



**Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801
September 14, 2020 12:00 PM**

Present: Eddy Harris, Chris Lopez, Brian Durkin, Adrian Tafoya, Will Kolbensschlag, Nyleen Troxel Stowe. By phone: Brent Van Dyke, Rafael Sierra-Castro and Katie Mechenbier.

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chairman Eddy Harris.

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

The **August 2020 minutes** passed on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Items:

Financial:

Treasurer's Report and Voucher Payments: See attachments. The report was accepted as presented and vouchers were paid on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

NMDA Memo of Agreement for SWCD Grant: The Socorro SWCD grant application to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission was approved. Attached is the Memo of Agreement for the funding. This was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Cost Share:

Ag Projects: An application was received from Dawn Waver for a livestock water storage, drinker and pipeline. This was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Request from Crag Sichler for survey/design in Chamita: One of our local contractors is working with a landowner in the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. He has not been able to get NRCS to do a survey or design for land leveling. He asked if Will Kolbensschlag would be able to do a survey and design. The land has been out of production for a while. Therein lies the problem as NRCS cannot meet with landowners who do not have land in production according to the Farm Bill regulations. Adrian Tafoya said he would talk to the NRCS office that covers that area. They have been short staffed for the last year and this may be the issue. No action taken.

City of Socorro Industrial Park: Staff drafted a letter to the City of Socorro to ask about a long term lease in the Industrial Park next to NM State Forestry for a new building. This request will go before the City Council. See attachment. This was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Middle Rio Grande Advocates: See attached letter. No action taken.

MRGCD NRCS RCCP Application: The MRGCD indirectly through Cecilia Rosacker, asked for non-federal cost share match from the Socorro SWCD. No details about the MRGCD project for the application were attached. The Socorro SWCD will wait for more details before committing to this.

Letter from Michael Kelly: A letter was received from Ken Hart's attorney, Michael Kelly regarding his property and the Salt cedar work. See attachment. No action taken.

NMDA Report: Katie Mechenbier reviewed the report. See attachment.

NMACD: Brent Van Dyke gave an update on NMACD activities. There was a quorum for the Region III meeting. They had a resolution regarding the wild and scenic designation for the Gila River. NACD has a national policy opposing this wild and scenic designation. NMACD is looking at having a virtual annual meeting around November 10, 2020. It also looks like the public will not be allowed into the Roundhouse during the next legislative session in early 2021.

NRCS Report and MOA: Rafael Sierra-Castro gave the NRCS report. The Local Work Group meeting must be held before October 16. Nyleen will get with the board after the meeting and email Rafael with available dates. Adrian Tafoya asked the board what their concerns with the Memo of Agreement were. Will Kolbensschlag began with the items regarding job approval authority, following the cost docket with pipe by the pound, concrete ditch lining by the square foot, no receipts necessary for cost share, why NRCS refused to use the SWCD's survey data. Adrian Tafoya explained that the items listed in the Memo of Agreement refer only to NRCS programs. They do not apply to the Socorro SWCD programs. Adrian Tafoya brought up that the reason this agreement is so



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different is that the Socorro SWCD was still working with NRCS under a Cooperative Working Agreement from 1997. It should have been replaced with a Memo of Agreement in 2008 but never was brought to the Socorro SWCD board. Chris Lopez brought up issues with trying to get designs from this NRCS office for concrete ditch. He also brought up that he has a customer that was told he would get paid X amount to install a concrete ditch and then was given a completely different amount for the ditch than his original EQIP contract had listed. Adrian stated that they had an errors and omissions fund but if the amount was an increase, it could not go under this. Adrian stated that he would go to the Field Office and look at this contract. Adrian also asked Rafael to commit to repairing the relationship with the Socorro SWCD. Adrian stated that he would be happy to return in January to review the Memo of Agreement. Agreement was approved on a motion by Chris Lopez and second by Brian Durkin.

Adjourn: Meeting concluded at 3:05 pm.

Chairman

Date