



Supervisor Al Baca, NMED Agent Mike Matush, and District Manager Carolyn Kennedy

ANNUAL REPORT FY16

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

MISSION STATEMENT

**To conserve, protect and enhance our soil,
water and agriculture and to prevent
floodwater and sediment damage**

VISION STATEMENT

**To be the “eyes on the ground” to protect our
natural resources**

BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Lynn Montgomery, *Chair*

Alfred Baca, *Vice-Chair*

Patricia Bolton, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Gary Miles, *Supervisor*

Marvin Mendelow, *Supervisor*

Judith Hurley, *Associate Supervisor*

STAFF

Carolyn Kennedy, *District Manager*

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CORONADO SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT-FY16

Coronado SWCD grew and matured this year, becoming more efficient as an agency and expanding skills, knowledge, and relationships. There's still a long way to go, but things keep getting better. Coronado is the smallest conservation district, has a challenging territory and little supervisor free time.

Serious work on the Land Use Plan started when consultant Kim Kostelnik began assisting in its creation. Much progress has been made and the Plan should be completed in the next few months. Coronado's first Water Quality and Conservation Grant from the Soil and Water Commission was completed and a new proposal was granted for FY17. The District was involved in many tasks, projects, and issues, coordinating, cooperating, and partnering with other agencies and the public. It was a very busy year.

DISTRICT FINANCIALS

Coronado SWCD met all its financial obligations, requirements, and deadlines. District Manager Kennedy and Secretary-Treasurer Bolton continued to keep the books together. An audit, required because of an FY14 capital outlay grant, was conducted and completed with no findings. Secretary-Treasurer Bolton continued as certified procurement officer, which became essential during the year. During FY16 the District received \$22,556 in income and spent \$21,491. These figures include the \$7,566 WQ&C funds received and expended during FY16.



Our little horned lizard friend enjoying her new habitat

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The supervisors continued to serve their terms and there were no changes in the makeup of the Board, which consists of:

Lynn Montgomery, Chair

Alfred Baca, Vice-Chair

Patricia Bolton, Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Miles, Supervisor

Marvin Mendelow, Supervisor

Judith Hurley, Associate Supervisor

MEETINGS

The District held twelve regular monthly meetings and two special meetings, one to approve a letter supporting the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance's proposal for second-year funding for watershed restoration and one to meet an ICIP resolution deadline.

PIEDRA LISA DAM

The Piedra Lisa Flood Control Dam is co-sponsored by the District (which owns the easement to the Dam property), along with the Town of Bernalillo and the County of Sandoval, and has emergency response responsibilities. NRCS provides engineers and other assistance and the Office of the State Engineer Dam Safety Bureau conducts inspections and also provides advice.

There were no significant events. The dam never spilled. There is some maintenance work to be done. A dam review was conducted in November, 2015. Coronado supervisors and staff attended the NM Watershed and Dam Owners Association, of which Coronado is a member, to keep abreast of current developments.

WATER

When it comes down to it, water is part of everything Coronado does. How we take care of the water determines our future. Coronado takes water issues seriously and its supervisors and staff are members of public and private water organizations.

Mr. Mendelow is on the Board of the Algodones Community Water System and is Coronado's alternate delegate to the Water Resources Board of the Mid Region Council of Governments. Mr. Baca assists the MRG Conservancy District in maintaining its ditches and is active in Algdodones flood control issues. Ms.

Kennedy is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly and a parciante of Las Acequias de Placitas. Ms. Bolton is also a Board member of the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly and a parciante of Las Acequias de Placitas. Mr. Montgomery is Coronado's delegate to the Water Resources Board, represents Coronado on that Board's Steering Committee to update the MRG Regional Water Plan, represents Coronado at the MRG Water Assembly, is Coronado's delegate to the Rio Grande Fund, is a member of the BLM's Rio Puerco Management Committee and its planning subcommittee, is the alternate to the Congreso de las Acequias of the NM Acequia Association for the Placitas Acequia Region, and is the Mayordomo of Acequia la Rosa de Castilla.

Because of the overriding need for strategic planning for the future in the face of this dwindling resource, Coronado Supervisors and the District Manager attended numerous meetings and conferences concerning water.

SOILS AND WATERSHEDS

Coronado sponsored projects in Algodones and Sandia Pueblo through the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance.

The erosion control project on the Placitas Open Space was successful. A solid group of volunteers formed to carry out the project. We are exploring methods that work in this area to control erosion and retain water. Results take time but some good impacts are becoming apparent. This year we made level contour trenches with sponge pockets. The next project will concentrate on plating small rills and arroyitos with surrounding stones and continuing the contour trenches, which flow into the rills. A custom seed mix has been purchased and there are plans to obtain shrubs and trees from Santa Ana Nursery to plant on the unit.

Patricia Bolton, who administered the project, has prepared a final report on the FY16 grant. For those who desire more detail, it can be found on Coronado's website at http://www.coronadoswcd.org/uploads/4/2/7/5/42758245/erosion_control_fy2016_final_report.pdf

FORESTS

Coronado partnered with the Cibola National Forest to update the 2003 Plan by joining the Sandia District Landscape Team. Several workshops and a three-day retreat were attended, along with field trips. The draft has been released for comment.

Coronado is exploring treating the Sandia Wilderness Area to prevent a catastrophic fire that would impair the water resource of Placitas.

FIRE

Fortunately, there were no significant fire events in the District during the past fiscal year. The Dog Head fire in the Manzano Mountains and Chilili Land Grant was a heads up about the urgent need to treat our overgrown forests, including wilderness. The District sponsored two chipper days in Placitas to assist residents in removing brush, which is an ongoing fire hazard.

ACEQUIAS

Acequias, even though there are only a few in the District, are an important element for Coronado SWCD. They keep small upland agriculture alive and preserve an ancient culture still alive in Northern New Mexico. Coronado was awarded a capital outlay grant to restore all the reservoirs of the Placitas Acequias in FY14. The money was spent on engineering and design. The three

Placitas Acequias now have complete plans, which make most of the reservoirs “shovel ready”. This turned out to be important since this project was inadvertently dropped from the capital outlay bill in FY15. Alternate funding was sought through the new NMACD-NRCS RCPP grants, which deal directly with acequia associations. Capital Outlay was again applied for through Senator Sapien’s office and the project gained \$50,000 to continue.

Coronado conducted a tour of the reservoirs for an NMACD expert who is assisting acequias to apply for RCPP funds. Shovel-ready projects were preferred. One acequia, la Rosa de Castilla, applied for a grant.

PUBLICITY

There were six articles by or about Coronado in the Sandoval Signpost:

August 2015

“Cibola Forest on Vision Quest for the Future” re Sandia Landscape Team meeting on 7/22/15, noting meeting was hosted by the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant with support from Coronado SWCD and Edgewood SWCD.

http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/aug15/html/up_front.html

“Coronado enlisting shovel brigade for Open Space Project”

http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/aug15/html/up_front.html#d

September 2015

“Farm Bill Local Work Group Meeting alert.”

<http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/sep15/html/eco-beat.html#c>

“Volunteers Needed for Watershed Project” by Lynn Montgomery, Chair, Coronado SWCD.

<http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/sep15/html/eco-beat.html#b>

November 2015

“Erosion Control Project-Needs Volunteers” by Patricia Bolton, Supervisor, Coronado SWCD.

<http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/nov15/html/eco-beat.html#c>

May 2016

“Erosion Control in Open Space”. Onsite interview by Bill Diven.

<http://www.sandovalsignpost.com/may16/html/eco-beat.html>

PARTNERS

Cibola National Forest

Coronado has a memorandum of understanding with Cibola to assist in the drafting and implementation of the update to the 2003 Plan. Coronado attended several workshops and field trips conducted by the Sandia District Landscape Team and a Forest-wide three-day retreat. The draft was recently released for public comment.

Rio Puerco Management Team

This is a stakeholder and partners advisory group to the BLM. The Puerco BLM Region is large with a diverse population. Coronado is within this region and has started to take part in meetings. Coronado has also joined the planning committee to map out the future restoration of the Region’s watersheds.

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance

This is a group of contiguous SWCD’s for the purpose of conceiving, building, and realizing watershed projects through federal grants. Coronado sponsored three projects on Sandia Pueblo and one on private land in Algodones.

NM Association of Conservation Districts

Mr. Montgomery succeeded John Arrington as chair of District 1. Mr. Montgomery was elected to the post at the annual District 1 meeting in June in Hernandez. Mr. Montgomery participated in the Board's monthly phone conferences.

NM Coalition of Conservation Districts

The Coalition provided Coronado with a consultant to help draft a land use plan. The District has made great strides toward a final product. Coronado is very grateful for Kim Kostelnik's guidance and the Coalition's support.

Rio Grande Fund

Coronado is a signatory of this grand effort to treat the watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin.

NM Watershed and Dam Owners' Association

Coronado is a member because of the Piedra Lisa Dam. The Chair and District Manager attended the annual conference in April 2016 in Angel Fire.