

Forest and Watershed Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

September 14, 2022, at 10:00 AM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

A virtual WebEx meeting of the FAWRA Advisory Board (Board) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 14, 2022, and presided over by Laura McCarthy, State Forester, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), Forestry Division.

- **Board Members and Delegates Present**

Laura McCarthy, State Forester, EMNRD, Forestry Division, FAWRA Chair

Mark Myers, State Land Office (SLO)

John Rhoderick, Environment Department (ED)

Donald Auer (for Stewart Liley), Department of Game and Fish (DGF)

Julie Valdez, Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

Kathy Holian, Public Member for academic or non-profit organization

Steve Hernandez, Public Member for local government

Tim Hagaman, Economic Development Department (EDD)

- **Board Members Absent**

Randy Varela, Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Marshal's Office

Brent Racher, Public Member for industry

- **Others Present**

Jacob Pederson (EMNRD)

Andrew Frederick (EMNRD)

Lindsey Quam (EMNRD)

Cheryl Bada (EMNRD)

James Anzalone (EMNRD)

Shannon Atencio (EMNRD)

Susan Sita (EMNRD)

Sara Goldstein (OSE)

2. Welcome/Introductions

Laura McCarthy, State Forester and FAWRA Chair, recognized the Board, public members, and guests. Board members, non-voting participants, and members of the public introduced themselves via round robin.

3. Board Business

Approval of the agenda

Tim Hagaman moved to approve agenda; Kathy Holian seconded; none opposed; motion approved.

Approval of minutes for the May 11, 2022 meeting

Steve Hernandez moved to approve minutes; Mark Meyers seconded; none opposed; approved.

4. State Forester's update

State Forester Laura McCarthy provided an update on the progress made with accelerating the pace and scale of forest and watershed restoration projects to match unprecedented funding the Forestry Division has received in the past year, totaling approximately \$19M. An update was also provided on the Fireline Fuelwood for Northern NM Communities Project, a partnership between the US Forest Service, EMNRD Forestry Division, and the New Mexico National Guard. This project involves delivering wood cut from fire suppression activities on the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire to communities in need. Initial deliveries were made to Mora on 9/14/22 and future deliveries are planned for San Miguel and Taos Counties.

5. Progress report on funded projects

Jacob Pederson provided a brief update on progress made to initiate new FY23 FAWRA projects, including the Taos Valley Watershed Landscape Restoration Project, the Mimbres to Signal Peak Project, and the Carson National Forest – Jicarilla Ranger District Project.

6. Discussion and approval of FY24 guidelines

Jacob Pederson presented the draft FY24 guidelines, which included only minor changes from FY23 guidelines to streamline the proposal process for continuing projects. Board members suggested small changes and typo fixes and the draft FY24 guidelines were amended based on these recommendations.

Steve Hernandez moved to approve FY24 Guidelines as amended; Kathy Holian seconded; none opposed; approved.

7. Discussion of fall field trip option

Laura McCarthy took a roll call of Board members interested in attending the field trip planned for October 6, 2022, to observe forest and watershed health treatments in Black Lakes and Elk Ridge and to observe damage from the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

8. Adjourn

Steve Hernandez moved to adjourn; Kathy Holian seconded; none opposed; meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Draft minutes submitted by Jacob Pederson on September 21, 2022

Draft minutes reviewed by Laura McCarthy on September 21, 2022

Final minutes approved by the FAWRA Advisory Board on April 12, 2023