



New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Commission
 Meeting Minutes from December 11th, 2025
 Wendell Chino Forestry Conference Room/Teams Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order and roll call

Commissioner Ron Hannan called the meeting to order at 9:12 am

Project Manager Morgan Tolen took roll call.

Commissioner:	
Amanda Getchell-Stevenson	Absent
Carmen Austin	Present
Ron Hannan	Present
Alicia Littlebear	Absent
Tim Raphael	Absent
Maria Lohmann	Present
Marlene Yanez	Present

A quorum was present.

2. Introduction of guests and members of the public

Mark Meyers from the State Land office and Nicole Candelaria were introduced as members of the public.

3. Discussion and approval of agenda

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

4. Discussion and approval of minutes from July 1st, 2025, meeting

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

5. YCC Updates

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

- **Leadership Transition at EMNRD:** Melanie Kenderdine has departed from her role as Secretary, and Erin Taylor has assumed the position as the new Secretary of EMNRD.
- **2026 Project Proposals:** The Commission was briefed on the total number of applications received and the evaluation process undertaken for the 2026 project proposals.
- **Software Review and Acquisition:** Staff will conduct a more detailed review of software options, with the intention of making a purchase in 2026.
- **Staffing:** The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) will advertise a new full-time equivalent (FTE) position in January.

- **Career Mapping:** The State Personnel Office (SPO) has introduced a new career mapping initiative. Corrective measures were implemented to address inaccuracies in the mapping of YCC staff.
- **Facilities:** YCC staff are looking for a more permanent workspace.
- **Uniform Policy:** A new uniform policy has been adopted to facilitate the acquisition of staff uniforms.
- **Cooperative Agreement Workflow:** A workflow has been established to support YCC's cooperative agreement with EMNRD.

6. State and Office presentation of project for approval

Mark Meyers from State Land Office presented to the Commission a possible project for the Rio Embudo Watershed utilizing the cooperative agreement YCC has with EMNRD.

Commissioner Austin motioned to approve the presented project with final approval delegated to Executive Director Chené, Commissioner Yanez seconded, no further discussion. Commission Lohmann obtained from the vote. Motion was passed by all present.

7. FY27 Budget update

ED Chené presented the Commission with the YCC's FY27 budget that was presented at the LFC in October.

8. Executive Session for purpose of completing employee evaluations

Roll call vote was taken, and the executive session was entered into at 10:30am in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 10-15-1(H)(6) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of reviewing the Evaluation Committee's recommendation for finalists in response to the Commission's RFP for FY26 Project Proposals.

Executive session ended at 1:33pm and the Commission entered back into open session. Upon entering back into the open session, Commissioner Hannan asked that the record show only matters discussed in the Executive Session were the review of the Evaluation Committee's recommendation for finalists in response to the Commission's RFP for FY26 Project Proposals identified in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 10-15-1(H)(6) of the Open Meetings Act

9. Funding approval vote(s)

Motion 1: Commissioner Yanez motioned to provide funding for 32 responsive proposals documented in the attached exhibit; Commissioner Austin seconded the motion; no further discussion.

Motion 2: Commissioner Lohmann motioned to not fund proposals from: Mountainair Public Schools, Village of Angel Fire, City of Tucumcari, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Agriculture and Restoration, Santa Fe County Fire Department, Village of Santa Clara and Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District; Commissioner Hannan seconded the motion; no further discussion.

Motion 3: Commissioner Yanez motioned to delegate final approval of 4 projects to ED Chené and Commissioner Hannan for: East Rio Arriba SWCD, Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, San Juan College and Talking Talons Youth Leadership; Commissioner Austin seconded the motion; no further discussion.

10. Meeting dates for 2025

Commission meeting dates were set for March 17th, June 22nd and December 1st, 2026. Commissioner Austin motioned to approve the proposed dates for 2026. Commissioner Lohmann seconded the motion, no further discussion. Item was tabled

11. Public Comments

No comments.

12. New Business

No new business.

13. Adjourn

Commissioner Lohmann motioned to adjourn; Commissioner Yanez seconded the motion; no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 1:44pm.

Minutes Approved by YCC Commission

Date: March 17, 2026

Certified by:

Amanda Getchell Stevenson, YCC Commission Chair

Offeror Name	Amount Requested	Staff Recommendations
Albuquerque Sign Language Academy	\$203,837.04	FUND
Aldo Leopold Charter School Fall	\$204,945.00	FUND
Aldo Leopold Charter School Spring	\$116,720.00	FUND
ALMA	\$148,830.82	FUND
Bernalillo County	\$145,309.39	FUND
City of Gallup	\$218,809.27	FUND
Cuidad SWCD	\$212,350.88	FUND
Commons Center Food Sec & Sustainability	\$48,424.46	FUND
Conservation Legacy	\$189,834.28	FUND
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions	\$140,838.30	FUND
EcoServants Lincoln	\$216,319.53	FUND
EcoServants Otero	\$216,319.53	FUND
Harwood Art Center	\$86,804.22	FUND

Institute of Applied Ecology	\$114,303.17	FUND
Jemez Mtn School Dist No 53	\$53,517.83	FUND
Mark Armijo Academy	\$219,931.60	FUND
National Indian Youth Leadership Development Project	\$119,469.50	FUND
New Mexico Acequia Association	\$169,938.60	FUND
Rio Arriba County - Healing Gardens	\$224,999.97	FUND
Rio Arriba County - Tierra Amarilla	\$151,975.06	FUND
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps - Mid	\$201,395.53	FUND
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps - Upper	\$207,160.41	FUND
Santa Clara Pueblo	\$158,373.16	FUND

Southwest Educational Partners for Training	\$205,926.16	FUND
Spirit of Hidalgo	\$38,710.46	FUND
Taos Land Trust	\$224,988.56	FUND
The Family YMCA	\$76,701.87	FUND
The Forest Stewards Guild Fall	\$220,531.66	FUND
The Forest Stewards Guild Summer	\$224,981.10	FUND
Town of Mountainair	\$46,143.20	FUND
Youthworks	\$224,999.29	FUND
Foundation for America's Public Lands	\$212,455.85	FUND