

## Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

*New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources  
Division*

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<http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/>

### July 2017

July 1	Fiscal year begins.
July	Elected and appointed supervisors take oaths of office.
July	Reorganize district board: Elect chairman, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer
July	Report to SWCC name, address, and phone number of all board members and indicate chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer positions
July 15	Deadline for providing information to county tax assessor(s) on mill levies: -Mill levy rate resolution; -List of land owners and legal description of lands subject to mill levy.
July 15	Point system worksheet due to SWCC- Point system score sheet and supporting documentation sent via mail, e-mail, or fax to NMDA and postmark/send date is no later than 7/15. Districts which do not send documentation by 7/30 will receive a total of \$500.00 in operations funding.  <a href="http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/references-and-resources-for-swcd-supervisors-staff/">http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/references-and-resources-for-swcd-supervisors-staff/</a>
July 31	4th quarter budget report due to DFA-LGD for the past fiscal year (cc: SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist)
July 31	Final budget and budget resolution for current fiscal year due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist)
July 31	Final WQ&C grant report due to SWCC.
<b>OMA Notification Requirements</b>	
Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a place, time or location that deviates	

from the information you advertised in your open meetings act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:

**Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior**

**Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior**

**Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior**

## **1. NMCCD Annual Meeting**

The NM Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD) will hold this year's annual meeting on July 27 at the Bodega Burger restaurant in Socorro, NM. Lunch will be provided.

Each member district is invited to give a short verbal or written update of their activities over the past year; likewise for partner agencies and organizations. In addition to several agenda items pertaining to SWCD operations and roles, we have also scheduled a highly regarded guest speaker. More details will be forthcoming when the agenda is finalized.

The business meeting will conclude the day; please submit any items of business for the board's action as soon as possible. Please forward this information to board supervisors and discuss during board meetings, and respond with a number of attendees from your district, agency or organization.

## **2. NMDA to Hold Public Rule Hearings across New Mexico**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture will hold public hearings in four locations across the state to discuss the adoption and amendment of two rules.

The hearings will be held to propose the repeal and adoption of 21.15.1 NMAC – “Organic Agriculture,” and amendments to 21.34.3 NMAC “Pasteurized Milk Ordinance,” and receive public comment on each proposal.

The hearings will be as follows:

In Las Cruces at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 from 1–2 p.m., and 2:30–3:30 p.m.

In Portales at the Roosevelt County Extension Office on Thursday, July 6, 2017 from 2–3 p.m., and 3:30–4:30 p.m.

In Santa Fe at the State Capitol building in room 326, on Friday, July 7, 2017 from 8–9 a.m., and 9:30–10:30 a.m.

In Albuquerque at the Bernalillo County Extension Office, on Friday, July 7, 2017 from 1–2 p.m., and 2:30–3:30 p.m.

During the Organic Agriculture hearings, the new fee structure for the Department’s Organic Program will be proposed.

During the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance hearings amendments will be proposed. These amendments add a reference to additional documents that are used to regulate milk and milk products in New Mexico.

The Organic rule hearings will be held first at each location, with the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance rule hearings to follow.

A copy of the proposed rule is available at [www.nmda.nmsu.edu](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu), or at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture located at 3190 S. Espina, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

### **3. NMACD New Staff and Supervisor Training**

NMACD will be providing a training for new staff and supervisors on August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the USDA office in Las Cruces. The agenda is forthcoming. There is no fee to attend. If you are planning to attend and have not RSVP’d, please RSVP to [kkruthaupt@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:kkruthaupt@nmda.nmsu.edu) by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **4. CWMA Grant Opportunity**

Pre-Proposal Due Date: Wednesday, July 12 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time  
Full Proposal Due Date: Tuesday, September 19 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

The Pulling Together Initiative program is inviting applications for competitive grant funding to promote the conservation of natural habitats by preventing, managing or eradicating invasive and noxious plant species. In 2017, the program will award grants to develop or advance Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs).

Approximately \$850,000 is expected to be available for grant awards in 2017. The program is a partnership between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

For more information, please see visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/2017rfp.aspx> .

### **5. AUP Deadlines**

SWCD **Audit/AUP** contract must be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. All contracts must be completed online using the NM State Auditor's new online portal OSA-Connect. For more information about OSA-Connect call Chris Garcia at (505) 476-3814 or Frank Valdez at the same number.

Local bodies that do not qualify for the tiered system are due May 15; local bodies that qualify for the tiered system pursuant to Subsections A and B of 2.2.2.16 NMAC are due July 1.

**AUP reports** should be completed and submitted to the NM State Auditor by December 15.

## 6. Water Quality and Conservation Grant Awardees

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission), at its meeting on June 15, 2017, approved funding for the Water Quality and Conservation Grant Proposals to the following soil and water conservation districts (New Mexico Department of Agriculture will retain ten percent (10%) from each grant until the conclusion of the next legislative session in the event of any mid-year budget cuts):

Funded -	Tierra y Montes SWCD; Pecos Schools Wetland Restoration	\$21,821.07
Funded -	Chaves SWCD; Education and Control of Noxious Weeds in Chaves County	\$9,242.00
Funded -	Roosevelt SWCD; Shade Ball Water Conservation Project (any unspent funds from FY17 will be split with Claunch-Pinto and Cuba SWCDs)	\$32,394.00
Funded -	Carrizozo SWCD; Restoration of Historic Carrizozo Community Lake	\$30,000.00
Funded -	Cuba SWCD; Cuba SWCD Noxious Weed Program (any unspent funds from FY17 will be split with Claunch-Pinto and Roosevelt SWCDs)	\$5,259.00
Funded -	Claunch-Pinto SWCD; Harvesting Rain Water for Community and Resource Protection (any unspent funds From FY17 will be applied to this grant until fully funded, then split with Roosevelt and Cuba SWCDs)	\$10,993.50
Funded -	Sierra SWCD; Sierra SWCD Rolling Rivers Trailer Restoration	\$1,000.00
Funded -	Socorro SWCD; Socorro SWCD Wetland and Re-vegetation and Restoration	\$3,929.25

Funded - Carlsbad SWCD; Carlsbad SWCD Education Program \$6,000.00

**TOTAL \$120,638.82**

## **7. NMDA Acequia & Community Ditch Fund**

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture's (NMDA) Acequia & Community Ditch Fund (ACDF) distribution meeting for FY18 funds, is set for *Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol Bldg. in Room 303 from 11:00am-1:00pm.*

The amount available for distribution is \$596,637 with a max allowable per association of \$149,159.

## **8. 22nd Annual Southwestern Noxious/Invasive Weed Short Course**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southwestern Noxious/Invasive Weed Short Course will be held July 25-27, 2017. The Conference will be held at the Henderson Fine Arts Center (Rooms 9008, 9010), San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd, Farmington, NM 87402.

For more information see the agenda attached to the monthly report. You can also contact:

Dr. Larry Howery (U of A) [lhowery@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:lhowery@ag.arizona.edu) or by phone: 520-309-5412

Dr. Richard Lee (BLM) [Richard\\_Lee@blm.gov](mailto:Richard_Lee@blm.gov) or by phone: 303-236-1734

To register visit: <https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1984997&>

To view the agenda electronically visit:

<https://classic.regonline.com/custImages/290000/298183/2017SWNoxiousWeedShortCourseAgenda-DRAFT.pdf>

## **9. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual WRRI Conference**

The NM Water Resources Research Institute's conference will be about the "Hidden Realities of New Water Opportunities" and will be held from August 15-16, 2017 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM. More information and registration is available at

<https://nmwaterconference.nmwri.nmsu.edu/2017/> .

## **10. NM Drought Task Force Resources**

The New Mexico Drought Monitoring Working Group (as part of the New Mexico Drought Task Force) meets regularly to assess drought impacts and modify strategies for drought monitoring. Information that is presented during these meetings can be found here soon after the group's monthly calls (typically near the end of the month). This website is also home to several other types of drought resources that may be helpful to SWCDs.

[http://www.nmdrought.state.nm.us/df\\_workgroup.html](http://www.nmdrought.state.nm.us/df_workgroup.html)

## 11. Review of Certain National Monuments – Opportunity for Comment

According to the Federal Register, “The U.S. Department of the Interior is conducting review of certain National Monuments designated or expanded since 1996 under the Antiquities Act of 1906 in order to implement Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017.” The Executive Order “directs the Secretary to conduct a review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations...made since January 1, 1996, where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres...” Topics for consideration are whether coordination with stakeholders was adequate, if the Antiquities Act was being properly applied, and the effects of designated lands on multiple uses and economic development among many other things (please refer to the Federal Register notice for additional information). The two National Monuments that are being reviewed in New Mexico are the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Comments are due by July 10, 2017.

Federal Register Notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/11/2017-09490/review-of-certain-national-monuments-established-since-1996-notice-of-opportunity-for-public-comment>

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National

Monument: [https://www.blm.gov/nlcs\\_web/sites/nm/st/en/prog/NLCS/OMDP\\_NM.html](https://www.blm.gov/nlcs_web/sites/nm/st/en/prog/NLCS/OMDP_NM.html)

Rio Grande del Norte National

Monument: [https://www.blm.gov/nlcs\\_web/sites/nm/st/en/prog/NLCS/RGDN\\_NM.html](https://www.blm.gov/nlcs_web/sites/nm/st/en/prog/NLCS/RGDN_NM.html)

## 12. Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM

All five of the National Forests in New Mexico are in various stages of completing their Forest Plan Revisions. For updates, please visit the National Forests’ websites below for meeting times and comment opportunities.

- Cibola NF: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3\\_065627](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3_065627)
- Carson NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5443166>
- Santa Fe NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>
- Gila NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>
- Lincoln NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814307>

NMDA encourages all SWCDs to stay active in the Forest Plan Revision process for all five national forests. We also encourage SWCDs to provide information as requested to make sure that SWCD information is included in the process.