



## Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

October 19, 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. District Conservationist for the Natural Research Conservation Service (NRCS), Nick Goodman and NRCS Resource Conservationist Athena Cholas; New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Technical Specialist Katie Mechanbier; and President of the Friends of Whitfield Rob Raucci also attended.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Smith de Cherif called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- 1) **VERIFY QUORUM, CONDUCT PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND REVIEW AGENDA:** Vice Chair Smith de Cherif verified that a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a guest of Supervisor Cordova. The meeting agenda was reviewed. Supervisor Cordova moved to approve the agenda; Treasurer Draskiewicz seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Supervisor Cordova moved to table the September Regular Meeting Minutes until the November 2023 meeting (as one motion needed clarification); Supervisor Abeita seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Erika Novich gave written and oral commentary.
- 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 reminded Board members that annual meeting of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will be from November 6-8<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque. J. NRCS Conservationist Goodman indicated \$30 million in Inflation Reduction Act funds will be allocated to NRCS this year. While Goodman is Acting State Wildlife Conservationist, April Luna will be Acting Conservationist for Region I. Friends of Whitfield President Raucci noted that the Friends will be at the Scarecrow Festival in Belen on October 28<sup>th</sup>.



- 6) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS: Supervisor Bonine moved to accept the Financial Assistance Committee's recommendations; Chair Camarena seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—no; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.
- 7) PRESENTATION TO VALENCIA COUNTY COMMISSION (VCC): Director Hautzinger briefed the Board on his presentation on October 18<sup>th</sup> to the VCC, including being congratulated by Commissioner Richardson on the District's work of clearing the Bosque of invasive species.
- 8) TREASURER'S REPORT (Budget and Accounting):
- a) Reconciliation Detail: Supervisor Bonine moved to accept the Reconciliation Report ending on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Chair Camarena seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b) District Procurement Policy: Supervisor Goodman moved to approve the District's Procurement Policy (with one minor grammatical correction); Supervisor Cordova seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c) Land and Water Summit of 2024: Chair Camarena moved to approve a \$1,000 sponsorship of the 2024 Land and Water Summit; Supervisor Bonine seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman—No; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried by quorum majority.
  - d) Grant updates: Director Hautzinger briefed the Board regarding Disaster funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) AIM funding for fire mitigation staff capacity, and other grant opportunities.  
Chair Camarena moved to approve a District application for EDA funding; Supervisor Abeita seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine yes; Goodman—yes; Abeita—yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Supervisor Bonine moved to approve the submission of a concept paper to the USFS for staff capacity building for fire mitigation; Supervisor Abeita seconded. A roll call vote was conducted: Camarena—yes; Draskiewicz—yes; Bonine—yes; Goodman— yes; Abeita yes; Cordova—yes; Smith de Cherif—yes. Motion carried unanimously.



9) ATTORNEY-CLIENT MATTER: Vice Chair Smith de Cherif reported that the District's attorney has fully engaged in this matter.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Signatures:

Teresa Smith de Cherif, Vice Chair  Date: 11/16/23

Andrew Hautzinger, District Director  Date: 11/17/23