



New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission
Meeting Minutes from March 17th 2026
Wendell Chino Forestry Conference Room/Teams Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order and roll call

Commissioner Ron Hannan called the meeting to order at 10:04 am

Project Manager Morgan Tolen took roll call.

Commissioner:	
Amanda Getchell-Stevenson	Present
Carmen Austin	Present
Ron Hannan	Present
Alicia Littlebear	Absent
Breezy Gutierrez	Present
Maria Lohmann	Present

A quorum was present.

2. Introduction of guests and members of the public

No members of the public were present.

3. Introductions of Commissioners

New Commissioner Breezy Gutierrez was welcomed to the Commission

4. Discussion and approval of agenda

Commissioner Lohmann motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Austin seconded; no further discussion. Motion was passed by all present

5. Discussion and approval of minutes from December 11th 2025, meeting

Commissioner Lohmann motioned to approve the minutes; Commissioner Hannan seconded; no further discussion. Motion was passed by all present.

6. YCC Updates

Executive Director David Chené provided the Commission with the following updates:

- Commissioner Transitions: Changes include Tim Raphael's resignation, Marlene Yanez choosing not to renew, PED's new appointee Breezy Gutierrez, CYFD actively filling its seat, and two open at-large positions.

- 2027 Executive Budget: Was approved as part of the executive recommendations.

- 2026 Contracts Update: Twenty-eight sponsors have received their Letter to Proceed packets, with eight still in process. Strong systems and early outreach contributed to smooth contract execution.

- New vehicle is being leased, a 2025 Honda Accord.

- **Scheduling Inspections:** prioritizing outreach to new organizations while scheduling inspections during upcoming travel.
- **New FTE Training Module:** Developing a repeatable training module using OneNote and a sign-up system for learning sessions.
- **Software Update:** Partnering with EMNRD to evaluate Amplifund for complex grant management; Submittable remains under consideration for RFP processes.
- **New FTE Hiring Update:** Received 46 applications and completed 10 strong interviews. Hiring decision expected within two weeks.
- **Building Lease Update:** After exploring EMNRD and other state locations with no availability, now working with the GSD Leasing Team on an RFP process, with a projected timeline of 6–18 months.
- **Exploring NM DWS Coop Partnership & Credits Program:** Discussions with NMDWS regarding NM Corps initiative replacing AmeriCorps funding and expanding the conservation focus. Also exploring the leverage of a Coop Agreement, with DWS/ServeNM as potential program executors. Participating in a DWS workgroup will focus on developing accredited certifications through training or sponsor programs.
- **Updates to 2026 Program Processes:** Program manager Morgan Tolen updated the commission Reviewing the Contract Packet email, introducing a new Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) form for more formal tracking and approval, and launching a new Close-Out Survey to gather additional data and confirm sponsor usage.

7. Changes/Update to RFP 2027

ED Chené proposed possible changes and suggestions for the 2027 RFP including updates to the pass/fail criteria. The criteria will be revisited before the release of the 2027 RFP.

8. FY28 Budget Appropriation Request

ED Chené outlined to the commission his proposal to seek an additional \$1.5–2 million in FY28 to grow the number of sponsors and projects, ultimately increasing corps member hiring capacity.

9. Ratifying FY27 Budget Cap

Commissioner Hannan motioned to approve keeping the FY27 budget cap at \$225,000; Commissioner Lohmann seconded; no further discussion. Motion was passed by all present.

10. Executive Director Evaluations – Establishing Goals/Assignments

Commissioner Lohmann motioned to approve establish goals and assignments for Executive Director; Commissioner Hannan seconded; no further discussion. Motion was passed by all present.

11. Adjourn

Commissioner Hannan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:48pm; Commissioner Lohmann seconded the motion, no further discussion.

Minutes Approved by YCC Commission

Date: June 2nd, 2026

Certified by: 
Amanda Getchell Stevenson, YCC Commission Chair

