

Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2018

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman; David King at 10:00 AM.

Board Members in Attendance

David King; Chair, Lewis Fisher; Vice-Chair, Juan Sanchez; Member, Art Swenka; Member, Mark Anaya; Member, Bill Williams; Member, and Christina Allday-Bondy; Associate Member

Board Members Absent & Excused

Bill King; Secretary/Treasurer and Mark Dixon, Associate Member

Others Present

Brenda Smythe; District Manager, Kelly Smith; Technician, Herman Ortiz; NRCS, David Smythe; Ciudad SWCD Assessor and John Ryan; Western Alliance

Approval of Agenda

Christian Allday-Bondy asked to add Healthy Soils Initiative to the agenda. Art Swenka motioned for approval of the updated Agenda, motion second by Mark Anaya, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Art Swenka to approve the November minutes, motion seconded by Juan Sanchez, motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Brenda presented the Treasurer's Report. Bill Williams motioned for approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented, motion second by Art Swenka, motion carried. David King and Brenda reported that the auditor suggested the District convert their books back to cash reporting instead of accrual reporting. The District reports to DFA in cash. Art Swenka motioned to approve moving our books back to cash basis, motion second by Mark Anaya, motion carried.

Executive Session

Art Swenka motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss tentative audit findings. Motion second by Bill Williams, motion carried. Roll call vote to enter into Executive Session as follows:

David King – Yes
Lewis Fisher – Yes
Mark Anaya – Yes
Bill Williams – Yes
Art Swenka – Yes
Juan Sanchez – Yes
Bill King – Absent

Art Swenka motioned to exit out of Executive Session, motion second by Juan Sanchez, motion carried.

The audit has not been released, therefore will not be discussed in open session.

The Edgewood District policies have been in place for many years, however we must put these into a Policy Manual. Our current auditor has suggested purchasing Ultimate Employer, which provides templates. The old version can be purchased on Amazon for under \$50. Motion by Bill Williams to purchase this program, motion seconded by Mark Anaya, motion carried.

Budget Committee Report

No committee meeting held this month.

GUEST

John Ryan from Western Landowners Alliance spoke to the board regarding HB163. The Alliance has been working on this bill for over three years. They have held several meetings with many entities in New Mexico gathering data and support for the bill. This bill would transition agricultural land exiting from the agricultural tax of the discounted rate, to a mid-tax rate instead of the full market value rate.

REPORTS

District Staff Report

Brenda reviewed the District Staff Report. **(See Report)**

Precipitation Report

Lewis reported that Stanley received 17/100ths of precipitation in November.

NMDA REPORT

Katie Mechenbier; NMDA Representative reviewed the report. **(See Report)**

SLO REPORT

No Report

NRCS Report

Herman Ortiz reviewed the NRCS report. **(See Report)**

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee

No meeting held.

Estancia Basin Watershed Health & Restoration

Brenda reported that allocations for Edgewood/East Torrance/Claunch-Pinto SWCDs were established at \$110,000 per district. Planning has begun.

KXNM 88.7 Radio

Art Swenka reported the Radio Station is doing very well. Brenda thanked Art and KXNM for running the District's Ads.

EBRA

EBRA voted in their new slate of officers. They are Ted Barela; President, Art Swenka; Vice-President, Janice Barela; Secretary, Bob Stearly; Treasurer. EBRA has roughly \$188,000 in bank from donations.

Water Resources Board

Art and Brenda continue to attend the quarterly Water Resources Board meetings in Albuquerque. Brenda along with Elaine Hebard (Water Advocates), Bart Faris (City of Albuquerque) and Don Lopez (Village of Los Ranchos) are members of the WRB-Water Resource Database Committee. The Committee's intent is to develop and maintain a Water Resource database. The next step is to conduct a survey to decide what this data-base should include.

Art spoke to the board regarding the Water Resources Board's planned Resolution together to ban fracking in oil of gas, etc. due to concerns of aquifer contamination. This board needs to start thinking about our stand on this issue.

Sandia RD and Mountainair RD

Brenda reported the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands (Cibola) is revising its 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Sandia, Mountainair, Magdalena, and Mt. Taylor Ranger Districts. Currently, the Cibola's draft plan and DEIS are available for public preview. In early 2019, the draft plan and associated draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be released for public comment with a 90-day formal comment period.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey/Easement of South Mountain & South Mountain Access

Discussion tabled.

Edgewood SWCD Boundaries

Edgewood SWCD is still waiting on the resolution from East Torrance SWCD which is necessary to proceed at the next Commission meeting. Discussion tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Meetings Resolution

The board reviewed the 2019 Open Meetings Act. Lewis motioned to pass the Open Meetings Act, second by Art, motion carried. Roll call vote for passage of Open Meetings Resolution as follows:

David King – Yes
Lewis Fisher – Yes
Mark Anaya – Yes
Bill Williams –Yes
Art Swenka – Yes
Juan Sanchez – Yes
Bill King – Absent

Center for Sustainability and Agricultural Workshop

Christina, Kelly, and Brenda are working with Al Humble on a joint workshop featuring Dr. David C. Johnson of NMSU's Center for Sustainability and Agriculture. Dr. Johnson has developed a composting method which is a low cost, low tech method that reports amplified results without the need for regular turning.

The workshop will be held at our office this spring, and attendees will build 5 bio-reactors, one of which will be a demo at the Edgewood District Office. Cost is relatively low for this workshop.

Healthy Soils Initiative

Christian Allday-Bondy asked to add Healthy Soils Initiative. This program promotes farming and ranching systems that improve the health in the soils of the state according to the following ecological principles: (1) Keep soil covered, (2) Minimize disturbance to soils and external inputs, (3) Maintain living roots, (4) Maximize biodiversity, (5) Integrate animals in farm systems. **(See attached)**

State Auditor Discussion

Brenda received a call from the NM State Auditor’s Office regarding board members and spouses attending the NACD Annual Meeting. She has sent the Auditor’s Office all vouchers and checks regarding this meeting.

Public Comment

None

Next Board Meeting

January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM. A QuickBooks Budgeting over-view session will be held prior to the meeting as requested.

Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment at 11:58 AM by Mark Anaya, motion seconded by Bill Williams, motion carried.

Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer