**Taos Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Regular Online/Virtual Board Meeting**

**August 20, 2025**

**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*

**Draft Minutes**

**These are not the official minutes and are subject to approval by the public body.**

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

Chairman Maureen Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Attendance:

Maureen Johnson (Chairman) Present

Stephen Trujillo (Vice-Chairman) Present (left at 12:41 p.m.)

George Long (Secretary/Treasurer) Absent (joined at 9:08 a.m.)

Andy Martinez (Member) Present

Mary Lane Leslie (Member) Absent (joined at 11:48 a.m.)

Greg Miller (Member) Present

Sam DesGeorges (Member) Present

Other Attendance:

Peter Vigil (TSWCD District Manager)

Tanya Duncan (TSWCD Assistant District Manager)

Veronice Cortez (TSWCD Administrative Assistant)

Vernon Mirabal (NRCS District Conservationist)

Michael Purdy (NMDA)- joined via Zoom

Jacob Beechler (USDA Wildlife Services)

Grace Powell (TSWCD Forest Health Specialist)- joined at 10:40 a.m.

Robert Pokorney (Chairman of Taos CWMA)

**II. Reading and Approval of Agenda**

A. August 20, 2025- Sam Des Georges made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025 Agenda as presented. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

1. **Guests**

A. Robert Porkorney, chairman of the Taos CWMA, gave a verbal update on Native Plant Society activities and the acquisition of a significant grant for the restoration of the Cornelio Basin.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. July 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting- After review, Sam DesGeorges made a motion to

approve the July 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

**V. Financial Report**

1. July 2025 Financial Report – Tanya Duncan reviewed the written July 2025 Financial Report and the Chairman Johnson Transaction Report. Ms. Duncan noted the general journal entries that were made. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to file the July 2025 Treasurer’s Report for audit with best information provided. Greg Miller seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

**VI. Special Reports**

1. NRCS Report – Vernon Mirabal reviewed his written NRCS Report for August 2025. After discussion, George Long made a motion to accept the written and verbal NRCS Reports for August 2025 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 Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

B. Taos County Extension Report – Will Jeremko-Wright did not provide a report. No action was taken.

C. USDA-APHIS Animal Damage Report – Jacob Beechler provided a verbal report. Mr. Beechler discussed the increase in sales this season and further discussed best management practices. Stephen Trujillo made a motion to accept the verbal USDA- APHIS Animal Damage Report and include it as part of the minutes. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

D. NMDA Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report – Michael Purdy reviewed his written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for August 2025. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to accept the verbal and written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Reports for August 2025 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 Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

E. Taos County CWMA Report- Robert Pokorney provided a verbal report of CWMA activities for August 2025. See info under GUESTS above. Greg Miller made a motion to accept the verbal Taos CWMA report and include it as part of the minutes. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Absent

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

**VII. Taos SWCD Reports**

1. District Manager’s Report – Mr. Vigil provided a verbal report on district activities. He presented a draft copy of the Annual Conservation Plan and provided an overview. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the District Manager’s verbal report and include it as part of the minutes as well as the Rio Hondo Water Quality funding request. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Abstained

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**IX. New Business**

A. FYE25 Annual Report- After discussion, Mary Lane Leslie made a motion to approve the Annual Draft Report with the additions mentioned. Greg Miller seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Yes

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

B. FYE26 Annual Plan- District Manager, Peter Vigil presented a draft copy of the Conservation Plan. The board decided on ranking the resource priorities in the following order: 1) Forest Health, 2) Acequia Conservation, 3) Soil Health, 4) Watershed, 5) Vegetative Management and Invasive Species, 6) Urban Development and Land Use Planning, 7) Rangeland Conservation, 8) Conservation Education, 9) Organizational Development. After discussion, George Long made a motion to approve the Annual Draft Plan with the changes noted. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Yes

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

C. FH 11-24-25 Ownership/ Project Transfer- Postponed.

D. Draft EMNRD Letter RE Funding- Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan presented the draft EMNRD Letter for review. After discussion, Sam DesGeorges made a motion approve the draft letter to be submitted after Mary Lane Leslie’s language adjustments were added. Stephen Trujillo seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson Yes

Stephen Trujillo Yes

George Long Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Yes

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

E. Animal Damage Cost- Share Program Updates- Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan provided an update on the price of the Animal Damage Cost- Share Program. After discussion, staff received clarification on Taos SWCD’s guidelines for the program indicating that landowners are eligible for 85% cost- share assistance at a rate of eight flasks per calendar year, per landowner. A proposition of hosting a mandatory educational class on Weevil-Cide was discussed and will be postponed until a further date. A draft resolution to NMACD requesting NMDA provide in person training for applicants in the use of Weevil-Cide will be presented at the next Board meeting. After discussion, George Long made a motion to approve Animal Damage Cost-Share Updates 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 Yes

Andy Martinez Yes

Mary Lane Leslie Yes

Sam DesGeorges Yes

Greg Miller Yes

**X. Committee Reports**

**XI. Correspondence and Informational Items**

* TVAA Report- Judy Torres provided a written report for July of 2025. No action was taken.
* Tanya Duncan gave an update on the new TSWCD.org website and NMweeds.org website.

**XII. Announcements**

A. Taos County Fair, August 22-24, 2025 at Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center

 B. Elections: Declaration of Candidacy must be filed on August 26, 2025

 C. NACD Southwest Pacific Meeting, September 7-10, 2025 in Golden, CO

 D. Next Regular Board Meeting, September 17, 2025

 E. NMACD Annual Meeting, October 19-22, 2025 at Uptown Sheraton, Albuquerque, NM

 F. Society of American Foresters, October 22-25, 2025 in Harford, CT

 G. NACD Annual Meeting, February 14-18, 2026 in San Antonio, TX

**XIII. Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Chairman Maureen Johnson

Administrative Assistant Veronice Cortez

Prepared: 08/20/2025

Approved \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/2025 □ As Presented

##  □ With Corrections