

**TAOS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR ONLINE/VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING**

JANUARY 21, 2026

9:00 A.M.

To join Zoom Meeting, follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83894896158?pwd=wzoePIAVUroZsZCObs5Dnlb5qHzpbM.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.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Maureen Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Attendance:

Maureen Johnson (Chairman)	Present
Stephen Trujillo (Vice-Chairman)	Present
Sam DesGeorges (Secretary/Treasurer)	Present
Andy Martinez (Member)	Present
Mary Lane Leslie (Member)	Present
Greg Miller (Member)	Present
George Long (Member)	Absent

Other Attendance:

Tanya Duncan (TSWCD Assistant District Manager)
Veronice Cortez (TSWCD Administrative Assistant)
Fritz Hahn (Former Town of Taos Councilor)- via Zoom
Alan Klatt (NM Environmental Department)- via Zoom

II. APPOINTMENT & SWEARING IN CEREMONY

A. Administration of Oath of Office to Elected/Re-Elected Board Members-

- Position 4- Andy Martinez- *Chairman, Maureen Johnson administered the Oath of Office to Andy Martinez who was elected to fill Position 4/ Zone 4.*

Andy Martinez's Oath of Office was notarized by Judy Torres.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A.** January 21, 2026- Mary Lane Leslie made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Agenda with a correction on item IX. B., "Pending Group Acequia Application" as it was approved at the

Special Board Meeting on January 5th. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

IV. GUESTS- Toner Mitchell

- A. Toner Mitchell (Trout Unlimited)- Mr. Mitchell introduced himself and provided an overview of Trout Unlimited expressing that the organization focuses on protecting cold-water fisheries for trout by improving water quality and quantity in the Taos area, with recent efforts aimed at establishing a partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Current work includes restoring Rio Grande cutthroat trout habitat and advancing stream restoration projects that reflect historic use patterns, using techniques that raise stream base levels to increase meadow saturation and resilience during persistent drought. These projects are driven by a spirit of mutual benefit, supporting ranchers by putting funding directly on the ground to encourage innovation, improve production, and strengthen working landscapes while collaborating with Trout Unlimited to enhance riparian areas. A notable example is a stream restoration project in the center of Chama designed to improve fishing quality for locals and tourists while promoting sustainable economic development. Looking ahead, there is strong interest in establishing a formal partnership with the local office to provide ongoing support and collaborate with TSWCD on future restoration and conservation efforts. No action was taken.
- B. Alan Klatt- Mr. Klatt with the New Mexico Environment Department added to Mr. Toner’s discussion, highlighting upcoming funding opportunities through the River Stewardship project. Mr. Klatt noted that they are able to provide support and insight into the upcoming grant funding opportunity and would like to partner with Taos SWCD for stream restoration projects if there is need for such work. No action was taken.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting- After review, Andy Martinez made a motion to approve the November 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes, as presented. Greg Miller seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

- B. Review and Edit Draft October 24, 2025 TSWCD Annual Meeting Minutes- The Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed by the board. Final approval will be considered at the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- C. January 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes- After review, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve the January 5, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, with one correction. To correct item III. C., and note that the change of Secretary/ Treasurer will require Mr. DesGeorges to become a signer on all Taos SWCD bank accounts. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. December 2025 Financial Report – Tanya Duncan reviewed the written December 2025 Financial Report, noting the General Journal entries that were made. Maureen Johnson reviewed her written transaction report. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to file the December 2025 Report for audit with best information provided. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

- B. Mid-Year Budget Review & Transfers- Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan provided a handout of the 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Review and Transfers, reflected in her handout, the recommended budget transfers. Ms. Duncan also noted 2025-26 TSWCD Grant projects. After discussion, Sam DesGeorges made a motion to acknowledge the Mid-Year Budget Review and Transfers, Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

- C. Budget Adjustment Resolution No. 005-25-26- Sam DesGeorges made a motion to approve budget resolution No. 005-25-26 to file for audit with the recommended budget transfers, Mary Lane Leslie seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

VII. SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – Vernon Mirabal provided a written NRCS Report for January 2026. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to accept the written NRCS report for January 2026. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
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 on the consistent sale of Weevil-Cide throughout the winter months. Additionally, he noted the assistance he provided landowners on CEU credits for recertification of Weevil-Cide licensing. After discussion, Sam DesGeorges made a motion to approve the verbal USDA-APHIS Animal Damage Report for January 2026.

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

- D. NMDA Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report – Michael Purdy submitted a written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for January 2026. The Board reviewed the

written report and discussed that the office is in compliance with the upcoming deadlines. After discussion, Greg Miller made a motion to accept the written Soil & Water Conservation Specialist Report for January 2026 and include it as part of the minutes. Andy Martinez seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

- E. Taos County CWMA Report- Mr. Fritz Hahn provided a verbal report on Taos CWMA activities. Mr. Hahn discussed the status of the Cornelio Basin work that has begun, noting they will be planting cover crop seed in the upcoming months. CWMA has met with Town of Taos to discuss turning the 25 acres into a conservation easement and are pursuing funding opportunities to hire a noxious weed coordinator. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to accept Mr. Hahn’s verbal 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
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Absent (Mr. Miller stepped out and didn’t vote)

****A break was taken at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:04 a.m.****

VIII. TAOS SWCD REPORTS

- A. Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan provided a verbal update on district activities. Taos SWCD received a mill levy check and associated transfers were completed, as well as project payouts for two acequia and two forest health completions. The Noxious and Invasive Species Program just completed a 400 acre Russian olive project. Ms. Duncan discussed RC&D Tio Vivo project updates, including the search for a set location for the Tio Vivo. After discussion, Andy Martinez made a motion to accept the verbal Assistant District Managers report for January 2026 and include it as part of the minutes. Mary Lane Leslie seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes

George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PERA Payroll Correction Update- Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan discussed the payroll discrepancy from several years ago, in which PERA taxes were not being taxed correctly. Because of this discrepancy, TSWCD reissued corrected W2's for the affected employees. The Board previously approved covering the cost of tax preparer services, corrections and penalty fees but not the actual tax owed, noting anti donation rules. As a result, there are employees that have still not amended their taxes and have been accruing penalty fees since the reissuance of the W2's. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to implement a sunset clause of December 2026 for Taos SWCD to pay for penalties and fees accrued, with proper notification alerting affected employees. Greg Miller seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Acequia Committee Updates- Tabled until all board members are present.

B. WRRRI Updates- Assistant District Manager, Tanya Duncan discussed the current WRRRI grant projects, five cooperators applied and four were approved with one individual cancelling their application. Ms. Duncan discussed project updates and notified the board that Taos SWCD does not receive administrative fees for facilitating these projects. Staff is working hard to provide direct support to these landowners. Information only, no action was taken.

C. Employee Purchasing Cards- Ms. Duncan discussed the necessity for employee purchasing cards for Elisa Hardy, Mikhial Parison and Angeles Ribeiro. Employees oversee and facilitate programs that require purchasing material as well as travel and errands related to their programs and community outreach events around the county. Assigned cards will ensure that costs incurred will be directly associated with the correct employee. After discussion, Mary Lane Leslie made a motion to approve employee purchasing cards for Elisa Hardy, Mikhial Parison and Angeles Ribeiro. Sam DesGeorges seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes

Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

D. Rain Barrel Catchment Program- Ms. Duncan provided an update on behalf of Water Program Specialist, Elisa Hardy, for the rain barrel catchment program requesting \$5,000 of the allocated Water Program funds for the development of this cost share program. The barrels are \$80 a piece and Taos SWCD would cost share at 50%, allowing a maximum of two barrels per applicant. Additionally, spouts will be purchased to complement the rain barrel system, totaling an additional \$5,000. After discussion, Stephen Trujillo made a motion to approve the rain barrel catchment program, totaling \$10,000 of Taos SWCD funds. Mary Lane Leslie seconded and the motion carried with roll call voting as follows:

Maureen Johnson	Yes
Stephen Trujillo	Yes
Sam DesGeorges	Yes
Andy Martinez	Yes
Mary Lane Leslie	Yes
George Long	Absent
Greg Miller	Yes

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

XII. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Greater Valle de Taos Water & Wastewater Alliance Annual Recap Meeting- December 17, 2025 1:00-3:00 p.m., UNM Padre Martinez Hall- postponed until District Manager, Peter Vigil can present on this at the next board meeting.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Taos SWCD Office will be closed on February 16, 2026 in observance of President’s Day
- B. NACD Annual Meeting, in San Antonio, TX, February 14-18, 2026
- C. Next Regular Board Meeting, February 25, 2026
- D. March 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

XIIV. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Chairman _____Maureen Johnson

Administrative Assistant _____Veronice Cortez

Prepared: 01/21/2026

Approved ____ / ____ /2026

As Presented

With Corrections

Taos SWCD prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

January 21, 2026