

# Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board Meeting Minutes

### September 2, 2010

#### Call to Order

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

#### Board Members in Attendance

David King; Chair, Lewis Fisher; Vice-Chair, Mark Anaya; Member, Juan Sanchez; Member and Patricia Ayre; Member

#### Board Members Absent & Excused

Bill King; Secretary/Treasurer and Leo Smith; Member

#### Others Present

Lisa Dennisson; Farm Bill Specialist, Ronnie Corvin; Landowner, George Duda, Debbie Hughes; NMACD Executive Director; Brent VanDyke; Government Affairs Director; Jim Berlier; NMACD Treasurer, Kenny Salazar; Region II Chair and Brenda Smythe; District Manager

#### Approval of Agenda

Pat motioned for approval of the agenda, second by Mark, motion carried.

#### Approval of Minutes

Lewis motioned for approval of the August meeting minutes, second by Mark, motion carried.

#### Treasurer Report

Brenda reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Following review, Mark motioned for approval, second by Pat, motion carried.

#### Guests

Ronnie Corvin requested permission to hunt Mountain Lion on South Mountain. Due to the conservation designation of South Mountain, no hunting is allowed. However, David asked Ronnie if he would consider being our Advisory Liason for the San Pedro Area. Ronnie will consider and discuss it with David at a later time.

Brent VanDyke; NMACD Government Affairs Director, introduced himself to the board. He is hoping to reconnect with districts, and requests that every board member will fill out his survey. Once the survey is received from all districts, he will begin addressing those needs.

Kenny Salazar; Region II Chair goal is to foster a better relationship between the districts and NMACD. He asked that Edgewood SWCD give him a chance to facilitate their message to the NMACD Board.

Debbie gave a brief history of her relationship with Soil & Water Conservation Districts. She apologized to the board for not attending in the past, but stated she was only one person and due to health reasons, she has not been able to attend.

Debbie stated that it was obvious that her statements at the Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting were misunderstood. She said was “ashamed of what was happening to East Torrance SWCD” and that “employee issues needed to remain in-house”, disagreed with the process, “the Commission had overstepped their bounds”.

She also stated that she didn’t understand why ESWCD is not paying their dues or is no longer receiving minutes from Edgewood. She said that when she finally saw the minutes of September 2009 a few months ago, she was surprised at the questions that were listed, and if she had known there were issues and concerns here, she would have made it a point to attend a board meeting sooner.

She was sure that the conversation held by her and staff had mended fences, but obviously staff still had their feelings hurt over her not talking to them at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Brenda reinforced that she and Debbie did in fact have an hour long conversation at the Western Conference in Wyoming, and that it was unfortunate that out of that conversation, all Debbie recalls is that staff was disturbed that NMACD Leadership ignored the Edgewood staff at their first national conference. Brenda stated that everything listed in the September 2009 minutes was stated to Debbie on behalf of her board.

Brenda also reminded the board and Debbie that Tony Benson; Region II Chair (2009) had attended our board meeting in September of 2009 and was to take these concerns back to NMACD and Debbie for her and the board to address.

David King stated that Edgewood District supervisors and staff were caught off guard by how upset Jim Berlier of East Torrance SWCD was towards our District in response to something as simple as handing out free trees and seed to the fire victims of the Trigo Fire, which has caused division within Districts.

David also said he and the board did not appreciate the efforts brought forth to dismiss our Farm Bill Specialist, Lisa Dennisson without talking to Edgewood Staff and Board Members first. Lisa and Edgewood District staff work well together, and NRCS has been very helpful to this District and staff.

David requested a current budget, audit reports, etc. from NMACD. David told Debbie that he understands that NMACD has a 17 million dollar budget, and would like to see documentation where the money is being used.

He also stated that NMACD has not given the board or staff any assistance in the past, and therefore are unsure of why to pay their dues.

Debbie stated that every district received a packet at the last NMACD Annual Conference. Brenda replied that she was in attendance at the last Conference, and was not given a packet.

Debbie promised that she would mail everything Edgewood SWCD requested first thing tomorrow morning.

David stated he and the board appreciated NMACD’s effort in attending today’s meeting the board will discuss paying dues.

## Reports

### Administrative / Technical Staff

See Report

### NRCS ~ B. Podoll; District Conservationist

Brad reported the Estancia FO's acting DC is Paul Montoya; District Conservationist for Santa Fe/Pojoaque. A Local Work Group Meeting needs to be held in the next few weeks. September 13, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 or the 23 will all work for the Edgewood SWCD. These dates will be given to Cheri Lujan; East Torrance SWCD and a date will be chosen. Edgewood SWCD will host the meeting.

Brad told the board he appreciated the Edgewood District Supervisors and Staff, and that he will be joining Mary in the next few weeks.

David expressed Edgewood's appreciation for Brad and the NRCS staff, and reiterated that NRCS is an equal partner!

### STATE LAND OFFICE

Tom Perkins reported their annual fire wood permit program is underway. This designated wood cutting area is in Villanueva.

### NMDA

Report reviewed by Brenda.

### Old Business

#### Roof Repair

Staff is waiting on another quote for the roof repair. Staff will proceed on the repair with the best quote once three are received.

#### Audit Status

The State Auditor has accepted our 2006/2007/2008 audits. Final Audits should be available by September.

### New Business

#### Edgewood SWCD status regarding NMACD

Discussion tabled until next meeting.

### Public Comment

George Duda reported that the Think Trees Conference will be held early February in Albuquerque, and the Society of American Foresters will be held October 25 – 30 in Albuquerque.

Lewis stated that the Stanley area received 1.24" of rain in August.

### Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2010.

### Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment at 7:52 PM by Lewis.

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Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer