Taos Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Online and In-Person Board Meeting

**December 18, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

To join Zoom Meeting, follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83894896158?pwd=wzoePlAVUroZsZCObS5Dnlb5qHzpbM.1>

Meeting ID: 838 9489 6158 - Passcode: 1941

*Telephone participants can join by dialing: 1 (669) 444-9171 and entering the meeting ID and passcode*

*(Meeting Agenda posted on* [*www.tswcd.org*](http://www.tswcd.org) *website at approx. 9:26 am on 12/14/2024)*

**Draft Minutes**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Attendance:

Maureen Johnson (Chairman) Present

Stephen Trujillo (Vice-Chairman) Present

George Long (Secretary/Treasurer) Absent

Andy Martinez (Member) Present

Mary Lane Leslie (Member) Absent

Other Attendance:

Tanya Duncan (TSWCD Assistant District Manager)

Veronice Quintana (TSWCD Administrative Assistant)

Angeles Ribeiro (TSWCD Intern)

Vernon Mirabal (NRCS District Conservationist)

Greg Miller (Landowner)

Fritz Hahn (Former Town Councilman) – joined via Zoom

Sam DesGeorges (Retired BLM Field Manager)

Will Jaremko (TCAA) – joined via Zoom

Michael Purdy (NMDA Soil & Water Conservation Specialist) – joined via Zoom

JR Logan (Taos SWCD Contracting Watershed Coordinator)

Toby Martinez (Taos SWCD Cooperator)

Emilio Martinez (Taos SWCD Cooperator)

1. **Reading and Approval of Agenda**
2. December 18, 2024 – Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve the December 18, 2024 Agenda with two adjustments: move Item IX. E. “Funding Opportunities” to Item III. A. and move Item IX. F. “WCS 02-23-24 Request for Additional Willow Removal Funding” to Item III. B. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Guest**
2. Funding Opportunities – J.R. Logan presented the board with five funding opportunities to help Taos SWCD’s watershed related programs. After his presentation, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve moving forward with the five opportunities presented. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. WCS 02-23-24 Request for Additional Willow Removal Funding – Mr. Toby Martinez and Mr. Emilio Martinez gave context to their request for additional funding. After discussion and based on District Manager Vigil’s recommendation, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve an additional $5,000 for WCS 02-23-24. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Approval of Minutes**
2. October 18, 2024 Annual Meeting- The Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed by the board. Final approval will be considered at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
3. November 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting – After review, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Financial Report**
2. November 2024 Financial Report – Tanya Duncan reviewed the written November 2024 Financial Report and Maureen Johnson reviewed the Chairman Johnson Transaction Report. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to file the November 2024 Treasurer’s Report for audit with best information provided. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Special Reports**
2. NRCS Report – Vernon Mirabal reviewed his written NRCS Report for December 2024. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the written and verbal NRCS Reports for December 2024 and include them as part of the minutes. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. Taos County Extension Report – Will Jeremko-Wright verbally reviewed his written report and handouts. After review and discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to accept the verbal and written reports for December 2024 and include them as part of the minutes. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. USDA-APHIS Animal Damage Report – Jacob Beechler did not provide a report.
2. Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report – Michael Purdy reviewed his written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for December 2024. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the verbal and written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Reports for December 2024 and include them as part of the minutes. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Taos SWCD Reports**
2. District Manager’s Report – Mr. Vigil was not in attendance to provide a report as he was presenting at the NM Water Policy Summit in Santa Fe. In his absence, Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan, reported on District activities. Ms. Duncan informed the board that the Healthy Soils Program is wrapping up, the website is making great progress and the 2023-24 Audit has been completed and submitted for approval. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the Assistant District Manager’s verbal report and include it as part of the minutes. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Unfinished Business- no unfinished business**
2. **New Business**
3. Taos SWCD Rezoning – After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to direct staff to redraw the District’s zone boundaries in order to meet required population thresholds and to submit those requested revisions to the NM SWCC as soon as possible. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. Letter of Interest, Sam DesGeorges – Mr. DesGeorges provided a written letter of interest indicating his hope to serve on the Taos SWCD board of supervisors. Mr. DesGeorges was informed that until after the rezoning takes place, this topic will be postponed. No action was taken.
2. Amendment of NOV24 Position 6 Appointment – Stephen Trujillo made a motion to amend the previous appointment of Greg Miller to the board and instead recommend to SWCC that Mr. Miller be appointed to position 6. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. FH Determinations 2024-25, Batch I – Forest Health Specialist, Grace Powell, presented the Taos Forest Health Committee’s funding recommendations to the board. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve, deny, postpone and/or apply Special Project designations as follows:

Application: Action: Funding: Location: Acres/ Notes:

FH 18-24-25 Approve $ 3,345.55 Valdez 1.0

FH 07-24-25 Approve $ 7,527.48 Deer Mesa 3.0 (SPECIAL PROJECT)

FH 10-24-25 Approve $ 6,691.10 Turley Mill 2.0 (SPECIAL PROJECT)

FH 03-24-25 Approve $ 6,691.10 Turley Mill 2.0 (SPECIAL PROJECT)

FH 14-24-25 Approve $ 5,018.32 Latir (El Rito) 2.0 (SPECIAL PROJECT)

FH 17-24-25 Deny $ 0.00 Chamisal Unable to contact landowner

FH 16-24-25 Postpone

FH 15-24-25 Postpone

FH 19-24-25 Postpone

FH 11-24-25 Postpone

FH 04-24-25 Postpone

FH 08-24-25 Postpone

FH 09-24-25 Postpone

FH 02-24-25 Postpone

FH 05-24-25 Postpone

FH 06-24-25 Postpone

FH 13-24-25 Postpone

FH 20-24-25 Postpone

FH 22-24-25 Postpone

FH 21-24-25 Postpone

FH 01-24-25 Postpone

Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Absent

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

1. **Committee Reports- no committee reports.**
2. **Correspondence and Informational Items**

A. Stephen Trujillo reported that he attended the 25th Annual Congreso de las Acequias and that it was successful and informative.

1. **Announcements**
   1. Taos SWCD Office will be closed December 25th, 2024 in observance of the Christmas Holiday
   2. Taos SWCD Office will be closed January 1, 2025 in observance of the New Year’s Day
   3. Next Regular Board Meeting, January 15, 2025
   4. Taos SWCD Office will be closed January 20th, 2025 in observance of MLK Day
   5. NACD Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA – February 8-13, 2025
2. **Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Chairman Maureen Johnson

Administrative Assistant Veronice Quintana

Prepared: 12/18/2024

Approved \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/2024 □ As Presented

## □ With Corrections