob Raucci also attended.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Abel Camarena called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 Vice Chair Smith de Cherif. The meeting agenda was reviewed. Supervisor Cordova moved to approve the agenda, as revised (the Whitfield Committee Report was postponed to the February Board meeting and the name of former Treasurer Draszkievicz was removed from the Treasurer's Report); Supervisor Bonine seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Supervisor Cordova moved to approve the December 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes; Supervisor Bonine seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None received.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **UPDATES/PARTNER REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER:** NMDA Technical Specialist Mechenbier indicated that the New Mexico legislature is considering mandating that Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement voting by zones. NRCS Acting District Conservationist Luna indicated additional funds for the EQIP program

provided by the Inflation Reduction Act have allowed for an extension of the EQIP application deadline to April 16, 2024. Friends of Whitfield President Raucci reported that their Board will undergo education and implement structure to create effective governance and a well-run board.

- 6) ANNUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD: The newly elected or re-elected Board Supervisors having completed the oath of office immediately prior to the January 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting, the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer were opened for nominations.

Supervisor Cordova nominated Abel Camarena to serve as Chair; Supervisor Smith de Cherif seconded. As there were no further nominations, it was declared that nominations for Chair were closed. Abel Camarena was elected as Chair by acclamation (unanimous consent).

Supervisor Bonine nominated Teresa Smith de Cherif to serve as Vice Chair; Supervisor Cordova seconded. As there were no further nominations, it was declared that nominations for Vice Chair were closed. Teresa Smith de Cherif was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

Supervisor Bonine nominated Pam Cordova to serve as Treasurer; Vice Chair Smith de Cherif seconded. As there were no further nominations, it was declared that nominations for Treasurer were closed. Pam Cordova was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

- 7) BOARD COMMITTEES: Chair Camarena and Vice Chair Smith de Cherif reviewed the current standing committees and the procedures that guide committee work, inviting Board members to consider the committees on which they may wish to serve.

- 8) TREASURER'S REPORT (Budget and Accounting): .

- a) Reconciliation Detail: Supervisor Bonine moved to accept the Reconciliation Report ending on December 31, 2023; Treasurer seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.
- b) Updated Mileage Rate: Treasurer Cordova moved to authorize a new mileage of 65.5 cents per mile driven for approved District purposes; Supervisor Fischer seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.
- c) Quarterly Budget Report to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA): Supervisor Bonine moved to approve the FY2024 Second Quarterly Budget report to the DFA; Supervisor Baca seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.

- d) Mid-year Budget Revisions: Business Manager McCready indicated areas of the budget may need to be revised at the upcoming Regular Board Meeting. One cause was the 10% rise in health insurance costs implemented by the State of New Mexico's General Services Division.
- e) Grant updates: Director Hautzinger reported on one denied grant, two pending grant decisions, and one future grant application, the latter of which will be the agreed-upon submission to the Youth Conservation Corps.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Bonine moved to adjourn; Treasurer Cordova seconded. The vote was taken by raising the right hand. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**Signatures:**

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

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