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Bob Nichols, Chairman Eddie Vigil, Member

Rick Baish, Vice Chairman James Evrage, Member

Jeff Rabon, Secretary/Treasurer Colt Howland, Member

Clifton Varbel, Member

**OTERO SWCD MINUTES**

# MAY 1, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT MEMBERS ABSENT GUESTS**

Bob Nichols Jeff Rabon Katie Kruthaupt, NMDA

Rick Baish Sid Gordon, OCCEA

Eddie Vigil **STAFF** Trystan Harpold, NMSF James Evrage Vicky Milne Greg Mendez, MAT

Colt Howland Koren Neuforf

Clifton Varbel **NRCS STAFF**

Kristi Wright

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed. James Evrage motioned to approve the agenda, Rick Baish seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed, James Evrage motioned to approve the minutes, Colt Howland seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was reviewed, James Evrage motioned to approve the monthly report as presented, and pay the bills listed, Rick Baish seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**CORRESPONDEN****CE**

NM Department of Finance and Administration approved the quarterly report.

NMACD will be hosting region meetings in June. Regions 3 & 6 will meet on June 6th in Las Cruces at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum.

Otero County Fair Association has increased the fair booth fee to $125. James Evrage motioned to pay the booth rental fee, Colt Howland seconded, motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

NM Department of Agriculture – The NMDA report provided information on upcoming deadlines, meetings, and grant opportunities. The Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund applications are due by noon on Friday May 3rd.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Kristie provided a report. Team 9 has 67 active applications for Classic EQIP & Classic CSP. Ranking was due March 1st, and 80% obligation of funds is May 31st. EQIP Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) & CSP IRA application deadline was April 26th and obligation of funds is May 31st. CSP Renewals 2025 application deadline is May 3rd. The lead planner position is Alamogordo has been filled. Christian Hopkins will be here July 1st from NRCS Texas. The latest USDA budget has cut the appropriation for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. The three applications for the Otero SWCD watershed dams appear to have been in the process long enough that they are safe. Rick Baish asked if there was anything we could do to help. Congressman Gabe Vasquez has offered his assistance to make sure the watershed dams in New Mexico get the funding they need.

Otero County Cooperative Extension Service – Sid provided a report. NM Youth Ranch Management Camp has two applicants from Otero County. Otero County Cattleman’s Association and the South Central Mountain RC&D have agreed to sponsor them. Sid will be attending Livestock Days in Albuquerque.

NM State Forestry – Trystan Harpold just started as the new project forester in Capitan.

SWCD – The contractor has completed the African Rue treatment. The April invoice was submitted to Otero County. Applications have been sent to all of the Sacramento Mountain Invasive Weed participants. The rolling river trailer has been painted. The spring newsletter needs articles.

Mescalero Apache Tribe – Greg Mendez spoke about their continued work on the Siberian Elms and the need to clean up the burn piles. They have seen some headcuts starting and want to address those and the erosion impacting Nogal Canyon.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The dam rehabilitation program applications are going through the application process.

The contractor has finished work on Bear Creek Dam and Curtis Canyon Dam. They will start Graveyard Canyon Dam next week. Photos were printed and circulated during the meeting. Once they have completed work the information will be posted on the website.

The funding application was submitted to Otero County. We gave our presentation on April 18th.

NM Chief Procurement Officer recertification was completed on April 23rd.

FY25 Water Quality and Conservation application was submitted.

Appointed supervisor applications were submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

## NEW BUSINESS

Land of Enchantment Legacy Funds have several categories. Vicky has drafted two applications. The capacity building project for the Lower Pecos Watershed and Tularosa Watersheds to prepare a landscape scale project(s) for next year will cost $18,936.50. The outreach project to update our existing story map pages and create a new one for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan will cost $11,000. James Evrage motioned to submit the two projects for funding, Colt Howland seconded, motion passed unanimously.

NMDA has sent out a Request for Information to establish the coordinated surveying and mapping of emerging noxious weeds throughout the state. Vicky will respond to the request.

With no further business to discuss, Rick Baish motioned to adjourn, James Evrage seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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Bob Nichols, Chairman Jeff Rabon, Secretary/ Treasurer