

Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District

Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2019

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman; David King at 9:00 AM.

Board Members in Attendance

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

Board Members Absent & Excused

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

Others Present

Brenda Smythe; District Manager, Kelly Smith; Technician, Kenneth Lujan; NRCS – Estancia FO, Jason Lithgow; NM State Land Office, and Katie Mechenbier; NMDA

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September and October meetings were reviewed. Art motioned for approval of the September and October minutes as presented, motion second by Juan, motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Brenda Smythe presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Art to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion second by Lewis, motion carried.

REPORTS

District Staff Report

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

NMDA REPORT

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

SLO REPORT

Jason Lithgow reported that NM State Land Office is working on the CFRP in Clines Corners. Brenda asked Jason if he would talk to Mark Meyers regarding the thinning projects on state land that were to be ready to be thinned this year through Edgewood SWCD via Water Trust Board.

NRCS Report

The board reviewed the NRCS report. Herman Ortiz has accepted a position in Aztec. His position will not be refilled. April Luna has also accepted another position in Los Lunas. This position will be advertised in the next few months. **(See Report)**

NMCCD

David reported that the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts were at this year's Aggie Day in Las Cruces, and were well received. We will also have a booth set up at Ag Fest on February 4th.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee

The Committee is working and has received their funding. With the East Torrance SWCD manager leaving, Dan McGregor is taking the minutes, etc. until a replacement is found.

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. The final details are being done for the FEMA Grant, which is for projects on Chilili Land Grant and Aceves Area.

EMWT Water

EMWT Water is considering changing their service area since the Land Grants do not wish to participate. This change will strike all mountain communities.

KXNM 88.7 Radio

The Radio Station is doing well. They are working on doing live broadcasts at local games and local events. The Email for the radio station is info@KXNM.org and the phone number is 505-886-0605. The Edgewood SWCD is advertising on the station, which is working very well.

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. The Pueblos attended the last meeting, but the Land Grant Council was not. Brenda will email Barbara Juan and Arturo's email addresses to involve the NM Land Grant Council in further discussions.

Sandia RD and Mountainair RD

No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session- Possible Litigation

Motion by Art to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Motion seconded by Mark Anaya; 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 – absent
Mark Anaya – yea
Juan Sanchez - yea

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Lewis, second by Juan, 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 – absent
Mark Anaya – yea
Juan Sanchez - yea

No action was taken during Executive Session.

According to Attorney Matthew McQueen, the easement does not access our Watershed Area on South Mountain. Following discussion, Art motioned no further action be taken by this board, and a letter to Judy Fry be sent by Attorney McQueen. Motion second by Mark Anaya, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Outlay

Our Capital Outlay allocation of \$50,000 for building renovations has been completed. The first reimbursement for \$39,250 was received and the final request of \$10,750 was submitted. Reimbursement should be received by via electronic transfer on November 6th.

Edgewood SWCD Boundary

The Edgewood SWCD boundaries have been ratified by the Secretary of State for the Pueblo of Isleta. However, the Chilili Land Grant; which has been corrected by Torrance County, still has not been resolved

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.

A request from Ciudad SWCD's Chair; Steve Glass was given to Manager B. Smythe requesting that the SF County portion (on the border of Ciudad and Edgewood SWCDs) be resolved by NMDA's protocol instead of a letter to the Commission as previously stated in an email from Chairman Glass. However, the letter to the Commission as previously passed during the September board meeting was sent.

Both boundary issues have been discussed with the Secretary of State and the Torrance County District Attorney.

Brent Van Dyke spoke to both Brenda and David regarding this issue. Brent offered his assistance in helping in discussions with East Torrance SWCD to correct our boundary, and therefore mitigating any legal action against the Commission.

David agreed to hold off on any legal action until after the new year, in hopes the Edgewood and East Torrance SWCDs could agree on the boundary and send the paperwork to the NM Conservation Commission has requested.

Staff will do further research regarding the boundaries in the next few months at State Archives.

2019 Elections

The 2019 Elections were held on November 5, 2019 state-wide. The positions for Edgewood SWCD Board Member positions were unopposed. There was some confusion with the SWCD elections. One issue reported were that not all of the positions for our board were on all ballots.

2018-2019 Audit

The 2018-2019 Audit will be held December 2, 2019.

2020 Capital Outlay

Christina and Brenda met regarding the 2020 Capital Outlay. Juan motioned to allow the staff to move forward with an application for Capital Outlay, motion second by Lewis. Juan reminded staff that an ICIP is very important. Brenda stated that she has not submitted one in the last few years but will double check the latest submission is still adequate.

Stanley Cemetery

Following the site visit and recommendations from Technician, Kelly Smith and NM State the following was completed at the Stanley Cemetery.

- Replaced 15 AMP breaker on power pole (power would not stay on)
- Mounted relay box
- Replaced and mounted 9-station timer
- Repaired the #1 valve
- Retraced and labeled all 6-valve zones
- Did a physical and visual inspection of all bubblers, and replaced those not working
- Timer was installed and programmed to run each zone for 50 minutes every other day (average of 30-50 gallons per watering day) as suggested to give the trees a large amount of water to improve tree health.
- Programming changes may be needed upon tree health improvement and new plantings installed.

NOTATIONS:

*All trees upon completion (10/7/19) were receiving water.

**2 Timer Keys were left hanging on timer.

***Due to possible freeze on 10/11/19, breaker will be turned off by Leo Dennison on 10/10/19.

A tree assessment will be done to check on tree health improvement and if replacement trees are needed in the spring (Phase II), followed by a beautification planting & drip system will be installed if approved (Phase III).

A sketch drawing of the drip irrigation will be added to the District "Stanley Cemetery" folder, and copies given to Leo Dennison.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 NACD Annual Convention

The 2020 NACD Annual Convention will be held February 8 – 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark motioned to approve the board and staff to attend the NACD Conference, motion second by Juan, motion carried.

2020 ARCSA Conference

The 2020 ARCSA Annual Convention will be held December 2 – 5 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Lewis motioned to approve Kelly and Mark Anaya to attend the ARCSA Annual Convention, motion second by Art, motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Next Board Meeting

December 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

The January 2, 2020 meeting was discussed. Art motioned to move the January 2nd board meeting to January 9th, motion second by Lewis, motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment at 11:53 AM by Lewis, motion seconded by Juan, motion carried.

Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer