

MEETING MINUTES

Committee//Group: EAST TORRANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Date: July 14, 2010
Chair Present: Ryan Schwebach
Members Present /Titles **Bill Wrye** – Vice-Chair, **Jim Berlier** – Secretary / Treasurer, **Johnny Lujan** – member, **Mike Valdez** – member ,Others & Guests: **Cheri Lujan** – District Manger, **Brad Podoll** – NRCS, **Lisa Dennisson** – NMACD, **Roy Todd** – NMDA, **Tom Perkins** – State Land Office, **Rick Lopez** – Guest, **Ronnie Harral** – Guest, **Liz Lujan** – Guest

Absent:

Topic (Agenda Item) & Summary of Discussion	Follow Up Action/Discussion	Responsible Party	Status (Open/Closed)
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M	Ryan Schwebach	Standing Agenda Item
Supervisor Oath of Office	Ryan Schwebach read each newly elected board member their oath of office followed with signatures.	Ryan Schwebach	Action taken
Approval of Agenda	It was moved by Jim Berlier to accept the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Mike Valdez. Discussion followed with a request by Mr. Valdez to have the packets ready for review for the meeting week in advance. Discussion continued that legally the agenda can change 24 hours before the meeting so the packet will be available for review 24 hours before the meeting for board members to come and pick up their packets if they wish to do so. Approval of the agenda motion carried unanimously.	Ryan Schwebach	Standing Agenda Item Action taken
Approval of minutes 6/09/2010 minutes	Minutes of the regular June meeting were reviewed. After review and discussion motion made by Mike Valdez to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Motion was second by Jim Berlier, motion carried unanimously.	Ryan Schwebach	Standing Agenda Item Action taken
Treasurer's Report	Monthly Report District Manager reviewed the financial report with board members. Following review and discussion of the monthly financial report motion made by Jim Berlier and second by Mike Valdez to approve the bills submitted and paid and file financial report for audit. Motion carried unanimously. 2010-2011 Final Budget / Resolution District Manager reviewed the proposed final budget explaining the changes made since the interim budget approved. Discussion followed with line item questions regarding payroll, dues, equipment and education building expenses. Following discussion motion made by Jim Berlier to approve and submit the final budget as		Standing Agenda Item Action taken Action taken

	submitted. Motion seconded by Bill Wrye. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Ryan Schwebach-yea, Jim Berlier-yea, Johnny Lujan-yea, Bill Wrye-yea, Mike Valdez-yea.	
Correspondence	<p style="text-align: center;">Cheri Lujan</p> <p>E-mail correspondence was forward to all board members as it came in. Written correspondence to the board was reviewed: <u>Department of Finance and Administration:</u> Letter notifying the District of approval of the Interim budget submitted for 2010-2011, <u>Torrance County Farm and Livestock Bureau:</u> Letter asking for sponsorship in helping the County Farm and Livestock Bureau with the “Trooper Award” (Letter given out for review for discussion) <u>New Mexico State University Department of Ag:</u> Copies of letters sent out explaining the review on funding and that the SWCD’s will continue to be exempt from institutional overhead charges. (copies were given out for review, <u>Dan Embree:</u> letter part two: letter to follow up on the first letter in reference to prayer invocation in public meeting (copies were given out for review and discussion), <u>New Mexico Water Dialogue:</u> Newsletter, <u>HUB RC&D:</u> Copy of agenda and directions were given out for HUB RC&D meeting scheduled for July 15, 2010 Following review of the correspondence discussion followed with sponsorship for the Trooper Award. Supervisors noted that the program is a great program but due to interruption of the law with the anti donation clause the board encouraged individuals to donate rather than the board. Discussion followed from with the letter sent by Mr. Embree. Following discussion the board will not respond to the letter. A volunteer has offered to pray at the next annual meeting as a cooperater rather than having a board member do so.</p>	Standing Agenda Item No Action taken
Guests	<p style="text-align: center;">Ryan Schwebach</p> <p>Ryan Schwebach recognized all guests in attendance.</p>	
09-10 Work Plan	<p style="text-align: center;">Cheri Lujan</p> <p>2010-2011 annual work plan was submitted for review and approval for the FY. Following review newly elected supervisors wished to have more time to review and look at the long range plan. Motion made by Bill Wrye and seconded by Johnny Lujan to table action item till August meeting. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	Standing Agenda Item No Action Taken
Reports of Standing Committees	<p style="text-align: center;">Watershed Health Restoration & Monitoring Steering Committee Cheri Lujan</p> <p>Cheri Lujan updated the board on the last Watershed Health Restoration Steering Committee held on June 21, 2010 held at the USDA conference room. All existing contracts were granted an extension till July 15, 2010 with a case by case basis on future extensions till the next full committee meeting. Project updates were given along with a spreadsheet showing funding in each grant pool. Update was given on contractor training, signing of contracts and 2010 funding. Next</p>	Standing Agenda Item No Action taken

	<p>meeting is set for July 26, 2010 in Mountainair. District Manager encouraged the board to start thinking about filling the vacant position left on the committee by Fronia Jaramillo.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CNMCWMA Cheri Lujan</p> <p>Draft minutes of the June 10, 2010 were given out for review. Copies of the updated by-laws and agenda for the July 20, 2010 workshop were given out for review. Next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2010. Discussion followed with noxious weeds within the area and the importance of the committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Water Planning Committee Ryan Schwebach</p> <p>Ryan Schwebach updated the board of cancelled meetings due to being able to get a quorum during the summer months. Up-coming workshop with the State Engineer was discussed with topics to be presented for August 18, 2010.</p>	<p>Standing Agenda Item No Action taken</p> <p>Standing Agenda Item No Action taken</p>
District Manger Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Cheri Lujan</p> <p>Cheri Lujan reviewed written report with the board. District Manger updated the board on TSP funding which was discussed at the commission meeting and was notified that the TSP funds are still in place and that NRCS will be hiring some more TSP's on a trial basis with some Districts paying part of their salaries. TSP's now will also be able to work for the District 10 to 20% of the time for current TSP's. Region II meeting in Ruidoso was discussed and why East Torrance sustained for voting on the resolutions presented. District Newsletter for July has not been submitted to the printer yet pending press release on the workshop for August, District officer election, and dates for the Family Fun Kids Days for the County Fair. Target date is to get it out the 1st week of August. District printer went out in June. District was granted permission to use the FSA printer till a new machine could be purchased. New printer was granted to the District under the Xerox free printer program and was up and running as of July 13, 2010. District Manager updated the board of use by the County for spraying weeds with one of the 4-wheelers. Meetings attended and workshops were given out on report along with Educational Complex Usage dates for review and open for questions. Deadlines, Meetings, training, and draft planned meetings, trainings, and time off were submitted on written report for review. District Manager also reported on future projects for workshops in partnership with FSA under their educational program funding for the fall and spring for women in Ag day and small producer workshop. More information to come in future months. See attached report for more detailed information on district manager's monthly report.</p>	<p>Standing Agenda Item No Action taken</p>
NRCS Field Office Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Brad Podoll</p> <p>Brad Podoll updated the board on the field office report. NRCS went through a civil rights review with interviews given by Edgewood SWCD staff, Bill King</p>	<p>Standing Agenda Item</p>

from Edgewood SWCD for a board member, and Johnny Lujan representing a landowner. Received word back that the review went well as expected. Discussion followed with questions that arose in the last couple of months on funding and the ranking. Mr. Podoll explained the underserved pool and how the National, State, and Local issues along with South area needs are addressed and included in the ranking. Mr. Podoll also updated the board that the office is low on technical assistance right now due to behind the scenes politics to get Kenneth Lujan out of the office and Lisa Dennison's job in which Troy Hood had to meet with her on, that he would not be able to assist in planning of the cost share application placed on his desk by the District Manager and that he felt the District should use the contract labor to do the planning of the project. Ryan Schwebach expressed his concerns that he did not know of her job being in jeopardy but to please let him know of the concerns. Mr. Podoll explained that he tried in the past to bring concerns to board members in the past and now the FSA is harassing them. Discussion followed that Hollis Fuchs said if the office gets the program going we could get a tech, but because of political pressure that they are losing employees now. Discussion followed and questions to Lisa Dennison with her noting her conversation with Troy Hood that he came to give her a heads up that NMACD was not happy. She continued that she did not know how they could do that. District Manager spoke that she felt it could be due to a Hatch Act investigation that was going on because she was called on a complaint as a witness for testimony and that NMACD may have been and should have been informed in reference to the campaign sign in the building. Brad Podoll continued that now OIG complaint has been made and FSA was involved. Mr. Podoll explained how he was called about a complaint in him asking about our timeline at a meeting on it being interfering in an election but how is it ok for John Perea to ask if it's a conflict of interest for Mr. Valdez to run for the board. Ryan Schwebach expressed that he felt that the question asked by Mr. Perea was a fair question and since he too was a landowner he had every right to ask the question. Mike Valdez discussed what can the board do and fix these issues. He would like to address a list of things he had brought to be addressed for instance the District Managers wages due to a spreadsheet he obtained of a NMACD survey done on Districts Managers are making across the state with only a few responding to the survey, how some of the NRCS staff felt intimidated by Mr. Berlier for instance Wayne Sleep, Kenneth Lujan and Brad Podoll. Ryan Schwebach apologized for letting the conversation get out of hand and off of the agenda and stated that at the end of the meeting Mr. Valdez could speak on his issues. Mr. Roy Todd noted that in his opinion that if any accusations are being made it needs to be made and brought forward by the person who is presenting the accusations. For instance in the case of Lisa Dennison it was stated that Troy Hood told her, her job is in jeopardy, and if the board so wished to the board could contact him and have him come and

	<p>discuss the accusation. Mr. Berlier noted to Ms. Dennssion in all of the conversations as a board with NMACD not one word has been mentioned of her job being in jeopardy. Ryan Schwebach asked Ms. Dennssion if she would she would like the board too. Ms. Dennisson stated she was confused that Troy Hood told her that he would be getting back to her but that “NMACD want you gone, Debbie wanted you gone because you don’t get along with Cheri”. Ms. Dennssion continued that Troy said that there are other positions that they could transfer her too. Ms. Dennssion noted that the Edgewood SWCD has been educated on the situation. Mr. Berlier said Debbie Hughes probably did ask Troy to come talk with Ms. Dennssion but he was sure she was following up on complaints she may have gotten. Brad Podoll noted that was the end of the NRCS report.</p>	
State Land Office Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Tom Perkins</p> <p>Mr. Perkins updated the board that around September 1st, 2010 wood permits should be available.</p>	Standing Agenda Item
Soil & Water Specialist Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Roy Todd</p> <p>Roy Todd NMDA specialist reviewed written report. Mr. Todd noted that he does have the District’s Point system and has scanned over it and was sure the District would receive the 100 points needed. Also comments are being accepted on updated the point system spreadsheet in adding more items to make it easier for District to obtain points needed. Discussed new supervisor training in which was given with the boards new members were in attendance. Mr. Todd also reminded the District to make sure a new Vendor sheet has been filled out in order to receive funds from the University.</p>	Standing Agenda Item
Unfinished Business	<p>County Fair</p> <p>District Manager reported that a schedule for the county fair still has not been received but if the board wished to continue with Family Fun Kids Days she would like to see some sort of a commitment in helping with the events. Following discussion Mr. Bill Wrye and Jim Belier will work with the District Manager in securing volunteering in helping with the events. Cheri Lujan will see what days and times events can take place. Discussion followed with advertisement for the Fair through the Fair Board. Motion by Mike Valdez and seconded by Jim Berlier to purchase the \$160.00 banner ad. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	Action taken
New Business	<p>Acknowledgment of Agreement 1619</p> <p>District Manager explained that part of the agreement was to notify any new staff or supervisors of the agreement. Therefore a copy of the agreement was given out for review for the newly elected supervisors.</p> <p>Cost Share Application</p> <p>District Manager asked for approval in moving forward in approving the cost share thinning contract submitted in the area of HWY 55 and 337. Discussion</p>	No Action taken

	<p>speech. He also would like to find out why Mr. Berlier is banned from the Edgewood SWCD building.</p> <p>Discussion followed with what was the pleasure of the board. Discussion followed with holding a special board meeting to address Mr. Valdez concerns. Board members are to take a couple of days and check their calendars on a possible date with a possibility of August 4, 2010.</p> <p>Johnny Lujan thanked NRCS staff for all of their assistance every time he has come into the office and thinks that the board, staff and neighboring districts need to work together.</p> <p>Rick Lopez commented on how this board has run smoothly within the last 12 months and was proud of the accomplishments made and the District has a good manager.</p> <p>Roy Todd emphasized again that to be careful going down a road that you don't want to go down unless you have factual information and not second hand information and a person to back up the complaint made.</p>	
<p>Next Board Meeting/ Adjournment</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ryan Schwebach</p> <p>With no further business to discuss chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM. Next regular board meeting will be August 11, 2010 at 6:00 pm. Special Board meeting will be announced.</p>	

Respectfully submitted,
Cheri Lujan, District Manager

Reviewed and approved by: _____