

**CORONADO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**El Zocalo Event Center**  
**264 S. Camino del Pueblo, Bernalillo, NM 87004**  
[www.coronadoswcd.org](http://www.coronadoswcd.org)

**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting – August 20, 2020**  
**[Meeting Held Online via Zoom]**

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Lynn Montgomery at 9:03 a.m. The roll was called, and other supervisors present were Alfred Baca and Kathleen Groody, constituting a quorum. Supervisors Orlando Lucero and Charles Torres were absent from the meeting. Associate Supervisor Susan Harrelson and District Manager Carolyn Kennedy were also present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Baca moved to approve the Agenda and Ms. Groody seconded the motion. Ms. Kennedy conducted a roll call vote, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests/Reports**

Gabriella Coughlin, Soil Conservationist, Albuquerque Field Office, NRCS  
Jim Wanstall, NMDA  
Christopher Daul, Assistant to County Commissioner Katherine Bruch  
Dan Ginter, Santa Ana Pueblo

Ms. Coughlin reported as follows: The starting date for new District Conservationist for the Cuba, Albuquerque and Los Lunas Field Offices, Martin Meairs, is August 31, 2020. The FY20 EQIP and CSP rankings are complete and a total of 29 applications were funded from Albuquerque, Cuba and Los Lunas. A new statewide NRCS Soil Health Team has been formed, headed by Steve Kadas and Jim Armendariz. They will prepare a three-five year strategic plan, Ms. Coughlin will be the Team 2 specialist. Ciudad SWCD has been awarded an NACD soil health assessment grant for Building Urban Agriculture Technical Assistance Capacity in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. The grant will be used to train apprentice farmers, high school students, and Ciudad Supervisors to perform basic site assessments and provide technical assistance to private landowners. It will create a regional soil health database and scorecard as well as other aids to landowners. If Coronado would like to participate in such a pilot program, Ms. Coughlin would be happy to help. MRGCD was awarded a National Watershed Project grant to address recurring flooding events along the Belen watershed. This project could be extended to other areas such as upland erosion affecting Algodones. Ms. Coughlin is creating an exploratory partners group to submit two RCPP proposals to assist small private landowners in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. One will be for Urban Ag and the other for Uplands Restoration. MRGCD has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the Urban Ag proposal. Coronado could be a potential partner, along with other Middle Rio Grande Valley SWCDs, Pueblos, etc. Proposals are due 11/4/20, and there will be a webinar on the submittal process on 8/27/20. She will organize a meeting sometime mid to late September to explore who is interested in partnering, developing a partnership agreement and next steps. Local Work Group meetings will be scheduled sometime in October for public feedback.

Mr. Wanstall, NMDA, reported on the highlights of the August 2020 NMDA report, which was distributed to the Board electronically prior to the meeting, as follows: (1) The FY21 Healthy Soil Program completed applications are due to the eligible entities (including SWCDs) by 8/31/20, and the deadline for the eligible entity to submit approved applications to NMDA is COB 10/8/20; (2) NMSU's noxious weed watch list has been updated and is on the website, removing some species and adding others. In addition, the booklet will be updated and in print this Fall with some changes. It will now be an official NMSU Extension Publication. He will send out an email re pre-orders before going to print.



Ms. Harrelson did not have a report.

Mr. Daul was having technical difficulties with audio and was unable to report.

Mr. Ginter reported as follows: He is the Range Program Manager for the Pueblo of Santa Ana. He is an NACD Soil Health Champion along with Jim Peterson, who manages the vineyards for the Pueblo. Mr. Montgomery stated that Coronado will prepare a press release and article for the Sandoval Signpost, noting that this is an appropriate issue for Coronado's involvement as well as a PR issue to make more people aware of soil health.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Baca made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2020, meeting and Ms. Groody seconded the motion. Ms. Kennedy conducted a roll call vote, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

Ms. Kennedy gave the financial report, noting Wells Fargo bank balance on July 31, 2020, as follows:

State/Local Government Checking: \$19,316.52

### **Approval of Bills**

None needing approval.

### **Correspondence**

A list of relevant correspondence received since the last meeting was distributed to the Board electronically prior to the meeting.

### **Staff Report**

Ms. Kennedy reported as follows: *Placitas Acequias Reservoir Renovations*: Construction of the Las Huertas Reservoir Improvements project in the Cibola National Forest will begin on 8/31/20, and a Notice to Proceed will be issued for that date. *WQ&C Grant/Capital Outlay*: Coronado is still awaiting a decision from NMDA on total amounts to be awarded for each of these grants. *Healthy Soil Program Grant on Behalf of Sandia Pueblo*: Sandia's project had been delayed because the Pueblo had been closed because of the coronavirus, and the original project coordinators are no longer employed by the Pueblo. Jessica Tracy and Michael Scialdone have taken over management of the project. The Healthy Soil Program has advised Coronado that Sandia Pueblo's revised budget and timeline had been approved, so the project can continue. Ms. Kennedy will email the application materials to Mr. Baca for a Healthy Soil Program grant for FY21.

### **Board Reports [5 Minutes Each]**

Mr. Montgomery reported that he had attended the following online meetings: Healthy Soil Working Group's Soil Stories on 7/21/20 (featuring Brent Van Dyke, who is an innovative rancher on the East side); a Healthy Soil Policy Forum on 7/28/20; a Sandia Collaborative presentation on invasive plants, concentrating on the war against cheatgrass, by Tom Stewart, Native Plant Society, on 7/28/20; a Quivira Coalition Healthy Soil Webinar on Defining and Measuring Healthy Upland Soil, an excellent presentation centered on the Lower Embudo in Dixon, on 8/12/20; a meeting with Jeff Goebel, Healthy Soil Working Group, on BOR Rio Grande Basin Study re possible Soil Health Sector on 8/13/20 (Mr. Montgomery is spearheading a group, including former members of the Rio Puerco Management Committee, working on the Dust on Snow issue, as well as soil health being a source of new water). Mr. Ginter noted that Santa Ana collects a lot of data and currently has 24 rain gauges on Pueblo land; he can share maps and data; he is in agreement that healthy soil practices are the best way to conserve water; the Pueblo is currently working on a new composting project with the Quivira Coalition. Mr. Montgomery also

attended a Healthy Soil Working Group's Soil Stories presentation, featuring young farmers Emily Arasin and Donne Gonzales, on 8/18/20.

Mr. Baca did not have a report.

Ms. Groody reported as follows: The Community of Sile has filed a protest against the Sile pot farm's application to transfer surface water rights in the amount of 9.5 million gallons, and MRGCD has also filed a protest. The case will be going directly to court, skipping the State Engineer's hearing process. A court date has not yet been set.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

A. Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and Resolution, due to DFA 9/4/20—Mr. Baca made a motion to approve the ICIP and Resolution, and Ms. Groody seconded the motion. Ms. Kennedy conducted a roll call vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

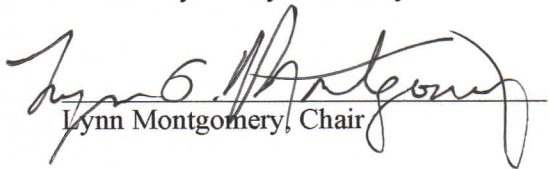
B. NACD Soil Health Champions—Discussed previously.

**Upcoming Events**

Upcoming events, as listed on the agenda, were announced by Mr. Montgomery.

Mr. Baca made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Minutes by Carolyn Kennedy

  
Lynn Montgomery, Chair

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Orlando J. Lucero, Secretary-Treasurer