



Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801
August 12, 2019 12:00 PM

Present: Eddy Harris, Chris Lopez, Jimmy Sanchez, Brian Durkin, Jasmine Wilson, Jeff Fassett, Bethany Rosales, Katie Mechenbier, Will Kolbensschlag, and Nyleen Troxel Stowe.

The **meeting** was called to order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

The **agenda** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

The **June 2019 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Items:

Financial:

Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payment: See attachments. These were accepted as presented on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

FY 2019-2020 Budget Approval: See attachments. The FY 2019-2020 budget was approved by DFA.

Memo of Agreement with NMDA-Salt Cedar Funding: We were awarded \$31,780 for this year. We have three landowners signed up and ready to go. This MOA was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Draft Salt Cedar RFQ: Staff are working on this but in a holding pattern due to item IV. C. for the August agenda--see below. Item was tabled.

Draft Cattle Guard Installation RFQ: Jeff Fassett told the board that the BLM has 4 concrete and one steel box cattle guards in their yard that need to be installed along the Quebradas Road. We have \$78,491.28 left in this NMACD/BLM Restore NM agreement left to spend on the project. We will have a draft RFQ ready for the board to review at the September meeting. Nyleen has requested insurance amounts from the BLM contracting officer that the contractor will have to carry for this project.

BLM Projects: Jeff Fassett also discussed the following projects with the board. The Rio Puerco BLM Office has \$15,000 to purchase two cattle guards from Huey. We did a previous agreement with NMACD/BLM for the cattle guard purchase for the Socorro Office. Huey has the particular cattle guard that meets all of the BLM specifications. The next project is Cholla treatments along the Lincoln County line. This will go along with a NRCS EQIP contract with that landowner getting the private land treated and BLM will have around \$40,000 for the BLM land treatments. They want it treated with the herbicide Surmount and applied electrostatically. This reduces the amount of herbicide needed for treatment and will put less herbicide on the ground, i.e. more on the plant. Jeff is also working with a NM Tech Professor, Dr. Duval, who has graduate students that are working on research and data collection on herbicide vegetation treatments. They are looking at the treatments on Creosote bush just south of town. BLM would also like to treat the Cholla west of Bernardo and north of the Ladrones on several grazing permittees. And the last project is our ongoing noxious weed treatments. This year it is anticipated that we will be receiving \$70,000. Jeff will get with Don Ellsworth, NMACD and get the agreements together.

Cost Share:



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Agricultural: Applications for Carl Popp for land leveling, Jose Padilla for irrigation pipeline and Johnny Chavez for livestock tank and pipeline were reviewed. The ditch that Carl Popp gets water from is a private, community ditch. It is 1700 feet long. He does not have an easement in place with the other users on this ditch. The Socorro SWCD denied another landowner on this ditch several years ago due to the lack of an easement. This application was not approved. The applications for Padilla and Chavez were approved on a motion by Jimmy Sanchez and second by Chris Lopez.

Request for Representative Gail Armstrong to Ask Attorney General for an Opinion on Custom Farming and Salt Cedar Work: See attachments. Socorro SWCD staff talked to the Attorney General's Office regarding the claim that custom farming, livestock pipeline/tank installation, and various forms of brush control require a contractor's license. They said the best way to get an opinion would be to include all of the information that we have found, describe the situation and send that to our Representative and have them ask the Attorney General's Office for an opinion. The letter to Representative Gail Armstrong was approved on a motion by Brian Durkin and second by Jimmy Sanchez.

Election Information: The date for declaration of candidacy is August 27, 2019.

NMDA Report: See attachment. Katie went over her report.

NRCS Report: Jasmine Wilson is acting DC. She went over the report. See attachment.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 1:15 pm.

Chairman

Date