

CABALLO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES

September 25, 2024

The Caballo Soil and Water Conservation District meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Harvey Morrow, Chairman, in the Caballo SWCD Office, located near Salem, New Mexico.

Supervisors Present

Harvey Morrow, Chairman
Frank Garay, Vice Chair
Dee Wear, Member
Casey McGuire, Member

Not Present

Keith Franzoy, Member
Samantha Gillis, Sec-Treas

Others Present:

Kathryn Kruthaupt, NMDA SWCD Specialist
Nicole Chavez, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Susan Downs, Caballo SWCD Programs Manager
Chantal Orosco, Caballo SWCD Office Manager

Minutes- Harvey Morrow asked for a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. *Frank Garay motioned that the minutes from the August 28, 2024, meeting be approved. Casey McGuire seconded; the motion carried unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report- Chantal Orosco presented the treasurers report. Chantal advised that there were a lot of large items paid for this month, including Susan Downs new office furniture, which had previously been worked into the budget for this year, and approved by the board. Chantal also reported that there was a large amazon purchase for things for the office such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, first aid supplies, and shelving to make the office more organized. Chantal noted that the insurance company was requesting fire alarms and smoke detectors to keep us insured and that the century link bill presented would be the final bill for us. *Frank Garay moved the treasurer's report to be accepted as presented. Dee Wear 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 – Nicole Chavez presented the report advising that the EQIP Application Deadlines were due November 8th, but that all other applications was moving to the Act Now which gives 14 days from start to finish of receipt and acceptance of the applications. These are closing February 8. Please see attached reports for further information.

NMDA Specialist Report – – Kathryn Kruthaupt presented the report, noting that there are a bunch of trainings available for operations training to district staff available through her office, and will be broadcast as a webinar on October 18, links and invitations will be sent out later. She offered to Chantal that she could come down to do a one on one training with her in the future. Kathryn also advised Dean Bruce is the HSP specialist and has offered to attend board meetings to speak to supervisors regarding the healthy soils program. 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 will be held on Monday 10/28 at 1:30 pm of the conference. She then ran through the draft agenda that NMACD has put out. Dee Wear mentioned that he would try to go as the supervisor for our district.

Jornada Report- Susan Downs reports that Jornada is currently working on Wildfire Mitigation in the Poverty Creek area, creating defensible spaces and working with Sierra County Emergency Management Officer Ryan Williams.

Business at Hand

Watersheds- McLead Dam- Casey McGuire reports that he has not heard from Zack Libbin with Libbin Engineering since August.

- Formal Dam Inspections will be conducted in October on 5 dams. We are waiting on a date and time, but it will probably take 2 days.
- Fiero Arroyo ran over the last heavy rain event that happened, and we need to speak to the landowner to get permission to clean the channel up. It had breached and went through a homeowner's yard. Because this was not on the agenda previously, there is no action to be taken at this time, but we will be working on this in the coming months, using the excavator.

Landscaping - Chantal reported that she had gotten an updated estimate from the landscaping crew. They are quoting \$200 to do a quarterly cleaning of the grounds, but that does not include cutting or hauling of any trees or limbs. *Dee Wear moved to accept the \$200 quarterly charge by the landscaping company; Frank Garay seconded. Motion carried to accept this bid going forward.*

Security System Installation- Chantal Orosco reports that Leavitt Group is requiring a security system to be installed in the building or they will drop theft coverage. Chantal presented an estimate for security cameras only, with 4 cameras and a dvr to record that would allow us to log in and monitor the building when we are gone. Chantal explained that she was not sure if security cameras would suffice or if they needed to have an alarm system, stating she explained that an alarm system didn't make much sense due to the rural location and response time. Dee Wear stated that if security cameras were the only thing required he would be willing to install the cameras for the district and we could possibly purchase them from Amazon for a few hundred dollars rather than the \$1600.00 estimate. *Frank Garay moved table this until Dee Wear had the time to look at other options, and until we hear back from the insurance company whether they would be ok with just*

cameras or if they want an alarm system, Casey McGuire seconded; motion carried unanimously to table this at this time.

MOA/MOU with NRCS- Susan Downs advised that Kristi Wright is still working on this, but has been out of the office with a rattlesnake bite.

Approval for Travel- Susan Downs advised that we had approved Chantal and herself to attend the NMACD Conference but that we never had approved of the travel. For employees and supervisor. *Dee Wear moved to approve the travel for district employees and one supervisor to NMACD Conference in Albuquerque October 27-30. Frank Garay seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

CD Savings Account- Chantal said that she had spoken to Jeanell Sanchez with DFA, they had a training about how to move the money over. She reported that Jeanell was advising that there had been a letter sent out in the spring, from the State Auditor asking all districts not to have more than the \$250,000 FDIC-insured money in their accounts. Chantal advised that all we need to do at this point is to create a resolution to move the money over and that Jeanell would assist her in creating a new line item in the budget at the start of the new quarter next month. *Casey McGuire moved to allow Chantal to begin working on a website, Dee Wear seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

Caballo Website- Chantal reported that she was pretty much done with the districts website, all that was left was for the board to approve to publish it, and pay for the domain, which should cost around \$300 (dependent upon whether we paid for it when they offered the discount sale). Casey McGuire stated he thought that it had looked really nice, Dee Wear said he had glanced at it briefly. *Dee Wear moved to approve going live with the website and to pay for the domain for a year. Casey McGuire seconded; motion carried unanimously.*

Rio Grande Project NFWF - Susan Downs reported that she had been contacted by the Rio Grande Project Water Conservation & Ecological Restoration Initiative who would like to start building pooling areas before the arroyos hit the river, to try to keep sediment down and hopefully recharge the aquifer. They have asked us to reach out to the community to get buy-in and host meetings here at the district office. Susan asked that the board members reach out to landowners in our district to work with us on this project

Sierra County Fair- Susan Downs reported that we have purchased rain gauges and ice scrapers to hand out at the fair, and this year will be a focus on soil health. Chantal has set up the worm farm in the little roots display, showing the importance of worms in breaking up the impacted soil.

NMACD Update- Susan Downs stated that the district has purchased salt and pepper shakers and green and red chile powder to put into the goody bags (200 of them). Susan also stated that she has reached out to other districts within Region 3 to see if their staff could also bring agriculture-production-related items for the bags. She has heard from Alamogordo who will bring pistachios and Quemado/Salado who will bring something (not sure what yet). Harvey Morrow said that he would bring the 2-pound gunny sack to add to the silent auction basket, and Frank Garay said he believed he could supply the chile powder.

Government Accountability Office- Susan Downs reported that although there had been an in person meeting and visit scheduled from the Government Accountability Office for September 5, they had canceled it due to their office contracting COVID and now being on travel restrictions. Susan will keep the board updated if a new meeting is scheduled.

Plan of Work- The Board reviewed the Plan of Work for September and October.

Correspondence- Susan Downs reported that we have not gotten any correspondence a this time.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Frank Garay made a motion to adjourn at 10:19 am, Dee Wear seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Presiding Official

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