

**TAOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR ONLINE AND IN-PERSON BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2024, 9:00 AM**

The meeting was available at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85163370943?pwd=ak9VUC9kYXZiQVVhNkNaR3U2dkFSUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 6337 0943 - Passcode: soil

Telephone participants were able to join by dialing: 1 (346) 248-7799 and entering the meeting ID and passcode (821515)

(Meeting Agenda posted on the TSWCD website (www.tswcd.org) on 3/15/2024)

DRAFT MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Board of Supervisors Attendance:

Maureen Johnson (Chairman)	Present
Stephen Trujillo (Vice-Chairman)	Present – left at 11:47 a.m.
George Long (Secretary/Treasurer)	Present
Andy Martinez (Member)	Present
Lloyd Archuleta (Member)	Present
Mary Lane Leslie (Member)	Present – left at 12:10 p.m.

Other Attendance:

Peter Vigil (TSWCD District Manager)
Tanya Duncan (TSWCD Asst. District Manager)
Charlotte Martinez (TSWCD Administrative Services Manager)
David Griego (NRCS District Conservationist)
Will Jaremko-Wright (Taos County Extension Agent)
Kyle Sahd (BLM Wildland Fire Management Specialist)
Jaz Ammon (NRCS Water Supply Specialist)
Fritz Hahn – (Former Town Councilman)

II. READING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. March 20, 2024 – Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024 Agenda as presented. Lloyd Archuleta seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

III. GUEST

- A. Kyle Sahd – BLM – Mr. Sahd presented a collaboration request regarding the treatment of cheatgrass (downy brome). After discussion, the board asked Peter Vigil and Tanya Duncan to review the grant requirements and make a recommendation at the April 2024 regular board meeting.
- B. Jaz Ammon (NRCS Snowtel Outlook Report) – Mr. Ammon presented the NRCS Snowtel report for March 2024.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting – After review, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. George Long seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. February 2024 Financial Report – Tanya Duncan reviewed the written February 2024 Financial Report and Chairman Johnson reviewed the Chairman Johnson Transaction Report. After discussion, Mary Lane Leslie made a motion to file the February 2024 Treasurer’s Report for audit with best information provided. Lloyd Archuleta seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – David Griego reviewed the written NRCS Report for March 2024. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the written and verbal NRCS Reports for March 2024 and include them as part of the minutes. Stephen Trujillo seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

- B. Taos County Extension Report – Will Jeremko-Wright reported on the success of his Perennial Pasture Workshop the previous evening. He also noted that he is implementing fruit tree projects, potential volunteer projects, his upcoming AgriVenture Symposium workshop (April 10, 2024), Auntie Nannie’s Seed Exchange (March 23, 2024), Bull Testing (April 4-6, 2024) and the Taos Sheep Health & Shearing Event (April 13, 2024). After discussion, Lloyd Archuleta made a motion to accept the verbal Taos County Extension Report for March 2024 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
George Long	yea
Andy Martinez	yea

Lloyd Archuleta yea
Mary Lane Leslie yea

- C. Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report – Michael Purdy provided a written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for March 2024 and Peter Vigil noted that staff will need to begin next fiscal year’s budget. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for March 2024 and include it as part of the minutes. George Long seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

VII. TAOS SWCD REPORTS

- A. District Manager’s Report – Mr. Vigil reported that George Long has reviewed and submitted comments on BLM’s Rio Grande National Monument Plan on behalf of the District. Mr. Long then presented an overview of his comments/suggested additions/adjustments to the Plan. Mr. Vigil thanked Mr. Long for the time and effort that went into his comments and suggested that the recommendation to prioritize land swaps over acquisitions might be submitted to the District’s lobbying entity as an official position. Mr. Vigil and Mr. Long then discussed the upcoming Legacy Fund grants that are available through NMDA (required 1:1 match – deadline May 3, 2024). Mr. Vigil explained that the Legacy Fund grants could help fund Taos SWCD’s existing programs. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the verbal District Manager’s Report and to include it as part of the minutes. Lloyd Archuleta seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NM Envirothon Educational Outreach – After discussion, George Long made a motion to approve an allocation of \$1,000 for Taos SWCDs 2024 NM Envirothon educational outreach. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson yea
Stephen Trujillo absent
George Long yea
Andy Martinez yea
Lloyd Archuleta yea
Mary Lane Leslie yea (via proxy – Lloyd Archuleta)

- B. 2022-23 Audit Closing – Maureen Johnson reported that the NM Office of the State Auditor has issued their Taos SWCD Audit Report “OK to Print” Authorization. After discussion, Andy Martinez

made a motion to acknowledge the Authorization from OSA. George Long seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

- C. Cover Cropping Program Additional Expenses – Peter Vigil reported that the \$80K grant via NMDA has been completed but there are additional landowners who have requested assistance that, if approved, would need to be paid directly by Taos SWCD. After discussion, George Long made a motion to offer a 50/50 one-time cost-share to the applicants who missed the deadline with a maximum Taos SWCD budget expenditure of \$4,500. Lloyd Archuleta seconded, and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

- D. Forest Health Program Determinations 2023-24 BP 1 – Grace Powell presented a written summary of the Forest Health Committee’s 2023-24 Batch 1 Determination Recommendations. After discussion, George Long made a motion to approve the recommended 2023-24 Batch 1 Determinations as presented with included specific funding and Special Project Designations. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

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

- E. 2023 Student Forest Monitoring Program Recap – Grace Powell presented an overview of the 2023 Forest Monitoring Program. No action was taken.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XI. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Fritz Hahn reported on Taos County CWMA activities and the Town of Taos’ ongoing efforts to restore the Cornelio Basin property.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Regular Board Meeting, April 17, 2024

XIII. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Chairman _____Maureen Johnson

Assistant District Manager _____Tanya Duncan

Prepared: 3/20/2024

Approved ____/____/2024

- As Presented
- With Corrections