

**TAOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)
FEBRUARY 22, 2023 ~ 9:00 A.M.**

The meeting was available online at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85163370943?pwd=ak9VUC9kYXZiQVVhNkNaR3U2dkFSUT09>
Meeting ID: 851 6337 0943 - Passcode: soil
Telephone participants could join by dialing: 1 (346) 248-7799 and entering the meeting ID and passcode (821515)

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Maureen Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Attendance:

Maureen Johnson (Chairman)	Present
Stephen Trujillo (Vice-Chairman)	Present
Dennis Cruz (Secretary/Treasurer)	Present
Andy Martinez (Member)	Present
Mary Lane Leslie (Member)	Present – <i>arrived at 9:26 a.m.</i>
George Long (Member)	Present
Lloyd Archuleta (Member)	Present

Other Attendance:

Peter Vigil (TSWCD District Manager)
Charlotte Martinez (TSWCD Administrative Assistant)
Tanya Duncan (TSWCD Managerial Assistant)
David Griego (NRCS District Conservationist)
Corilia Ortega (Town of Taos Council Woman)
Fritz Hahn (Former Town of Taos Councilor)
Jacob Pacheco (Acequia de Las Trampas)

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. February 22, 2023 – Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve the February 22, 2023 Agenda with one adjustment: move item VII. A. 1. to immediately following item II. A. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	absent
George Long	yea

III. GUEST

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting – After review, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the January 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Mary Lane Leslie seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. January 2023 Financial Report – Tanya Duncan reviewed the January 2023 financial reports and Maureen Johnson reviewed the Chair Financial Transactions Report. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to file the January 2023 Treasurer’s Report for audit with best information provided. Dennis Cruz seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – David Griego provided written and verbal NRCS Reports to the board. After discussion, Dennis Cruz made a motion to accept the written and verbal NRCS Reports and include them as part of the minutes. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

- B. Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report – The board reviewed the written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report. There was a question about required timing for board reorganization. Additionally, Peter Vigil reported that staff attended Soil & Water Conservation District Day at the NM Legislature and gave updates on a few bills that may affect Districts. Mary Lane Leslie asked if anyone has been tracking SB1 which would create regional water districts. Mr. Vigil responded that he will look into it before the next board meeting. After review and discussion, Mary Lane Leslie made a motion to accept the written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report and include it as part of the minutes. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea

Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

VII. TAOS SWCD REPORTS

A. District Manager’s Report – Peter Vigil provided a verbal District Manager’s Report for review. Peter Vigil reported that he is considering restructuring the staff and working on ways to be more competitive as an employer. Mr. Vigil also reported that he will be looking for a clear path forward for our regular Cost Share Programs and he informed the board about potential national legislation that would pave a way for ranchers to permanently retire grazing permits. After review and discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the verbal District Manager’s Report and include it as part of the minutes. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

1. WCS 04-18-19 Acequia de Las Trampas – Peter Vigil reported that due to delays at the Interstate Stream Commission, the cost estimate has increased but the ISC funding remains capped. Jacob Pacheco (representing Acequia de Las Trampas) requested consideration of increased funding to help cover the gap. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to assign Special Project Status and to increase the total project budget to \$20,000. Lloyd Archuleta seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	absent
George Long	yea

2. Water Quality Update Report – Peter Vigil reported that a budget has been created and submitted to NMSU (water quality testing partner). He added that we are working with the group to complete this project – No action was taken.

3. NACD National Conference Report – Peter Vigil reported that he recently attended the National Association of Conservation District’s annual conference in New Orleans, LA. His focus at this meeting was staffing (motivation and retention). He added that one of the District’s field technicians recently resigned. No action was taken.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Conservation Plan Reviews – Tanya Duncan reported that she is continuing to work with District contractors to review the three Latir/El Rito conservation plans. No action was taken.

*** The board took a break at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 11:04 a.m. ***

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund – River Stewardship Program – Peter Vigil reported that Taos SWCD’s application for funding for river restoration work along the Rio Pueblo in Vadito was approved and that an agreement must be signed. After discussion, Dennis Cruz made a motion to authorize Chair Johnson to sign the Agreement on the District’s behalf. After further discussion about the availability of grant funds but lack of staffing resources, George Long seconded and the motion carried with roll-call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	yea
Stephen Trujillo	yea
Dennis Cruz	yea
Andy Martinez	yea
Lloyd Archuleta	yea
Mary Lane Leslie	yea
George Long	yea

*** The board took a break at 11:43 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m. ***

- B. Forestry Contractor List Requirements – Tanya Duncan reported that the District is hosting a training session for contractors who perform thinning work in Taos County. The training session will focus on safety, burn pile precautions, and administrative/insurance logistics to help them obtain insurance and manage small thinning businesses. She explained that there is a lot of funding out there for thinning projects but we’re not sure that we have enough contractors. No action was taken.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XI. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Tanya Duncan provided an update for the SWCC Noxious Weed Grant partnership with Taos SWCD, East Rio Arriba SWCD, Santa Fe/Pojoaque SWCD and Upper Chama SWCD.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Regular Board Meeting: March 15, 2023

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION DISCUSSION (EXECUTIVE AND PUBLIC SESSION)

This matter may be discussed in closed session under the Open Meetings Act exemption 10-15-1-(H) (2) which allows for discussion of limited personnel matters.

A. Personnel Matters

1. AutoCAD Design Technician Performance Review – The employee’s annual performance review will be completed by the District Manager and will be reviewed with the employee. The Chairman noted that the District Manager has reported that there weren’t any issues that warranted entering into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 a.m..

Chairman _____Maureen Johnson

Finance Manager _____Tanya Duncan

Prepared: 2/22/2023

Approved ____/____/2023

- As Presented
- With Corrections