



# **ANNUAL REPORT FY17**

**(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)**

## **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***

**Marvin Mendelow, *Supervisor***

**Orlando Lucero, *Supervisor***

**Judith Hurley, *Associate Supervisor***

**Jon Couch, *Associate Supervisor***

## **STAFF**

**Carolyn Kennedy, *District Manager***

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**CORONADO SOIL AND WATER**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL REPORT-FY17**

Coronado SWCD is continuing to gain its footing. Many tasks were taken on and completed. Even though meeting state requirements becomes more difficult, Coronado SWCD has kept up and performed its obligations. Work on Coronado's Land Use Policy Plan began in FY16 with the assistance of consultant Kim Kostelnik. The Plan was completed and signed on January 17, 2017, and was distributed to partners and agencies. A second Water Quality and Conservation Grant from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission was completed in FY17. The 2017 election of supervisors was held successfully. The Board lost one supervisor and gained another. The District was involved in many tasks, projects, and issues, coordinating, cooperating, and partnering with other agencies and the public.

**DISTRICT FINANCIALS**

Coronado SWCD met all its financial obligations, requirements, and deadlines. District Manager Kennedy and Secretary-Treasurer Bolton continued to maintain the books. Secretary-Treasurer Bolton continued as certified procurement officer. Ms. Kennedy was a volunteer participant in the NM Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division's pilot program for converting financial reporting to an online system, the Local Government Budget Management System (LGBMS).

During FY17 the District received \$27,313 in income and spent \$27,743, which meant that to cover expenses a small amount of funds had to be transferred from the District's saving account.

These figures include \$10,000 in capital outlay and \$3,268 in WQ&C funds received and expended during FY17.

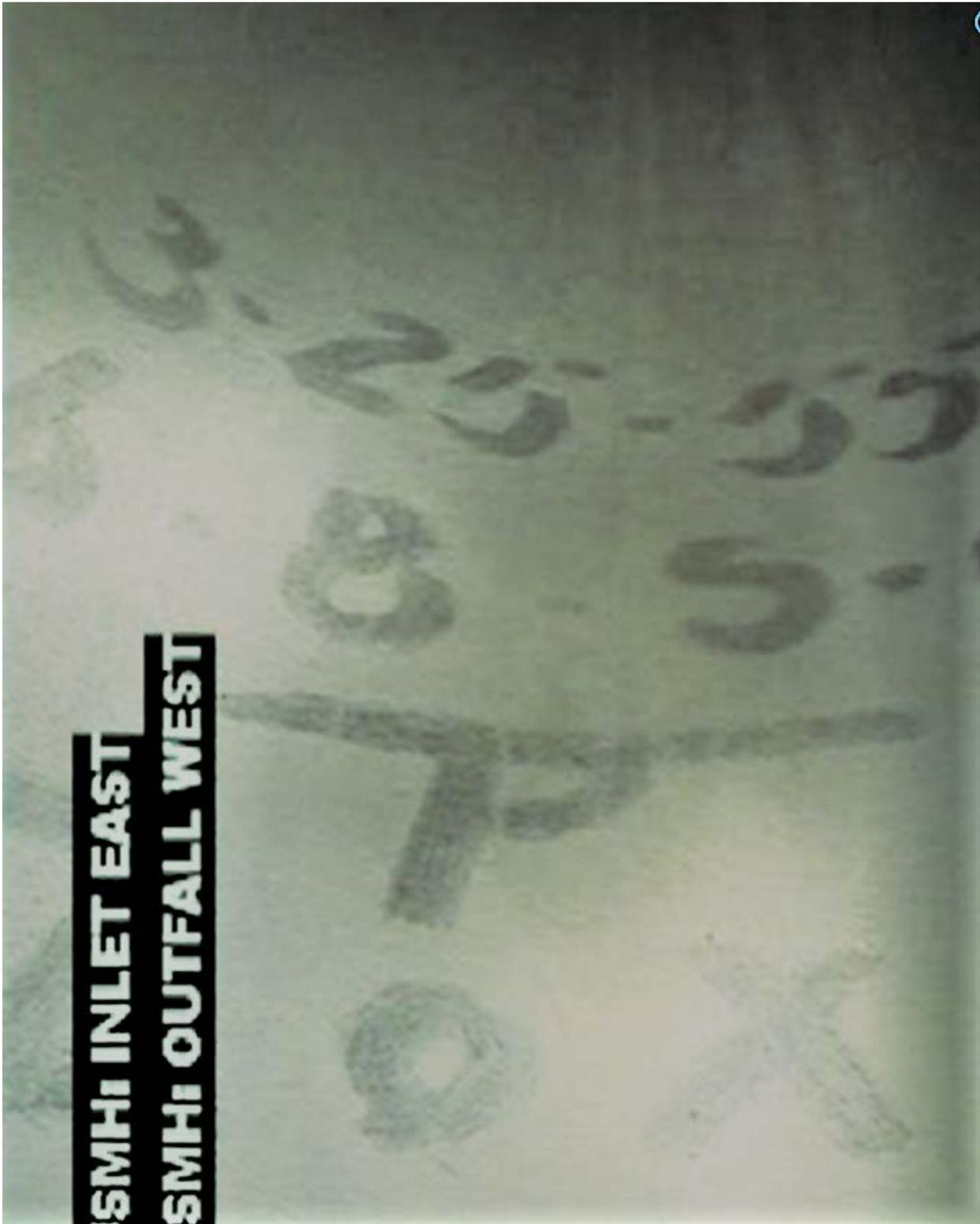
## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The supervisors continued to serve their terms. Orlando Lucero replaced Gary Miles in position 4. At its Annual Meeting on July 21, 2016, the Board re-elected Lynn Montgomery as Chair, Alfred Baca as Vice Chair, and Patricia Bolton as Secretary Treasurer. Judith Hurley, who provides outstanding service in maintaining Coronado's website, was re-appointed as Associate Supervisor on September 15, 2016.

## **MEETINGS**

The District held twelve regular monthly meetings at which a quorum was present.

## PIEDRA LISA DAM



*Engineering graffiti 179' up the primary outlet conduit of Piedra Lisa Dam, from a recent remote inspection. Bats were encountered, so this is wildlife habitat.*

The Piedra Liza Flood Control Dam is co-sponsored by the District (which owns the easement to the Dam property), the Town of Bernalillo and Sandoval County, which share maintenance and emergency response responsibilities. Coronado operates the dam. NRCS provides engineers and yearly inspections, as well as other assistance, and the Office of the State Engineer Dam Safety Bureau conducts inspections and provides advice.

There were no significant precipitation events during FY17, and the dam never spilled.

After an inspection in November 2016, a list of necessary maintenance tasks was provided to Coronado by the Office of the State Engineer's Dam Safety Bureau. Work on these started immediately by Sandoval County Public Works Roads Supervisor Lee Yardman and crew, assisted by former Coronado supervisor Ted Montoya. Nearly all of these tasks were completed in February 2017 except an internal inspection of the outlet conduit of the primary spillway.

## **WATER**

Water is an important part of Coronado's mission. How we take care of the water resource 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. 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 and has represented Coronado on that Board's Steering Committee to update the MRG Regional Water Plan, represents historical and cultural interests at the MRG Water Assembly, is Coronado's delegate to the Rio Grande Water Fund, is the alternate delegate 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. Coronado is a partner in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Drought Contingency Plan update and is taking part in the Bureau of Reclamation's Middle Rio Grande Basin Study.

## **SOILS AND WATERSHEDS**

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

Another soil erosion control project was completed in the Placitas Open Space property. We are exploring methods that work in this area to control erosion and retain water. Results take time but some good impacts are now apparent. Consultant Jim Brooks held two workshops on plating small rills and arroyitos with stones gathered on site, as well as continuing the contour trenches, which flow into these small drainages. This kind of work was completed on the unit to complement the contour trenches of the FY16 project.

Although Coronado did not apply for another WQ&C grant for FY18, few funds are needed to continue, as the work is done by volunteers and all necessary tools, equipment and seeds have been purchased.

## **FORESTS**

Coronado partnered with the Cibola National Forest to update the 2003 Land Use Plan by joining the Sandia Landscape Team. Coronado presented its newly completed Land Use Plan, honoring the commitment made in its MOU with Cibola.

Coronado is currently 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 last year was a heads up about the urgent need to treat our overgrown forests, including wilderness. The District sponsored a chipper day in Placitas on June 3, 2017, to assist residents in removing brush, which is an ongoing fire hazard.

## **ACEQUIAS**

Acequias, even though they are few and small, are an important element for Coronado SWCD. They keep small upland agriculture alive and preserve an ancient culture still present in Northern NM. Coronado was awarded a Capital Outlay grant in FY14 of \$75,000 to restore all the reservoirs of the Placitas Acequias. The money was spent on design engineering. Coronado received another capital outlay grant in FY16 of \$50,000, \$10,000 of which was expended in FY17 to finalize the engineering plans. The three Placitas Acequias now have complete, "shovel-ready" plans to renovate four reservoirs. This turned out to be important since there were no Capital Outlay grants awarded in FY17. Alternate funding was sought through the new NRCS-NMACD acequia RCPP grants, which deal directly with acequia associations. One acequia, la Rosa de Castilla, has applied for one of these, and the

other two Placitas acequia associations plan to apply in the near future.

## **SUPERVISOR ELECTION 2017**

Coronado was required to conduct an election for two supervisor seats, positions 3 & 4, in May 2017. Ms. Bolton was appointed Election Superintendent and ably managed the election with the assistance of Ms. Kennedy. Lynn Montgomery, the incumbent, declared for position 3. He was not challenged, so did not appear on the ballot. Orlando Lucero declared for position 4 and Richard Reif declared as a write-in candidate, also for position 4. The race was well publicized and closely contested. Mr. Lucero prevailed 174-140. Congratulations to the candidates for generating interest in the District and engaging the community.

## **PUBLICITY**

There were eight articles by or about Coronado in the newspapers:

“Local Work Group Meeting of NRCS and CSWCD”. Sandoval Signpost, September 2016. Submitted by Carolyn Kennedy.

“Volunteers needed for New Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District Project”. Sandoval Signpost, November 2016. Submitted by Ms. Bolton.

“Coronado SWCD Erosion Control, Draft Review and Draft Plan Development”. Sandoval Signpost, December 2016.

“Two Enter Race for Soil and Water Seat”. April 4, 2017, Albuquerque Journal. Ms. Kennedy was interviewed for the article.

“Wood Chipper Day in Early June”. Sandoval Signpost, May 2017. Submitted by Ms. Bolton

“Two Running for Seat on Conservation Board”. Sandoval Signpost, May 2017, by Bill Diven.

“Lucero Elected to Conservation Board”. Sandoval Signpost, June 2017, by Bill Diven.

Soil, Water Board Gets New Member”. Albuquerque Journal, June 6, 2017.

## **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. The draft was recently released for public comment.

### **Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC)**

This is a stakeholder and partners advisory group to the BLM. The BLM Rio Puerco Management Area is large with a diverse population. Coronado is within this Area and is a member of the RPMC, as well as its Planning Subcommittee, which was charged with drafting a Watershed-Based Plan (to determine best management practices to improve water quality on the Rio Puerco). The Watershed-Based Plan is required and has to be approved before the RPMC can apply for EPA 319 funds to restore the entire Rio Puerco watershed. Ms. Kennedy was responsible for formatting and editing the final draft, which was completed in April 2017 and sent to the NM Environment Department for finalization.

### **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance**

This is a group of contiguous SWCD's along the Rio Grande for the purpose of conceiving, proposing, and executing watershed restoration projects through state and federal grants.

### **NM Association of Conservation Districts**

Mr. Montgomery continued as Chairman of Region 1 during FY17. He was re-elected to a final two-year term at the annual regional meeting in June at the Valencia SWCD office. Mr. Montgomery participated in the Board's monthly phone conferences.

### **NM Coalition of Conservation Districts**

The Coalition provided Coronado with a consultant to assist the board in drafting a land use plan. This was successful and Coronado now has an excellent and comprehensive Plan.

### **Rio Grande Water Fund**

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

### **NM Watershed and Dam Owners' Association**

Coronado is a member because of its sponsorship and obligation of helping to maintain the Piedra Lisa Dam. Two Supervisors and the District Manager attended the annual conference in Albuquerque in May 2017.

### **Sandoval County**

In January 2017, Coronado submitted a letter of support for Sandoval County's proposal for funding a feasibility study for a County biomass project. The proposal was granted.

### **2017 New Mexico Legislative Session**

Mr. Montgomery and Ms. Kennedy attended many legislative committee hearings during the session. They testified against the Local Election Act (HB174) and for SB222, which would have removed financial reporting requirements by small political subdivisions. They also testified on behalf of bills supporting the NM Livestock Board's jurisdiction over free-roaming horses and

against bills and memorials attempting to transfer jurisdiction over these horses to the NM Game and Fish Department.

## **CONCLUSION**

Coronado had a busy and successful year. Outreach to the Rio Puerco Management Committee in dealing with the Rio Puerco's overwhelming watershed problems has been influential. In the future, it is hoped to tackle issues from a regeneration and resilience platform, meeting the demands of future climate challenges. Our natural resources have been sorely neglected. Coronado will help local, state, and federal agencies to better recognize them and strive to bring them into better focus among government agencies and the public.