**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/*](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/)

**June 2018**

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| May 15th or July 1st (Depending on annual budget, see more information in item #2) | Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form and the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor. This applies to Tiers 3-7. |
| June | Finalize annual work plan for coming fiscal year. |
| June 1  | Budget and budget resolution for the coming fiscal year due to DFA‐LGD, (cc: SWCC and SWCC Region Commissioner). |
| June 11  | SWCC Meeting Ruidoso |
| 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 NMDA 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. |

1. **Point System Worksheets – Things to Know before Submitting**

NMDA would like to remind all SWCDs to use the new Point System Worksheet for FY17-18, which is attached. Below is a brief overview of the worksheet’s requirements:

Items 1-5 will be required to attain the base allocation awarded by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. If any one of items 1-5 is incomplete, the SWCD will not receive their base allocation of $2,500.

The following must be completed and/or submitted:

1. Open Meetings Act Resolution passed and effective 1/1/2018.
2. Quorum present at board meetings (1 point per meeting; 10 points max).
3. Point system score sheet and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than 7/15/2018.
4. All DFA quarterly reports and budgets submitted to SWCC.
5. Annual report of activities for FY17 submitted to SWCC.

For items 6-9, please do not repeat activities in the spreadsheet, as they will be only be counted once. A single activity or accomplishment will earn points in **only one** category. Except where indicated, activities must have occurred July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 to earn points.

**It is not too late to submit DFA quarterly reports and budget to the SWCC, the SWCC should have been emailed a copy of each for the FY17-18. Be sure to submit all quarterly reports and budgets before June 30th. As a reminder, if any of the items 1-5 are incomplete, which includes not submitting required documents to the SWCC, the base allocation of $2,500 will not be awarded.**

Please contact your specialist with any questions on the new Point System Worksheet.

1. **DFA Budget Requirement Update**

**DFA has been sending out the following message to many SWCDs:**

“On April 25, 2018, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that local public bodies are no longer required to report to the Budget and Finance Bureau of the Local Government Division, DFA, when budgeted revenues exclusive of capital outlay are not greater than $50,000.”

**This change is due to the following legislation:**

Senate Bill 222 changes the definition of a “Local Public Body” to exclude “…a special district with an annual revenue, exclusive of capital outlay funds, federal or private grants or capital outlay funds, federal or private grants or capital outlay funds disbursed directly by an administrating agency, of less than fifty thousand dollars ($50,000), nor county, municipal consolidated, union or rural school districts and their officers or irrigation districts organized under Sections 73-10-1 through 73-10-47 NMSA 1978.”

**The point system currently states:**

“SWCD met, at a minimum, the budget report requirements of DFA Local Government Division (6-6-3 NMSA 1978) and Tier 2 of the Audit Rule (2.2.2.17 NMAC), with copies sent to the SWCC in care of NMDA…”

**FY 19 Point System:**

The FY 19 Point System will remain the same with the following EXCEPTION to #4:

“Regardless of budget expenditures SWCD met, at a minimum, the budget report requirements of DFA Local Government Division (6-6-3 NMSA 1978) and Tier 2 of the Audit Rule (2.2.2.17 NMAC), with copies sent to the SWCC in care of NMDA….”

1. **Forest Brush Management Treatment Thinning Invitation to Bid**

State Forestry is advertising an invitation to bid (ITB) for Forest Brush Management Treatment Thinning Contractors. The deadline for responses is June 6th.

For more information and to view the ITB visit: <http://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/statepurchasing/ITBs__RFPs_and_Bid_Tabulation.aspx>

1. **Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Request for Application**

State Forestry is advertising a Request for Applications for funding to plan and implement hazardous fuels reduction projects that reduce fire threat in the Wildland Urban Interface (commonly referred to as “WUI grants”).

Applications are due by August 17, 2018 Submitted by 4:30 PM MST.

To view the full announcement visit: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html>

1. **SWCC Meeting**

The New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission has scheduled a regular meeting for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 11, 2018, at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Be sure to submit Mill Levy Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor names as soon as possible, to ensure they are included on the agenda.

The general public and interested parties are invited to attend.  If you are an individual with a disability in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the meeting, contact New Mexico Department of Agriculture at (575) 646-2642 at least one week prior to the meeting.  Public documents including agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible forms.

1. **NMACD Mid-Year Meeting**

NMACD will be holding their mid-year conference June 10th-11th, at the Ruidoso Convention Center. It will be held in conjunction with the New Mexico Cattle Grower’s annual meeting.

A lot of rooms are blocked under NMCGA, at The Lodge at Sierra Blanca. The rooms start at $109. To reserve your room call (575) 258-5500.

The agenda and registration forms are attached to the report. For more information contact Debbie Hughes at conserve@hughes.net.

1. **AUP Deadlines**

SWCD **Audit/AUP contract** must be completed by July 1st. (Unless your annual budget is $500,000 or more, then the due date is **May 15th**.) All contracts must also be completed online using the NM State Auditor’s online portal OSA-Connect. For more information about OSA-Connect call Chris Garcia at (505) 476-3814 or Frank Valdez at the same number.

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

1. **Listening Sessions with Ag Producers**

NMSU’s College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences Dean Rolando Flores and NM Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte will host a listening session July 18 in Alamogordo. Time and place have yet to be announced.

For more information, please visit: <https://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/13002/nmsu-nmda-agricultural-leaders-listening-sessions-begin-in-roswell-march-28> .

1. **NMSU Extension Hosts NM Youth Ranch Management Camp**

The 2018 New Mexico Youth Ranch Camp will be held June 10-15. This year the camp will be held at the CS Ranch near Cimarron, NM.

The camp, designed for New Mexico youth ages 15-19, is an effort to reverse the aging trend in ranching. Nationally, the average age in the ranching community continues to increase as more young people are opting to leave the ranch for careers outside of production agriculture. As a result, the fabric of rural economies, as well as ranching tradition and cultures, are in jeopardy. In a rural state like New Mexico, the situation has significant implications.

For more information or to apply visit: <http://nmyrm.nmsu.edu> . If application is accepted, there is a $300 camp fee.

1. **Dairy Producers of NM Annual Convention/Trade Show**

The Dairy Producers of New Mexico will host their Annual Convention/Trade Show and Golf Tournament in Ruidoso, June 8th-9th, 2018.

The Trade Show will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 8. The Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Golf Course.

Information/Registration forms will be sent to members in late March/early April. Non members will receive info/forms about 10 days after members. If you would like to receive info/forms, please email dpnm@juno.com or visit <http://nmdairy.org/convention.htm> .

1. **NM Cattle Grower’s Association, NM CowBelles Mid-Year Meeting**

NM Cattle Grower’s will hold their annual mid-year meeting June 10-12 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Early bird registration is $120 for the entire conference.

A lot of rooms are blocked under NMCGA, at The Lodge at Sierra Blanca. The rooms start at $109. To reserve your room call (575) 258-5500.

The conference registration form is attached. For more information email NMCGA: nmcga@nmagriculture.org.

1. **3rd Annual New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute Conference on Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds**

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will host the 3rd annual conference on Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds: Past, Present and Future. The Conference Planning Committee is eager to build on the success of the last two conferences in bringing together researchers and the general public to meet, learn from, and share the results of ongoing research associated with the August 2015 Gold King Mine spill, as well as other mine waste issues.

The conference will be held June 19th-22nd, at the San Juan College in Farmington, NM. A pre-conference filed trip will give participants a geologic tour of the Silverton area and a guided mine tour. The post-conference field trip on June 22 will include a Teach-In at the Navajo Shiprock Chapter House.

This year the scope of the conference has broadened to include all related water quality topics in the Animas and San Juan Watersheds.

The conference will be held at the San Juan College, Henderson Fine Arts Center, Farmington, NM.

For more information visit <https://animas.nmwrri.nmsu.edu/2018/>

1. **73rd Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference**

The 73rd International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference (SWCS) will be held in Albuquerque this year July 29th-August 1st. The theme of the conference is Culture, Climate, and Conservation.

This year's conference will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center, which is located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, the SWCS headquarters hotel. The SWCS has negotiated a discounted conference rate of $149 for single and double occupancy rooms. This block is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is available through July 5, 2018. Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is located at 330 Tijeras Avenue NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. To reserve your room call: (505) 842-1234.

Sponsors and exhibitors are welcome and needed for this year’s conference. If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact Jamie Nieman; corporate.info@swcs.org.

**Full Conference Registration Rates**:

 SWCS Members: $435

 Register and Join SWCS: $540

 Non-Members: $450

 Seniors (65+): $325

 Full-Time Students: $250 (includes a 12-month student membership)

**One-Day Rates**:

SWCS Members: $250/day

 Non-Members: $300

 Senior: $185

 Full-Time Students: $130 (no membership)

 Wednesday ONLY: $150

For more information visit: <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2018-annual-conference/>

1. **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 Revision. 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>

• 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.

1. **SWCD Boundary Description Project**

Thank you to all of the districts that have submitted their packet to the Secretary of State’s (SoS) office.

There are some districts with whom we’ve not heard back from that should have received their updated legal description and map. Please file the packet with the SoS’s office. Send to Christina Espinoza at christina.espinoza@state.nm.us.

If you have filed your packet with the SoS and not received a confirmation receipt, please contact Christina Espinoza via email at christina.espinoza@state.nm.us, she will be able to assist you.

*After the SoS’s office confirms receipt of the packet, please forward that email to the SWCC (**swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu* *) and your NMDA Specialist.* We will be contacting those districts we have not heard from, if we do not receive anything within the next few months.

If you have questions, have not received the packet from NMDA, or have had any trouble receiving/opening any of the attachments that were sent, please inform Katie Kruthaupt at kkruthaupt@nmda.nmsu.edu.