

EDGEWOOD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2007

The Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) regular board meeting was held on January 4, 2007 at the Edgewood SWCD Office, which is located at 1943 Route 66, Suite E, Edgewood, New Mexico.

REPORTS

Administrative, Technical and Supporting Staff Reports presented at 5:30 PM. (See attached reports)

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by David King, Chairman at 6:02 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David King; Chairman, Bill King; Secretary/Treasurer, Pat Ayre; Member, Jim Rea; Member, and Jo Bassett, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT & EXCUSED

Lewis Fisher, Vice-Chair and Mark Anaya; Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Martin Hibbs; Building Project Manager, Kelly Archuleta; Technician, Brenda Smythe; Manager, George Duda; NMSF, Wayne Sleep; NRCS District Conservationist, Tye Chesser; State Land Office, and Jim Berlier; East Torrance SWCD Chair

AGENDA APPROVAL

Jim motioned for approval of the agenda, second by Bill, motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Minutes of the December board meeting were reviewed. Following review, Bill motioned to approve the minutes, second by Patty, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report presented by Pat Ayre.

OLD BUSINESS

Marty Hibbs reviewed the Building status. The weather has put Shiver Construction back a week or so, but it's nothing to worry about. He would like the Building Committee to meet in the next few weeks to finalize the computers/internet, etc, skylights and any other final changes needed. Brenda will contact the members once the date has been set.

The board spoke about the WTB Subcommittee. Dee still has not submitted Paul Davis' bill for reimbursement to NMFA. Jim Rea and Jim Berlier spoke to the board regarding the 10% loan provision and the implications for cost share participants this year. Two checks will be written to the landowner, one for roughly 85%, and the other for 15%. Jim Rea explained that these are the percentages for this year only, since the WTG SC is receiving \$600K total of which \$400K has been allocated for cost share programs and \$200K for monitoring activities.

Both components are subject to the 10% repayment, for a total of \$60K, and this \$60K must be recovered from the cost share programs. Accordingly, this translates to a 15% recovery rate. As an example, for a project whose total value is \$10,000, the cost share recipient will be provided two checks, one for \$8500 and one for \$1500 (15%) of total; the smaller of the two checks will then be endorsed to Claunch-Pinto SWCD, and will be applied to repay the \$60K loan. The Board approved this process and following similar action by the East Torrance Board on January 5th, Claunch-Pinto and its Board will be able to consummate the financial relationship with NMFA for this program. Jim Rea observed that this is still a somewhat better deal than last year, where we required the cost share participant to furnish 25% of the funding or equivalent in-kind work.

Jim Berlier reminded the group that the NMFA representative who attended the December 15 meeting of the WTG SC and worked with the WTG SC to effect a working solution, Jana Egbert, stated that neither NMFA nor the WTB would object if the three Districts took additional action – legislative or otherwise – to seek relief for SWCDs to this loan provision. Jim Rea also noted that the current plan by NMFA is to move the loan portion of the WTB grant funding to 20% next year, with additional increases likely in subsequent years. Jim advocates that we continue to press for relief; if we were to get the same amount of monies next year for cost share and monitoring activities, the cost share program would be implemented as a 70%/30% program. For the same \$10,000 example program, the cost share participant would recover \$7000 and would endorse a \$3000 check over to CPSWCD.

Jim Rea stated that the ESWCD Board needed to take a position on the work, and has asked Paul Davis of Envirollogic, Inc. to write an Executive Summary that can be presented to a special meeting of the ESWCD (and others, as required) in the near future. Jim contemplates that this meeting will require approximately 2 hours, and has suggested that Paul limit the Executive Summary presentation to 45 minutes or so. Jim asked Brenda to provide each member of the ESWCD Board with either a hard copy of the Envirollogic, Inc. presentation of results or a CD, whichever they prefer, and that the Board make a special effort to review these data in the near term, providing feedback to Jim even prior to the special meeting. Brenda is to begin the process of arranging for this special meeting. Jim also advised that he has suggested and the WTG SC has agreed to convene a roundtable discussion of advisors, experts and other knowledgeable parties who will critique the results and assist WTG SC formulate their own summary conclusions and a path forward. Jim also asked Brenda to make a CD for each district and Stan Bulsterbaum.

Jim Rea also reminded the Board that although the 10% loan issue does appear to be resolved for this year, there are still cooperation problems with Claunch-Pinto SWCD that need to be handled.

The WTG SC is in the process of seeking to hire a program administrator. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has hired Stan Bulsterbaum in an interim capacity. Jim Rea reminded the group that he initially had concerns with Bulsterbaum, based upon hearsay information provided by other soil and water conservation district board members and other; subsequently, after meeting Stan and watching him work, he is comfortable with Stan in the interim capacity and as a bidder on the permanent position.

A draft RFP for the position was considered by the WTG SC yesterday, and a several changes were suggested and will be incorporated in a subsequent draft. Brenda distributed the initial draft to the Board for review during the meeting, and subsequently the second draft arrived courtesy of Dee Tarr and the Board was also provided with this second draft. Jim noted that the second draft had not yet been reviewed by the WTG SC or others, noting observing that it was a work in progress and unlikely to be the final version. Jim requested that comments and/or suggestions be sent to him as soon as possible, noting that the RFP is scheduled to be published on February 1st.

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Jim asked that the Board authorize him, in his capacity as the ESWCD member on the WTG SC, to represent the ESWCD in developing the final draft of the RFP and the implementation strategy for this new staff support position. At David's request, a motion was made by Bill, seconded by Jo, and approved unanimously by the Board. Jim Berlier stated that ETSWCD will likely follow the same course of action tomorrow, giving Fronia Jaramillo, the ETSWCD member of the WTG SC, the same authority.

Jim Rea stated that the RFQ does not seek a replacement for Jim Corbin, whose resignation has been accepted by the WTG SC, and that a letter was to be sent to him by CPSWCD asking him to submit any final bill(s), work product and materials belonging to the WTG SC. No bill has yet been received.

Jim Rea also spoke regarding activities of the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee. Jimmy Corliss was elected to the final Torrance County agricultural position. The Committee is seeking a budget of approximately \$200K this year to complete its work on the update to the regional water plan, complete with multiple public meetings. Jim also advised the group that the Water Texas folks would address the Committee at its next meeting, and the public was invited to attend this meeting, as always.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2007 Open Meetings Resolution was reviewed. Bill motioned to pass the Resolution, second by Patty, motion carried. David signed the Resolution, and Brenda will submit it to the newspaper for legal run. Jim Rea inquired as to whether the Resolution compelled us to advertise meeting in the newspaper or otherwise, and David stated that it required only posting in accordance with the OMA requirements.

The Budget and Cost-share committees met prior to today's meeting. The Budget will be reviewed again following the completion of the building. The Cost-Share committee has finalized the rules for the 2007-2008 funding, and will bring it back to the board for approval at the February meeting. The new rules 1) set the maximum amount of funding to be provided by the ESWCD for a cost share project to \$3500; 2) changed the cost share participation rate to 50% for all practices; and 3) directed that any one who is successful in receiving cost share for a project in this next cycle will receive a lower priority for funding during the next two cycles, giving preference to newcomers. This does not exclude the possibility of funding being received by the same participant in two or more subsequent years, but elevates newcomers to a first-come first-served position for equivalent projects.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was brought forward.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at 6:00 PM. Reports will be given prior to the meeting beginning at 5:30 PM for time savings.

Bill motioned for adjournment, second by Jo, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.