

**Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman; David King at 10:30 AM.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Board Members Absent & Excused

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

Others Present

Brenda Smythe; District Manager, Kelly Smith; Technician, Matthew McQueen; Tierra Law Firm, Judy and Andrew Fry; landowners, Anthony Martinez; USFS-Mountainair Acting Ranger, and Katie Mechenbier; NMDA

Approval of Agenda

Art motioned for approval of the Agenda motion second by Bill Williams, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Art to approve the April minutes, motion seconded by Lewis, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session- Possible Litigation

Motion by Bill Williams to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Motion seconded by Art Swenka; motion carried. A roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote:

David King – yea
Lewis Fisher – yea
Bill King – absent
Art Swenka – yea
Bill Williams – yea
Mark Anaya – yea
Juan Sanchez - absent

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Lewis Fisher, second by Art Swenka, motion carried. A roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call Vote:

David King – yea
Lewis Fisher – yea
Bill King – absent
Art Swenka – yea
Bill Williams – yea
Mark Anaya – yea
Juan Sanchez - absent

No action was taken during Executive Session.

There are concerns regarding access to the top of South Mountain which is owned by the Edgewood SWCD. This area was purchased to be a conservation area, with very limited access. Following discussion, Art Swenka motioned that a full Chain of Title documentation be obtained before considering any access on the property, motion second by Bill Williams.

Judy Fry asked if we are contesting the easement request for her to access the top of South Mountain as a route to access her property. Chairman King stated the board would not take any action until the Chain of Title on both Edgewood SWCD and Fry properties are completed. Judy Fry stated she would see what she could get done.

Action tabled until the Chain of Title is complete.

Treasurer Report

Brenda Smythe presented the Treasurer’s Report. The Budget Committee met prior to the meeting. A review of the end-of-year status, as well as developing a preliminary budget was done. Art motioned for approval of the Treasurer’s Report as presented, along with the preliminary budget. Motion second by Lewis, motion carried. A roll call vote was taken:

Roll Call Vote:

David King – yea
Lewis Fisher – yea
Bill King – absent
Art Swenka – yea
Bill Williams – yea
Mark Anaya – yea
Juan Sanchez - absent

REPORTS

District Staff Report

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

Precipitation Report

Lewis reported that Stanley received less than 2 inches of rainfall in April, but as of today, Stanley had already received 2 inches of rainfall.

NMDA REPORT

The board reviewed the NMDA report. **(See Report)**

SLO REPORT

No Report

NRCS Report

The board reviewed the NRCS report. **(See Report)**

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee

Now that John D'Antonio is back as the NM State Engineer, someone from the EBWPC needs to meet with him to discuss our issues. Following discussion, Bill Williams motioned that Art meet with Mr. D'Antonio as the Edgewood SWCD Representative. Motion second by Mark Anaya, motion carried.

Estancia Basin Watershed Health & Restoration

2019 CFRP – DC waiting to release it. 2017 RCCP – 1 remaining contract is left to complete. 2018 – RCCP – NRCS in currently ranking the proposals. 2019 – WTB funds of \$600,000 should be released soon. 2018 – WTB – 2 remaining contracts to pay. SWCA Consultants will begin using drones to monitor our project sites. The South Mountain Weather Station is old and needs updated computer components.

EMWT Water

There is some confusion regarding the EMWT (4 entities of Estancia, Mountainair, Willard and Torrance County), which the group is working on. They also need to secure other funds not to lose the Rural Development Funds. They will be approaching Governor Lujan-Grisham for discretionary funds.

KXNM 88.7 Radio

The Radio Station is doing well. They are working on doing live broadcasts at local games and town events. 8000 songs have been uploaded to the new system.

EBRA

No Report.

Water Resources Board

Art reported that there has been discussion regarding gas and oil fracking and the possible contamination to the groundwater. Although, we are interested, and concerned about this issue, Art Swenka and Brenda Smythe will abstain from any voting on this issue at the WRB.

Sandia RD and Mountainair RD

Anthony Martinez; USFS Mountainair Ranger District reported to the board that they are moving forward with the Tajique Allotment fence repair. There is also an active timber sale above the Doghead area. Within the next few months, Forest Service will continue with an additional 50 acres of timber sale.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey/Easement of South Mountain and South Mountain Access

Discussion tabled.

Edgewood SWCD Boundaries

The Edgewood SWCD boundaries have still not been ratified by the Secretary of State for the Pueblo of Isleta or the Chilili Land Grant; which has been corrected by Torrance County. According to NMDA, Edgewood SWCD is required to submit signed landowner letters stating they want to be moved into this SWCD. This has been done for both the Pueblo and Chilili; but the boundary is still not correct. Katie Mechenbier; NMDA stated that that is the rule for boundary modification via NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission and NMDA. But if this board thought it best, maybe we should contact the Secretary of State.

Following discussion, a motion to request an in-person meeting with the Secretary of State was made by Mark Anaya, motion second by Bill Williams, motion carried. Brenda will set up a meeting.

Capital Outlay Requests

The District was funded \$50,000 by 2019 Capital for building renovations. Tiffany Rivera; NMDA called the District Office prior to SB280 being signed to verify that we were shovel ready. Brenda emailed Tiffany Rivera and Patricia Depner at NMDA to verify we were. The District staff was told that these funds were “quick-turn-around” funds and that once the Governor signed SB280, we could begin the work, and needed to be done by end of this fiscal year. As of today, we have not received our Capital Outlay funds.

Boundary Modification – Ciudad SWCD

The boundary modification requested for the northeast portion of the Ciudad SWCD to be annexed into the Edgewood SWCD was approved in the January meeting. However, once we pulled the landownership, it shows, as Chairman King had stated, that this annexation had already been done. These landowners in question are already within the Edgewood SWCD and have been paying our Mill Levy Tax for many years. NMDA’s map is incorrect. This issue will also be addressed with the Secretary of State.

2019-2020 Cost-Share Program

The board agreed that up to \$65,000 would be set aside for the 2019-2020 Cost Share Program. Application deadline is May 24, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointed Supervisors

The Appointed Supervisor positions were discussed. Mark Anaya motioned to re-appoint Juan Sanchez and Art Swenka to the Edgewood SWCD Board, motion second by Lewis Fisher. The required paperwork will be submitted to NMDA and the NM Soil & Water Commission.

Public Comment

None

Next Board Meeting

June 6, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment at 12:20 AM by Mark Anaya, motion seconded by Lewis Fisher, motion carried.

Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer