

CABALLO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

August 28, 2024

The Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Samantha Gillis, Sec-Treasurer, in the Caballo SWCD Office, located near Salem, New Mexico.

Supervisors Present

Keith Franzoy, Member
Dee Wear, Member
Samantha Gillis, Sec-Treas
Casey McGuire, Member

Not Present

Harvey Morrow, Chairman
Frank Garay, Vice Chair

Others Present:

Ronnie Garay, Prospective Supervisor
Susan Downs, Caballo SWCD Programs Manager
Chantal Orosco, Caballo SWCD Office Manager

Minutes- Samantha Gillis asked for a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. *Dee Wear motioned that the minutes from the July 24, 2024, meeting be approved. Keith Franzoy seconded; the motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report- Susan Downs presented the Treasurer's Report. There were some large checks for the Healthy Soils Grant, for work done and seeds, as well as federal tax payments for the employees' Income Tax. Susie also explained that we had a large deposit from NMSU from the points system, and that would be discussed further down the agenda. *Dee Wear moved the treasurer's report to be accepted as presented. Casey McGuire seconded; the motion was carried unanimously.*

Approval of Agenda – *Dee Wear moved to approve the agenda. Keith Franzoy seconded; the motion carried unanimously.*

NRCS Progress Report – Read by Susan Downs, please see attached report for further information

NMDA Specialist Report – – Read by Susan Downs, please see the attached report for further information

NMACD Report – Susan Downs reports the annual meeting to be held October 28-30, 2024, in Albuquerque. We will need supervisors present during the general meeting for voting, which may be held on the 1st or 2nd day.

Jornada Report- Susan Downs reports that Jornada is currently working on interpretive signage and mileposts to be installed along the river below the fish hatchery in Truth or Consequences, the mileposts being a way for river users to see where they are located on the river in case of an emergency.

Business at Hand

Watersheds- McLead Dam- Casey McGuire reports that he spoke to Zack Libbin with Libbin Engineering a few weeks ago. Mr. Libbin had said that he had been very busy but had flown with Lidar over the McLead Dam and had taken soil samples. Casey reports that we are just waiting on direction from someone to tell us where to move the sediment,

On Point Computer Solutions Remote IT- Chantal reported that this company had come out to the office to fix things that Louis Gonzales was supposed to finish but did not. She also reported that the IT Tech, Jon showed her that Louis had only installed a half-terabyte hard drive to her desktop, but we were charged for one full terabyte and then ghosted. On Point put a proposal together to do IT work for us, which would cover any on-site visits, remote security monitoring, and remote repair, which would get rid of any Webroot or carbonite subscriptions for \$7,080.00 per year. Dee Wear called Jenny Shepherd at SSWCD and was told that they don't have a service like this themselves, they rely on themselves and Paul Tooley or Mike Torres. *Keith Franzoy motioned to table this until something else happened with the computers in the future. Casey McGuire seconded the motion, and the motion was tabled unanimously.*

Gracelyn's Painting & Stucco- Chantal Orosco reported that she had gotten an estimate to rebuild the staircase and landing outside of the South entry door, to be built in Trex, and an estimate for repainting the entire building due to divots and chips in the paint exposing the compressed siding, which will cause it to swell and deteriorate, as well as matching the handicap ramp color to the building. Casey McGuire asked whether the prep work included caulking around the windows and skirting. Chantal said that the message from the contractor Mike Madrid indicated that it did include this. *Casey McGuire moved to follow through with painting the building to maintain it, Keith Franzoy seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

Landscaping and Irrigation System Repairs- Chantal advised that A-One HD had come out and cleaned the property, and all board members commented on how much better the entire property looked. Chantal advised that the quote received for upkeep maintenance was monthly and it was \$150/month. The irrigation system was quoted at \$8,600.00 to replace all the leaking tape and black flex line with PVC. Susan Downs explained that only the front zone was the one that had the significant leaks, and that was the only one needing to be replaced because she felt the black tubing and tape going to the quail habitat was working sufficiently. Dee Wear asked to get a quote for a quarterly landscape maintenance contract and to only have the front half of the irrigation system replaced for \$1,800.00. *Casey McGuire moved to table this until the next meeting to get new quotes reflecting the needs of the district; Dee Wear seconded. Motion carried to table this work unanimously.*

Jornada Dues- Susan Downs advised that we had gotten an invoice for \$100.00 for annual dues which was paid because it was previously worked into the budget to pay all dues.

Residential Cost Share Applications- Susan Downs advised that we had received two applications for the water catchment systems for two separate residential owners in Arrey. Christina Medina, located directly across from the Arrey Café, and David Trujillo on Wagoneer Rd. These would be \$500 per applicant with the cost share and the total would be \$1500 for the year spent on this and was included in the budget. Susan also said that David had also turned his application in 3 years ago when Travis Day of Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District helped to design an irrigation sprinkler system for David's house. David had never followed through with it at that time. Dee Wear asked what David was using for irrigation in the meantime, and it was discussed if he was using a hose and flood irrigating, sprinkler heads would still be more efficient and would still tie in with the values of the district. *Keith Franzoy moved to accept the two residential cost share applicants with their rain catchment systems, and to assist with the sprinkler system; Casey McGuire seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

Website Proposal- Chantal said she was just looking for permission to start working on a WIX website for the district to showcase our projects, as well as having a place to upload our meeting notices and minutes for the public. Chantal advised that she would not publish anything without first sending the link to the district to review and get approval at a meeting before making the site go live. *Casey McGuire moved to allow Chantal to begin working on a website, Dee Wear seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

MOA/MOU NRCS- Susan Downs advised that Kristie Wright with NRCS was not available for the meeting today, so there was no need for action on this at this time.

Bank Letter- Susan handed a letter out, advising it was drafted to give Chantal Orosco authorization for the release of information by the banks, which would allow her to ask for balances, and deposit checks, but would not have any financial decision-making or signatory authorization. This was voted on at the last meeting to proceed so this was just needing a signature at this time. *Casey McGuire moved to proceed with the bank letter, Keith Franzoy seconded; motion carried unanimously to sign the letter and turn it into the banks.*

NMDA Point System Distribution- Susan Downs reported that Caballo SWCD had received full points from the distribution and the district received a total direct deposit allotment of \$74,764.78.

Government Accountability Office- Susan Downs reported that she had been contacted by the Government Accountability Office out of Washington DC regarding the North Salem #2 and Wardy Hedgecock Dams. There is a Zoom meeting scheduled for after this board meeting at 11 am with Casey McGuire and Susan in attendance, and a set tour date of September 5 where the team in Washington will be flying in to go look at the dams with Susan and Casey.

Cover Crop Update (Healthy Soils)- Susan reported that she had been taking photos and turned in the invoices for reimbursements for the grant but now that it looks like we probably won't be getting any other producers interested in the program, there was a request to send the money not spend back to the program to be reallocated for noxious weeds. She needed a signed approval of a budget adjustment to be signed by Samantha in place of Harvey and Frank who were both missing from the meeting today. Susan also reported that Dickie Ogaz probably had the best results so far, because Brawley had some very sandy soil and Annie Mae Ortiz's field was taken over by weeds, which Robert Lara was going to knock down to give the good seed a chance to take off. *Casey moved to adjust the budget accordingly and Dee Wear seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Local Workgroup Meeting Update- Susan Downs reported that she and Chantal had attended this meeting the previous day and learned about how the ranking system works with NRCS, where they are ranking similar operations and properties against one another and putting them into multiple categories to give them the best chance at funding. Chantal reported that she didn't realize that the money NRCS gave to fund projects ended up being taxed at the end of the year. Susan explained to the board that Kristi Wright is looking at having another meeting focused on water management entities for the acequias and Susan expressed her interest in possibly hosting a local meeting here in Hatch at the civic center for local producers to learn about the various funding opportunities available to them.

Roswell Grant Writing Class Update- Chantal reported that she and Susan had attended and brought back grab bags for the board members. Susan said that it was a good networking meeting but that it was not a grant writing class as advertised, because it mostly focused on the relationships between funding partners.

Sierra SWCD Summit Update- Susan reported that she had attended this meeting and that it was very informative about the work that has been focusing on the removal of salt cedar. She said that there had been contractors there to show the differences between mulching, chipping, etc. from the emulsifier equipment. Susan said it was very informative.

DFA Update- Chantal reports that everything was turned in and submitted in plenty of time but that she has been going back and forth with our DFA Representative Jeanell who keeps unlocking and sending the LGBMS report back to be updated, even though it didn't need any updating. She will continue to try to work with Jeanell to get this clarified.

Plan of Work- The Board reviewed the Plan of Work for July and August. Casey McGuire mentioned that in September, the Roody Dam needs to be moved to the top of the priority list due to only one port being open at this time due to an overly large sediment load and that we could remove the Reed Thurmond from the annual maintenance plan for this year.

Correspondence- Susan Downs reported that we have submitted Ronnie Garay's supervisor application but are waiting for a response. Susan also reported that she had gotten some information about shade balls for stock tank drinkers, to prevent

water evaporation for livestock drinkers, and thought that maybe this is something that the district would like to promote in the future.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Samantha Gillis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kaith Franzoy made a motion to adjourn at 10:53 am, Dee Wear seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Presiding Official

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