

Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 1050, Moriarty, NM 87035

September 3, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by David King at 6:00 PM.

Board Members in Attendance

David King; Chair, Lewis Fisher; Vice-Chair, Patty Ayre; Member, Jo Bassett; Member and Leo Smith; Member

Board Members in Absent & Excused

Bill King; Secretary/Treasurer and Mark Anaya; Member,

Others Present

George Duda, DeWayne Merritt; Torrance County Fire Department, Kathy Florentino; South Mountain Elementary, Brad Podoll; District Conservationist, Kelly Smith; Technician, Brenda Smythe; District Manager and Gene Kamerzell; Windbreaks

Agenda Approval

Leo motioned to approve the agenda, second by Joe, motion carried.

Minutes Approval

Leo motioned to approve the minutes, second by Joe, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Pat reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Leo questioned Pat why the reports were not GASB ready as the auditor had stated they needed to be? Pat stated that the report given to the board was what DFA wants.

Guests

Tony Benson; NMACD Board Member was in attendance. Tony stated that Debbie had asked him to attend this Edgewood SWCD board meeting to inquire about concerns from the District. David stated that Edgewood SWCD paid \$350 for their NMACD dues because of inadequate representation by NMACD and their Executive Director.

- No representation by Executive Director at board meetings when asked to attend.
- No assistance by the Executive Director for funding request to the NM State Legislature
- No interaction by Director and board members or staff unless Director is asking for Edgewood's help.
- Unprofessional behavior towards staff by Executive Director & NMACD Board Member Jim Berlier at state and national events.
- NMACD/Director choosing to side with one District over another without adequate investigation.

David also stated when the investigation with East Torrance SWCD began NMACD and the Executive Director should have spoken with both Edgewood and Claunch-Pinto SWCDs staff and board members, as well as the NRCS staff in Estancia and landowners in order to come to a full understanding of the situation. This portrayed a bias and unprofessional representation by NMACD and the Executive Director. Tony stated that the Taos SWCD had the same concerns. He assured the board he would discuss these concerns with the Executive Director and the NMACD Board.

in place of Jason Trumbull; Torrance County Fire Marshall, DeWayne Merritt spoke to the board about the possibility of the Edgewood SWCD assisting with a windbreak. Staff will work with Torrance County on a plan for this project.

Kathy Florentino; South Mountain Elementary spoke to the board regarding a possible reseeded project on school grounds. Following discussion, Leo motioned that staff work with the school on this 2-acre cool/warm seeding mixture to be planted next June/July, motioned second by Pat, motion carried.

George Duda reported that all thinning projects be suspended until after October 1st due to new beetle outbreaks.

Administration/Technical Report

The administration and technical report was presented by Brenda. (see report)

NMDA Report

Brenda presented the written a report from NMDA.

NRCS Report

Brad reviewed the recent CSP training that Brad and Ken attended in August. The CSP signup is continuous. The 1st batching period ends 9/30/09. NRCS has an extensive media campaign and a meeting for producers has been scheduled for 9/10 here in Moriarty.

Brad updated the board EQIP contracts funded. He also asked the board to host a Local Work Group Meeting with the tentative date set for October 8th.

David and Brenda constructed a letter to the NRCS State Conservationist; Dennis Alexander requesting the NRCS Estancia Field Office staff to maintain office hours more frequently in the Edgewood SWCD office. We are awaiting response from Dennis.

NM State Land Office

Tom Perkins reported that the free fuel wood permits became available September 1st.

Gene Kamerzell Report

Gene gave a verbal report and stated that he was unable to find the folders so was unable to provide a list of all of the Edgewood SWCD sponsored windbreaks. Brenda will find the folders so that Gene can provide this list to Brenda prior to the next meeting. Once received the board will review and develop a maintenance schedule.

OLD BUSINESS

Long Range Plan

The Long Range Plan approval was tabled until October.

Audit Update

Brenda has spoken to John Earnshaw regarding our audit. Apparently the engagement letter to the State Auditor should have been signed during the June meeting, while Brenda was in Ohio, was not signed and mailed. Brenda has now mailed that letter to him. John stated that the letter is all they were waiting on, and therefore the report should be completed soon.

NEW BUSINESS

South Mountain Project

Phase III is ready to begin, Leo motioned that Phase III begin, second by Jo, motion carried.

Direct Deposit

Brenda asked if the salaried staff could have their checks direct deposited. Jo motioned to have their checks direct deposited, second by Leo, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The board reviewed the Resolution by Upper Hondo SWCD entitled "The NMACD Executive Director Employment Agreement". Following discussion, Leo motioned to support this resolution, second by Pat, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING DATE CHANGE

Due to the Local Work Group schedule, Leo motioned that the board meeting be changed to October 8th, second by Jo, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for meeting adjournment at 7:45 PM by Jo Bassett.

Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer