

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

JANUARY 26, 2024 - 9:00 A.M.

Directors having been duly notified; Madam Chair Russo Baca called the special meeting to order at 9:13 am. The following Directors and Staff were present:

DIRECTORS		STAFF	
Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair	Present	Jason Casuga	Chief Engineer/CEO
Karen Dunning, Vice Chair	Present	Patty Williams	General Counsel
Brian Jiron, Director	Present	Dr. Charles DuMars	Chief Water Counsel
John P. Kelly, Director	Present	Pamela Fanelli	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Glen Duggins, Director	Present	Anne Marken	Water Distribution Division Mgr.
Michael T. Sandoval, Director	Present		

The following names of individuals were interested viewers, callers and/or participants:

Elaine Hebard	Colin T. Baugh	Scooter Haynes
Martin Haynes	Lee Gamelsky	Greg Gonzales
Patricia Tapia	Louie Tapia	K. A. McCord
Barbara Grothus	Max Havelka	Neri Holguin
Santiago Maestas	Doug Strech	Christine Nardi, MRGCD
Janet Jarrett	Nathan Campbell	Judy McSweeney, MRGCD
Susan Selbin	Doug Strech, MRGCD	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. DuMars led the Pledge of Allegiance at today's meeting.

Madam Chair Russo Baca declared a quorum, and the meeting was publicly noticed. She stated that due to Director Sandoval attending virtually, roll call votes were taken.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA**. Seconded by Director Kelly. Roll call vote was administered, and the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Director Jiron	Yes	Vice Chair Dunning	Yes
Director Kelly	Yes	Director Sandoval	Yes
Chair Russo Baca	Yes	Director Duggins	Yes

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – APPLICANT INTERVIEWS FOR THE BOARD POSITION NO. 4
BERNALILLO COUNTY VACANT SEAT**

Jason Casuga, CE/CEO, explained how the interviews would be conducted stating that he emailed questions to all four applicants: Colin T. Baugh, Simon T. "Scooter" Haynes, Elaine Hebard and Lee Gamelsky. Each would be given five (5) minutes to make a statement to the board and then would be given two (2) minutes per question to verbally answer the questions provided to the board in writing. The remaining time would be allotted to the board for any follow-up questions related to their answers.

The chair read the questions sent to the applicants which are: (1) What do you believe are the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years and why? (2) Please describe your understanding of MRGCD's relationship with the six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. (3) Please describe your understanding of the challenges and opportunities the MRGCD has as increased urbanization continues within the benefited area. (4) How would you, as a board member, interact with a constituent with different political views than you? (5) What are the two most important areas of improvement you believe the MRGCD needs to focus on over the next two years? and, (6) Why should you be chosen for the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position No. 4 seat?

The chair asked that each applicant approach the dais to select a number out a basket for the order that the interviews would be conducted.

Elaine Hebard was the first applicant, Colin T. Baugh was the second, Simon T. "Scooter" Haynes was the third and, lastly, Lee Gamelsky. They each addressed the board with an introduction and their answers to the required questions above.

Following each applicants comments, the board had a chance for various follow-up questions. Director Kelly wanted to hear each of their opinions or thoughts regarding the Low Flow Conveyance Channel. Vice Chair Dunning queried each to see if they were appointed, would they run for this position in 2025. Director Duggins asked if they had any relationships with District personnel and wanted to hear the applicants idea on what a cover crop is, and which crops are considered cover crops. Chair Russo Baca also asked if each applicant currently had a water service charge contract.

See attached appendices for each applicant to include their initial submitted forms, their questions and answers, as well as email messages of support.

Chair Russo Baca requested a short break at 10:50 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:58 am

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR (Comments are limited to two (2) minutes)

Santiago Maestas

Mr. Maestas is a resident of Pajarito and a commissioner on the Pajarito Acequia. He stated he worked with Elaine Hebard. He felt her to be a knowledgeable, good asset and thought she would be a great advocate about the water issues in New Mexico.

Kathy McCord

Ms. McCord is a Valencia County resident and not only represented the county but also the local grassroots organization known as Valencia Water Watchers. They were acquainted with Elaine Hebard since 2021 as she did research and helped to organize community opposition to the expansion of Facebook data campus. She felt that Ms. Hebard to be very knowledgeable, willing to inform, educate and advocate.

Barbara Grothas

Ms. Grothas stated she's known Ms. Hebard for years and wasn't aware of her interest. She showed her support for both Ms. Hebard and Mr. Baugh.

Louie Tapia

Mr. Tapia spoke of his support for Ms. Hebard as she's concerned about groundwater and felt it important along with that the farmers have irrigation water.

Patricia Tapia

She stated that she and the farmers of the Pajarito Village Association are concerned about the water depletion and stand in support for Elaine Hebard.

Janet Jarratt

Ms. Jarratt, former Valencia County board member and the first female chairperson, said she heard some horrifying answers earlier. She supports Elaine Hebard as she felt one of the most important things that the board has to be able to do is listen with respect. She said Ms. Hebard is open minded and intellectual.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – FINAL VOTE AND SELECTION OF BOARD VACANCY CANDIDATE TO SERVE THE REMAINING TERM OF POSITION NO. 4 BERNALILLO COUNTY SEAT

The chair asked for nominations from the board for the candidates.

Vice Chair Dunning thanked everybody who applied and thought this group was the most qualified they've ever had. She then nominated Colin T. Baugh for being an irrigator and a mayordomo which she felt is lacking on the current board.

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO NOMINATE COLIN T. BAUGH**. Seconded by Director Kelly.

Director Duggins made the **MOTION TO NOMINATE SIMON T. "SCOOTER" HAYNES**. Seconded by Chair Russo Baca.

Chair Russo Baca made the **MOTION TO NOMINATE ELAINE HEBARD**. No one seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Dunning made the **MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS**. Seconded by Chair Russo Baca.

The chair asked for a rollcall vote for Mr. Baugh for the appointment to serve the remaining term of Position No. 4 Bernalillo County seat.

Director Sandoval	Yes	Director Jiron	Yes
Director Kelly	Yes	Chair Russo Baca	Yes
Vice Chair Dunning	Yes	Director Duggins	No

The chair congratulated Colin T. Baugh and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - ADJOURN

With no further comments, questions, or concerns, Madam Chair Russo Baca adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Approved to be the correct Minutes of the Board of Directors of January 26, 2024.

ATTESTED:

Pamela Fanelli, CMA, CGFM
Secretary/Treasurer

Stephanie Russo Baca, Madam Chair
MRGCD Board of Directors

APPENDIX

MRGCD Request for Appointment

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: December 20, 2023 9:39 PM

Your full name

Colin T. Baugh

Have you ever used a different name for school or employment? If so, please list the name(s) here.

no

Your Street Address

3017 Camilo Ln NM

City

Albuquerque

Please select your county of residence.

Bernalillo County

State

New Mexico

Zip Code

87104

Contact phone number

(505) 280-9096

Your email address

colinbaugh505@gmail.com

What racial or ethnic group(s) best describe you?

Caucasian

Marital status

Married

Are you a New Mexico resident?

yes

If so, how long have you been a New Mexico resident

my entire life

Are you a registered voter?

yes

Explain why you are interested in serving on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Board of Directors

I believe in the MRGCD community, and as a Mayordomo, I am dedicated to fostering partnerships that empower all irrigators to actively participate in implementing water conservation efforts. I will be a fierce advocate that will prioritize the long-term sustainability in the Rio Grande Valley.

Are you related to an employee of the State Agency that oversees this board/

commission no

What choice best fits your political affiliation?

Democrat

Have you changed your political party designation in the past 180 days?

no

If yes, please provide the dates of the change

Have you ever been a candidate for any local, state, or federal political office?

no

If yes, please list positions and, if elected, dates of service

Have you ever been appointed to any paid or unpaid local, state, or federal position?

yes

If so, please identify the position, dates of service, and by whom you were appointed
Appointed Democratic Judge for Bernalillo Absentee ballots, appointed by the Bernalillo county clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Do you have any financial or other interests that might present a conflict of interest if you were to be appointed to the position for which you have applied? If yes, please explain in the space below

no

Have you ever received payment as a lobbyist or legislative agent?

no

If so, please list the name(s) of the entity(ies) you represented

Have you ever been found guilty of any criminal law or a traffic violation for which you were fined more than \$100?

yes

If yes, please explain in the space below

Speeding violations

Are you currently involved, or have you been involved in the past five (5) years in a civil suit?

no

Have you ever been accused of sexual harassment?

no

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, please provide an explanation

Please list all licensed professional or occupational membership affiliations

Occupational therapy license from the state of New Mexico

Are you currently an officer, director, partner, majority shareholder, managing member, or holder of a substantial interest in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity?

no

If yes, please list the name(s) and your relationship to the entity(ies)

Do you, your spouse, or any business in which you or your spouse hold 10% or more of the stock or membership interest, have any relationship with any federal, state, or local governments or Indian nation?

no

If yes, please identify every instance

Have you filed all federal and state tax returns that are now due or overdue?

yes

If no, please explain

Have all tax payments, fines, penalties, and interest been paid in full and/or otherwise settled with the taxing authority?

yes

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been initiated against you or your spouse by local, state, or federal authorities?

no

If so, please describe the circumstances and the resolution of the matter

If there are specific designated requirements related to the desired appointment (e.g. age requirements, professional license, or any other statutory or constitutional specification), please state how you meet the requirements

I am a qualified voting individual in the MRGCD Bernalillo district

Education level

Masters degree in Occupational Therapy

High school name

Valley High School

City and state of high school

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Year graduated high school

2003

Please provide at least 2 (up to 3) references with contact information. Name of first reference:

Representative Javier Martinez-Speaker of The House

Phone number

(505) 553-1129

Relationship

Neighbor

Email

javierform@gmail.com

Name of second reference

Enrique LaMadrid-Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Spanish, University of New Mexico

Phone number

(505) 269-5569

Email

lamadrid@unm.edu

Name of third reference

Former Senator Dede Feldman

Phone number

(505) 220-5958

Relationship

Neighbor

Email

dedefeldman@comcast.net

Have you ever served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard?

no

Required Field

Do you have a valid New Mexico driver's license?

yes

Required fields

I hereby certify that this request contains no willful misrepresentation(s)., I understand that should any investigation disclose such misrepresentation or falsification, my application will be relected, my name removed from consideratin for appointment, or I may be removed from

appointment., I understand that submission of my request does not guarantee appointment. I understand that I may be required to submit to a background check as a condition of appointment., I understand that unsatisfactory results from, refusal to cooperate with, or any attempt to affect the result of these background checks will result in withdrawal of any offer or termination of appointment.

By signing my name below and submitting this request I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'C', 'T', and 'B' written in a stylized, cursive-like font. The 'C' is on the left, the 'T' is in the middle, and the 'B' is on the right. A horizontal line is drawn above the 'T' and 'B'.

Today's date

December 20, 2023

MRGCD Board Position 4 Applicant Questions

1. What do you believe are the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years and why?

They are (1) infrastructure maintenance and improvement; (2) water scarcity and drought; and (3) stakeholder engagement. An explanation of each is below.

Modernizing of infrastructure: The district is dealing with systematic failures in infrastructure in different areas – from the delayed restoration of El Vado Dam to the Corrales siphon — and that compounds the problem of the general upgrades that are required throughout the district's 3 counties and 6 pueblos. The challenge will be for the district to secure enough funding and buy-in from communities on best-practice approaches that begin modernizing outdated infrastructure with a strategic 3-pronged approach that simultaneously improves water delivery efficiency, improves accessibility and multi-use, and encourages a sustainable ecosystem to thrive.

Water scarcity: With increased temperatures, the water available to the district every year will fluctuate. In preparation for these changes, we should implement a wholesale approach that will, simultaneously, decrease loss in water-wasting agricultural practices; mitigate water loss to evaporation throughout the many miles of canals and laterals; and maintain and improve soil composition that depends on flood irrigation. I believe it is crucial to maintain the unique properties of our soil as it allows for our unique ecosystems to survive; if we lose this vital soil matrix, we will never get it back.

Stakeholder engagement: You can have the best plan on paper, but if you are unable to build meaningful engagement throughout the affected community, the plan will surely fail. The diverse and culturally rich communities that make up our district must be encouraged to participate in the many practices that will improve and ultimately safeguard the district for generations to come. It's one thing to provide the opportunity to engage; it's another thing to actually show individuals and families that their input is valuable and foundational to the work of the district. Whether it's the removal of a non-native species, maintaining access for non-irrigators, or helping a small farmer maximize a drought-tolerant crop — the district must continue to meet the unique challenges of the community we serve.

2. Please describe your understanding of MRGCD's relationship with the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos.

The district works closely with the people and leadership of Cochiti, Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Sandia and Isleta. These sovereign nations each have unique and sacred traditions tied to water and its use. Water is frequently central to the rituals of these honorable peoples. The pueblos also rely on farming and agriculture and in some cases have done so for many, many generations. The district's board of directors is represented by two of the six pueblos (Director Sandoval from San Felipe and Director Jiron from Isleta, respectively) and the district relies on their first-hand experience and expertise to respectfully navigate government-to-government interactions with these sovereign nations. The district is also guided by a BIA representative that provides updates on closures and requirements.

3. Please describe your understanding of the challenges and opportunities the MRGCD has as increased urbanization continues within the benefited area.

Urbanization has always been one of the main forces driving progress for the district, beginning with draining the swamp, which allowed for more farmable and inhabitable land, to moving into larger or more populated areas that can be developed. The district's progress has been largely funded (mainly from the North valley) via property tax. The challenge the district now faces is how to balance the development of irrigable land. I believe the district can make the most of this unique opportunity by providing innovative and culturally appropriate solutions with in-filling development and multi-use sustainable practices that safeguard the district's waterways.

4. How would you, as a board member, interact with a constituent with different political views than you?

As a mayordomo, community interaction is pivotal to a thriving acequia. In my experience, when with someone to better the delivery of their water, all the little stuff falls away, and the real issue becomes the focus. Water finds its own level regardless of political affiliation, and I would channel the wisdom of water, for it will always find the path of least resistance. I am proud that the board is a non-party affiliated board, and I will be honored to work toward mutually beneficial solutions with any constituent regardless of political membership.

5. What are the 2 most important areas of improvement you believe the MRGCD needs to focus on over the next 2 years?

The most important improvements will be upgrading water delivery readings in real time through a system of gauges and meters, providing a live and accurate feed on where the water is in the district at any given time. Secondly, with this interactive and live system, the district must improve its ability to monitor and police illegal water use/irrigators and impose fines, penalties and any other applicable measures to further ensure that this precious resource is accounted for and protected.

6. Why should you be chosen for the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position 4 seat?

I am committed to working with the Board to improve how we manage our water while balancing rural and urban interests — not just for today but for all our future generations to come. I believe in the strength of our community, and as a mayordomo, I have been and remain dedicated to fostering partnerships that empower all irrigators to actively participate in implementing water conservation efforts. I will be a fierce advocate and a thoughtful decision-maker. My goal will be to help shape policies that prioritize long-term sustainability in the Rio Grande Valley. As a lifelong resident of the North Valley and now as a father who wants to ensure the unique character of our home communities are passed on to our children and grandchildren, I can think of no greater honor than the opportunity to put my passion and expertise to work on behalf of the MRGCD.

COLIN T. BAUGH MOT, OTR/L

3017 Camilo Ln. NW Albuquerque, NM 87104 (505) 280 9096 colinbaugh505@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Masters in Occupational Therapy, UNM (December 2016)

B.S. in Biological Anthropology, UNM (May 2008)

University of Canterbury | Christchurch, New Zealand

Minor in Religious Studies (February 2007-October 2007)

Valley High School | Albuquerque NM, (May 2003)

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

LSG and Associates | Albuquerque, NM

Occupational Therapist (October 2018-present)

The lead occupational therapist for several school districts throughout New Mexico. Helped co-found a supported employment model called UNTAPPED, with its mission rooted in occupational justice. Serving a dynamic range of patients ranging in age from early childhood into young adulthood, with a number of diagnoses from Autism to rare degenerative neurological conditions, I am an expert at implementing a therapy practice that enhances an individual's overall performance.

IRRIGATOR EXPERIENCE

Mayordomo | Pierce Lateral Acequia Association | June 2019-present

Grant Recipient | MRGCD and RMYC restoration grant | June 2021

Founding Member | The Pierce Lateral Acequia Association | June 2019

Founding Member | Los Sembradores Youth Project | March 2009 - 2015

Founding Scribe | Acequia de Los Alamos de Los Gallegos | May 2008

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

New Mexico Occupational Therapy Association (NMOTA) Legislative Committee Member | April 2015-January 2016)

UNMOT Student Representative to NMOTA | October 2014-October 2015

Co-author | "A Community Garden" an agricultural based curriculum | 2009 -2011

Founding Member | Las Placitas Gardens | April 2008 - May 2010

Founding Member | Agriculture, Implementation, Research and Education (AIRE) | 2008

Co-leader | Recuerdo de Cesar Chavez | 2010 - 2012

VISION FOR MRGCD

It is my honor to be considered for the appointment to the Board of Directors for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. I am committed to working with the Board to improve how we manage our water while balancing rural and urban interests, for today and for the future for generations to come.

I will advocate for investments to our water management infrastructure with the help of sustainable technologies and practices. By upgrading our unique and complex systems, we can address current challenges, reduce waste, and ensure a more resilient water supply.

I believe in the strength of our community, and as a Mayordomo, I am dedicated to fostering partnerships that empower all irrigators to actively participate in implementing water conservation efforts. Through educational training, workshops, and initiatives we can promote responsible water usage so we can maximize the water and keep the valley green. I will be a fierce advocate that will help shape policies that prioritize the long-term sustainability in the Rio Grande Valley, and I

From: [Ian Colburn](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: MRGCD board appointment
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:43:04 AM

Good morning,

As a resident of the MRGCD voting area and a local farmer working land also within the District's zone, I would like to offer support to some of the candidates under review for appointment to the seat vacated by Joaquin Baca.

I believe Elaine Hebard is the strongest candidate for the position but I also support Colin Baugh and Lee Gamelsky for the job.

Thank you,

Ian Colburn

1002 Arno St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
2126 Cordova Rd SW, Albuquerque NM 87105
505-550-4953

believe there has been no better time than now for me to help usher in a 'watershed' moment that will add to the important work happening at the MRGCD.

SKILLS AND HONORS

- Strong leadership and advocacy skills
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Intermediate Spanish speaker
- American Society of Hand Therapist (ASHT) 2016 research poster presenter
- Published in the Journal of Hand Therapy Vol. 35 Issue 1, p67-73 (October 2020)
- Avid Fly fisherman
- Expert arborist specializing in sustainable orchard production

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: Fw: Colin Baugh
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:13:09 PM

FYI

From: Meg McDonald <megmcdonaldnm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:44 PM
To: John P. Kelly <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>; Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Fwd: Colin Baugh

Please appoint Colin Baugh to fill the seat last held by Joaquin Baca. He has already shown his passion for keeping the ditches usable.

Thanks,
Margaret McDonald

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: Fw: Joaquin Baca's replacement
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:12:57 PM

FYI

From: Maria Varela <mevz@juno.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>; Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>; glenduggins@gmail.com <glenduggins@gmail.com>; John P. Kelly <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>; Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>; Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Joaquin Baca's replacement

Please appoint Colin Baugh to replace Mr. Baca. Colin 'walks the talk' about the importance of our acequias in the North Valley. He will give voice to those who practice small scale agriculture which contributes to our food choices and ambiance in an urban setting.

Maria Varela
P.O. Box 7505
Albuquerque, NM 87194
505-345-4092 (office) 505-321-5883 (cell phone)

***How Maria Varela Became One Of The 'Eyes' Of 1960s Black Student Activism.
Radio Interview 2-2020***

https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/how-maria-varela-became-one-of-the-eyes-of-1960s-black-student-activism/?fbclid=IwAR3ac-4z_BPk3U1IxypKaa2wex1lRggpUEw1gYIFLDx7C_4WKf3jVoO_EA

TIME TO GET READY- HOLLOWELL LECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

ATHENS, March 20, 2018. https://kultura.uga.edu/media/t/1_5pfdht4r

MARIA VARELA CIVIL RIGHTS PHOTO EXHIBIT: *Time to Get Ready*, March 3-August 13, 2017. National Museum of Mexican Art. Chicago Illinois. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_URg76Pnk

SNCC DIGITAL GATEWAY WEBSITE: Maria Varela's Work in SNCC 1963-1968
<https://snccdigital.org/our-voices/learning-from-experience/part-1/>

PBS/BLACK CULTURE CONNECTION: September, 2015. Interview with Maria Varela about her SNCC photos. <http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/civil-rights-movement-photography/maria-varela/>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SPEECH: September, 2013. Maria Varela: *Encounters in Liminal Spaces.*

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?321701-1/discussion-civil-rights-movement>

NBC Latino Varela Op Ed: 50th anniversary of the March on Washington

<http://nbclatino.com/2013/08/29/opinion-on-civil-rights-then-and-now-its-up-to-the-youth/>

Link to *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*
Segment of Varela chapter <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/wordpress/?p=6444>

From: [Anne Owen McCormick](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: MRGCD appointment
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:48:42 AM

I support Colin Baugh for the vacant position. He has a good record of collaboration and a hands on understanding of many of the stakeholder groups from working with them.

Please don't support Scooter Haynes. He is a disrupter and doesn't respect many of the players. He will not help the Board move forward and make timely decisions.

--

Anne McCormick
1020 Iron Ave SW
Albuquerque NM 87102
575 388 9557 (c)

From: [Margaret Montoya](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: Supporting Colin Baugh for MRGCD Board
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:23:24 AM

Dear MRGCD Board members:

We are writing in support of Colin Baugh's candidacy for membership on the MRGCD. We have lived in Los Ranchos for more than 35 years, intentionally choosing the semi-rural and diverse character of the acequia neighborhoods for our family. The beauty and historic value of the acequias, the conservation of water giving importance to the saying *agua es vida*, and the multi-use trails that run near the acequias represent some of the reasons why we cherish living in Los Ranchos.

Colin is someone who shares our values and has worked to preserve and extend the benefits of the acequias and their cultural worth. Colin's work revitalizing the Pierce Lateral acequia association and helping older residents with ditch upkeep is evidence of his commitment to and effectiveness in preserving the acequias, even for those who lack the health and wealth of many who chose to live in the north valley. We enthusiastically support Colin Baugh for membership on the MRGCD Board.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Sincerely,
Margaret Montoya, J.D.
Professor Emerita of Law, UNM School of Law and

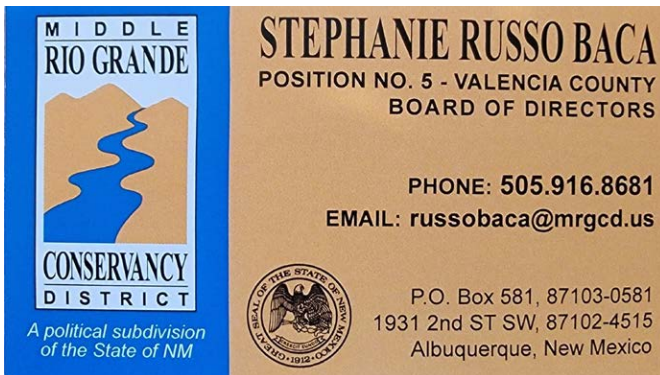
Charles P. Boyer, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, UNM
(Titles provided for identification purposes only)
931 Green Valley Rd NW
Los Ranchos

From: [Public Information Officer](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: MRGCD Contact Us Form Submission
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:30:39 AM

From: Ann <mailservices@sks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Public Information Officer <pio@mrgcd.us>
Subject: MRGCD Contact Us Form Submission

First Name
Ann
Last Name
Ziegler
Address
1009 Los Arboles Ave NW ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico 87107 United States Map It
Email Address
annzieg@gmail.com
Daytime Phone
(505) 980-8384
Subject
Colin Baugh
Message
Colin Baugh is highly qualified to be appointed to the position vacated by Joaquin Baca.I hope you will carefully consider him to fill this position. Thank you for your consideration. Ann Ziegler

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Appointment to MRGCD - support for Colin T. Baugh/not Scooter Haynes
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:33:35 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2024-01-23 at 2.14.18 PM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2024-01-23 at 2.38.19 PM.png](#)



----- Original message -----

From: Neri Holguin <neriholguin@gmail.com>
Date: 1/23/24 2:55 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>
Subject: RE: Appointment to MRGCD - support for Colin T. Baugh/not Scooter Haynes

Dear MRGCD Board Members:

I am one of many supporting Colin T. Baugh for the appointment to the MRGCD Board to fill the seat vacated when Joaquin Baca won his race for the Albuquerque City Council in November.

As you know, Colin is a Mayordomo from Duranes and he has a long history of working with the community on sustainable agriculture. I am excited that a candidate of his caliber has submitted his name for the appointment. He is well respected and has earned the support of many in our community. I urge you to see the list of elected leaders and community members who also support his appointment.

<https://colin4mrgcd.com/>

I also feel compelled to raise concerns I have regarding Scooter Haynes who has also submitted his name for consideration for the appointment. Two years ago Scooter Haynes ran for the MRGCD Bernalillo County seat against Joaquin Baca and lost 26% to 74%. After the election, he cited irregularities and contested the results of

the election, saying some ballots should be invalidated. What he sought was undemocratic and a waste of all our time and I'm glad that was rejected. See the news coverage [here](#) and [here](#).

I am also concerned with how closely Mr. Haynes is affiliated with the real estate industry in NM. In fact, in the 2021 and 2023 City of Albuquerque municipal elections, Mr. Haynes was the Chairperson for the HELP ABQ & National Association of Realtors PAC which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars targeting candidates, including ones recently elected to the Council (see below).

I live within the Bernalillo County MRGCD district and I care deeply about who represents me on the MRGCD Board. Mr. Scooter does not reflect my values and I would be greatly disappointed if he is appointed Friday over Colin Baugh.

Thank you for your consideration,
Neri



HELP ABQ & National Association of REALTORS Fund
Paid for by HELP ABQ & National Association of REALTORS Fund,
Champion: Shelia Hyman, 3rd Floor Offices, National Association of
Realtors Fund, Commercial Association of Realtors NM, New Mexico
Business Association, Real Estate Community PAC, NM NAACP PAC
Printed by Real Strategy Group, P.O. Box 92018
Albuquerque, NM 87199
Not authorized by any candidate or
candidate's campaign committee

Nichole Rogers' nonprofit raised money despite delinquent submissions with AG's Office, Secretary of State, and IRS

ALBUQUERQUE
JOURNAL 11/03/2023



Nichole Rogers was recently busted for mismanaging her nonprofit so badly that the IRS revoked its tax-exempt status and the New Mexico Attorney General is considering hiring an attorney to investigate. Now, there are questions about where the tens of thousands she raised really went, including \$15,000 in taxpayer money.

But Nichole says we should still send her to City Hall because she believes in "failing forward." That's right! Nichole wants our vote so she can learn on the job while our city continues to suffer. No thanks!

"Failing Forward" for ABQ

- X FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT
- X FAILED LEADERSHIP
- X QUESTIONABLE ETHICS

REJECT NICHOLE ROGERS ON DEC. 12TH

--

Neri Holguin



www.neriholguin.com

2523 Carson Rd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505/217-8705

From: [Public Information Officer](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: MRGCD Contact Us Form Submission
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:30:27 AM

From: Virginia ANNA <mailservices@sks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:42 AM
To: Public Information Officer <pio@mrgcd.us>
Subject: MRGCD Contact Us Form Submission

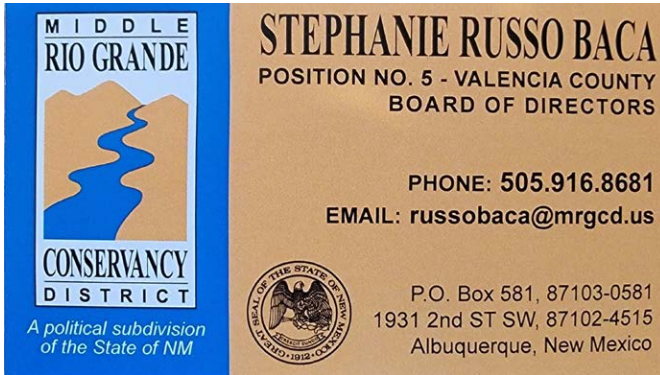
First Name
Virginia ANNA
Last Name
Constantz
Address
2605 Marble Ave., NW ABQ, New Mexico 87104 United States Map It
Email Address
constantzcostumes@yahoo.com
Daytime Phone
(505) 980-5057
Subject
Colin Baugh
Message
I'm in firm support of Colin Baugh's appointment to the vacant position left by Joaquin Baca. Please give him your most sincere consideration. Thank you, V. Anna Constantz

From: [Patricia Bartels](#)
To: [DeAnna Philips](#)
Subject: Support Colin Baugh
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:46:38 AM

I support Colin Baugh to fill the vacant position. I believe he will be a committed and hard-working member of the BOD in implementing water conservation efforts and working in partnership with all irrigators.

Pat Bartels
1412 Silver Ave SW

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Nomination for MRGCD board vacancy
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:09:54 PM



----- Original message -----

From: Julie Kutz <jukutz@yahoo.com>
Date: 1/24/24 10:55 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Cc: Dede Feldman <dedefeld@comcast.net>
Subject: Nomination for MRGCD board vacancy

Dear board members,

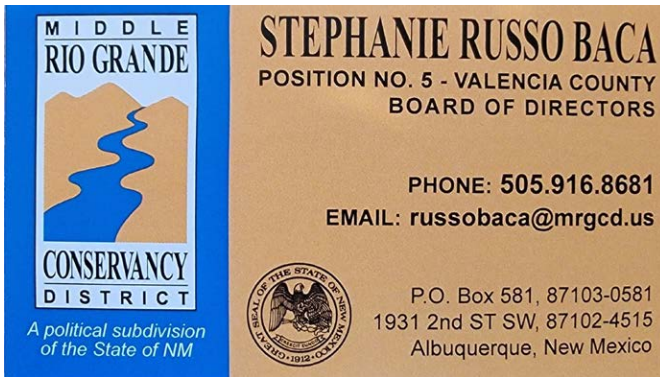
As a constituent who lives in the near north valley of Albuquerque, I respectfully request that you appoint Colin Baugh to fill the vacancy left by Joaquin Baca. I feel Mr. Baugh is by far the best candidate based on his work to restore historic acequias and small-scale agriculture. Exactly who we need to fulfill the mission of the MRGCD.

Thank you,

Julie Kutz

2317 Krogh Ct., NW
Albuquerque, 87104

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Colin T. Baugh
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:09:46 PM



----- Original message -----

From: "Bednarz, Sarah W" <s-bednarz@geos.tamu.edu>
Date: 1/24/24 11:36 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Support for Colin T. Baugh

Dear Directors of MRGCD:

I live close to the neighborhood that has been greatly improved in terms of environmental sustainability by Colin Baugh. I heartily endorse his appointment to the Board and hope you support him as well. Water is life!

Warmest regards,

Sarah Bednarz

Sarah Witham Bednarz

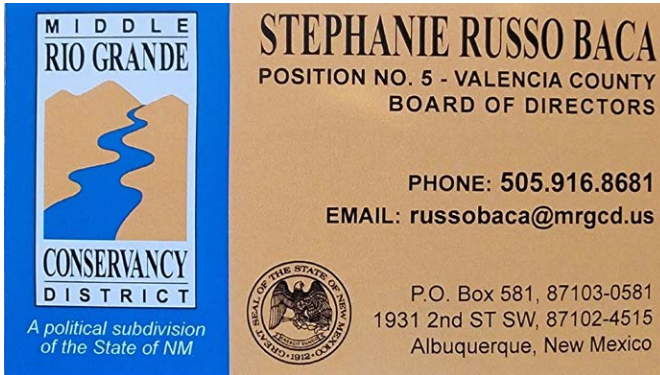
Professor Emerita of Geography & Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence
Fellow, American Association of Geographers
Department of Geography
Texas A&M University

2321 Via Granada Place NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104
[Email: s-bednarz@tamu.edu](mailto:s-bednarz@tamu.edu)
Cell: 979/229-7247

Google Scholar:

<http://tinyurl.com/pw6eer4>

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Colin Baugh
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:33:48 PM



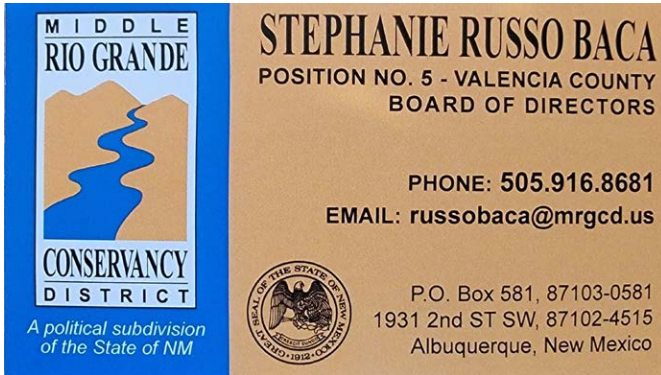
----- Original message -----

From: Jean Bannon <jeanmbannon@comcast.net>
Date: 1/23/24 1:29 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Colin Baugh

please appoint Colin Baugh to the boar. He is a wonderful member of our community

Jean Bannon
4250 Aspen Ave NE
Alb NM 87110

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Colin Baugh—yes!
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:25:10 PM



----- Original message -----

From: Linnea Hendrickson <linnea.borealis@gmail.com>
Date: 1/23/24 7:19 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Colin Baugh—yes!

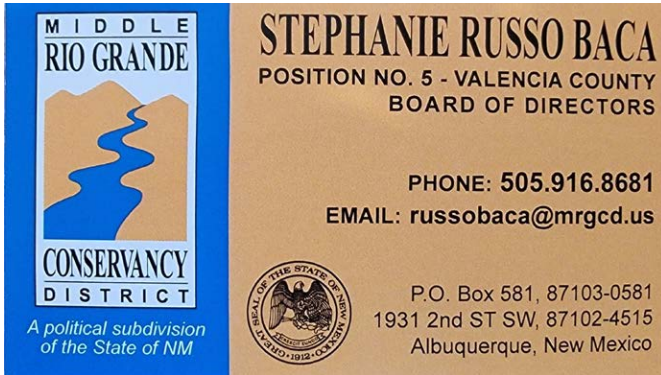
Please vote for Colin Baugh to replace Joaquin Baca on the Conservancy Board.

Irrigating for over 30 years.

Linnea Hendrickson
1312 Los Arboles Ave. NW
Albuquerque 87107

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: We support Colin Baugh for the Dist. 4 Position on the MRGCD Board
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:23:15 AM

To add to special meeting minutes.



----- Original message -----

From: Terry and Jack <cargillstorch@hotmail.com>
Date: 1/17/24 2:58 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>
Subject: We support Colin Baugh for the Dist. 4 Position on the MRGCD Board

Dear MRGCD Board Members,

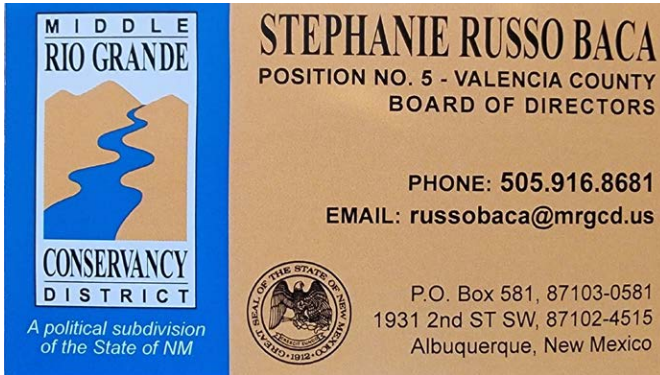
Without hesitation and with pleasure we recommend Colin Baugh to fill the District 4 Board position vacated by Joaquin Baca. We have known the Baugh family since Colin was a child. His mother and late father instilled in the children a deep love of place for New Mexico and for the Albuquerque north valley. Colin has carried that reverence of place, that respect for agricultural communities in the midst of a metropolitan area, with him. He has demonstrated that respect, and expertise, in the work he has done for over 15 years with acequia groups in the valley.

It is inspiring to see that this next generation is committed to the selfless work of guiding the best use of our water resources for the array of stakeholders who rely, use, and enjoy it. His work with acequia communities demonstrates his respect for and commitment to the views of all those who care about our river and the life it gives to our communities.

Respectfully,

Terry Storch
Jack Cargill
26 Garden Park NW
ABQ 87107

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Conservancy Board District
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:34:04 PM



----- Original message -----

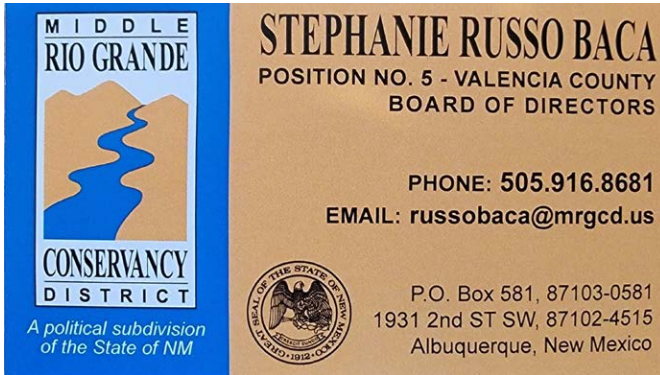
From: Ruth Reidy <info@penfieldgallery.com>
Date: 1/23/24 12:31 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Conservancy Board District

Please vote for Colin Baugh.

Thanks.

Ruth Reidy

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: in support of Colin T Baugh
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:33:40 PM



----- Original message -----

From: J Hopkins <jhopkins678@icloud.com>
Date: 1/23/24 1:38 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: in support of Colin T Baugh

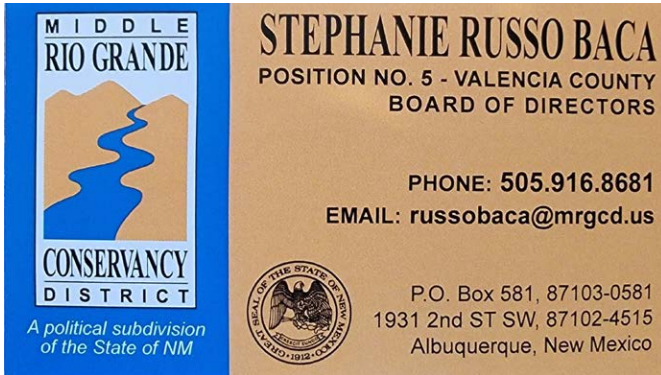
Dear Madam Chair Russo Baca,

Please appoint Colin T. Baugh to the vacant MRGCD Position 4.

Sincerely,

Jean Hopkins, Albuquerque resident

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Re the vacancy on the Conservancy District Board
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:34:30 PM



----- Original message -----

From: laurie cubbin <lcubbin@msn.com>
Date: 1/22/24 9:15 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Re the vacancy on the Conservancy District Board

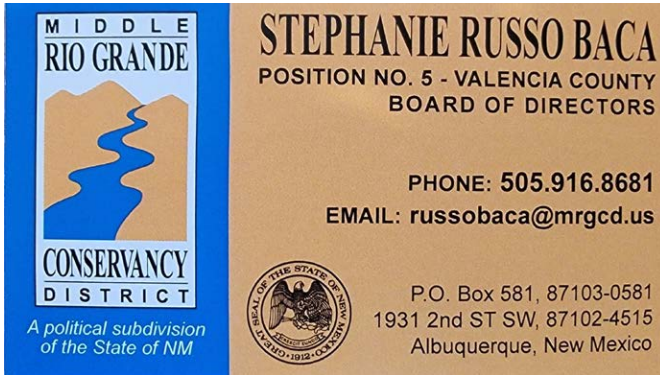
Dear Board members,

Please appoint Colin Baugh to the Conservancy District Board.

Laurie Cubbin

1418 Van Cleave Rd NW 87107

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Colin Baugh
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:10:11 PM



----- Original message -----

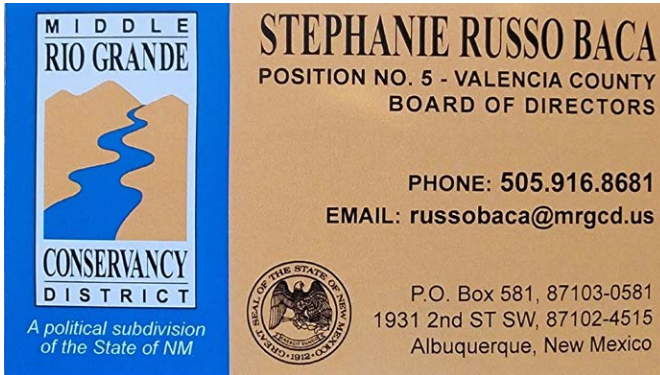
From: Sarah Hamilton <hamhar@gmail.com>
Date: 1/24/24 9:15 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Colin Baugh

Please appoint him to the MRGCD lard. Thank you

Sarah Hamilton 3000 San Patricia Pl NW

Sent from my iPad

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: In support of Colin Baugh
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:10:04 PM



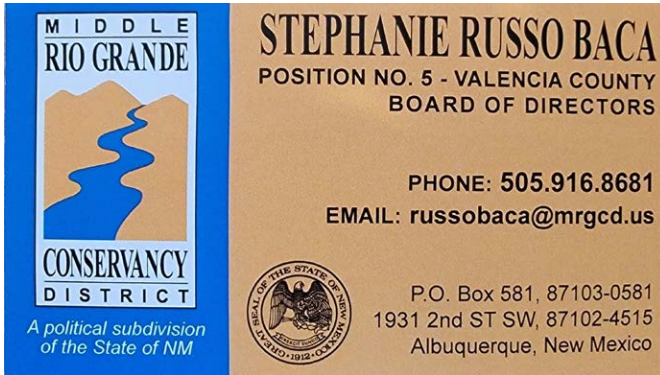
----- Original message -----

From: Carol Heise <cheise3@icloud.com>
Date: 1/24/24 9:16 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: In support of Colin Baugh

We are writing in support of Colin Baugh to fill the current vacancy on the MRGCD. Colin has deep roots in the community and has done a tremendous amount of work in his neighborhood to revitalize the Pierce Lateral. We believe he would be an excellent addition to your agency. Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Heise and Charles Romero
2120 Paseo del Prado NW, next to the Alameda Drain

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: support Colin Baugh for MRGCD
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:10:28 PM



----- Original message -----

From: Deb Hall <debchall@msn.com>
Date: 1/24/24 8:41 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: support Colin Baugh for MRGCD

Dear Ms Russo Baca,

Please support **Colin Baugh** for appointment to fill the vacancy at the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

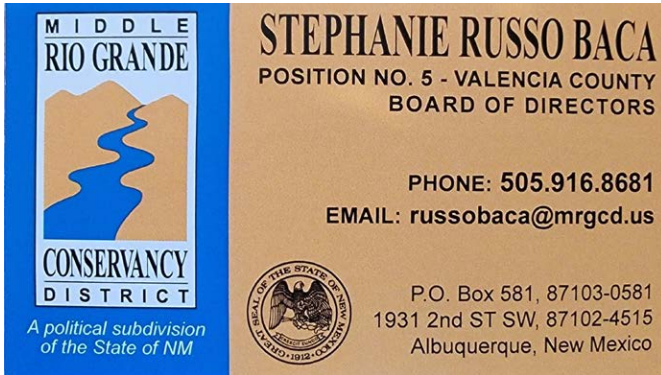
He has long standing hands on experience of work with and on our ditches, and can bring energy and insight into our water needs into the future.

Thank you

Deborah Hall

Albuquerque NM, Rio Grande Middle Conservancy District

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Supporting Colin Baugh's appointment to the Board
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 12:10:21 PM



----- Original message -----

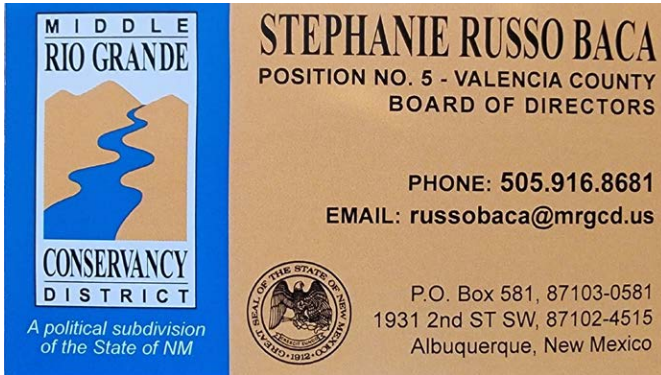
From: Marianne Dickinson <mdickinson50@icloud.com>
Date: 1/24/24 9:06 AM (GMT-07:00)
To:
Subject: Supporting Colin Baugh's appointment to the Board

Greetings board members,
I and my neighbors see Colin Baugh as a perfect representative of our Near North Valley communities, balancing multiple interests while dedicated to the acequia tradition and local farming. Thank you for your consideration.

Marianne Dickinson, Acequia Jardin

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Expressing support for Colin Baugh for MRGCD
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:23:25 AM

To add to special meeting minutes.



----- Original message -----

From: Jeff McConaughy <punditmoi@hotmail.com>
Date: 1/17/24 4:24 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Expressing support for Colin Baugh for MRGCD

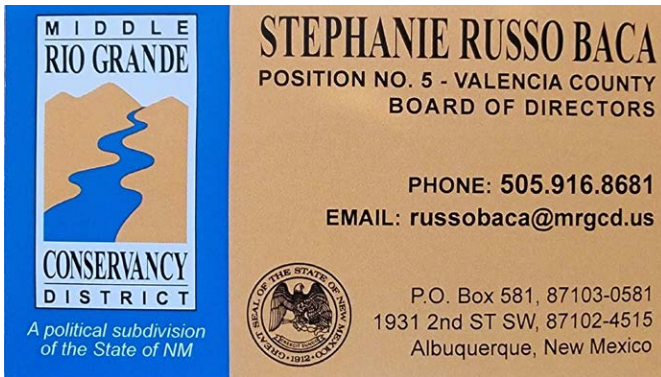
Dear MRGCD Board Members,

I am sending this to express my strong support for Colin T Baugh for the board. I urge you to chose him in your upcoming vote.

Sincerely,
Jeff McConaughy
Albuquerque, NM

From: [Stephanie Russo Baca](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Please appoint Colin Baugh to fill Conservancy Board vacancy
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:23:41 AM

To add to special meeting minutes.



----- Original message -----

From: Dede Feldman <dedefeld@comcast.net>
Date: 1/18/24 10:17 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Brian Jiron <bjiron@mrgcd.us>, Michael Sandoval <msandoval@mrgcd.us>, glenduggins@gmail.com, "John P. Kelly" <jpkelly@mrgcd.us>, Karen Dunning <kdunning@mrgcd.us>, Stephanie Russo Baca <russobaca@mrgcd.us>
Subject: Please appoint Colin Baugh to fill Conservancy Board vacancy

Dear MRGCD members,

As a longtime observer, stakeholder and supporter of the Conservancy District, I hope you will appoint Colin Baugh to the position recently vacated by Joaquin Baca. During my 16 years in the NM Senate (1997-2012) — and since, there have been many changes in the District. But one thing is constant: the need to balance rural and urban needs. Sometimes we in the rapidly developing valley areas of Albuquerque forget our heritage of ditches, acequias and the centrality of water (either too much of it a hundred years ago, or too little of it now) in our lives. That's why I believe it is so important that people like Colin Baugh be appointed to the Conservancy in Jan. 2023. Here is a young man who has chosen to support the local tradition of which we are so proud— neighborhood ditches that can bind a community together and replenish a once thriving agricultural area-- in this case, the Duranes sector of the North Valley.

A few months ago, I walked the ditches that Colin repaired by hand, with help from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and his fellow neighbors. I was particularly impressed by his ability to listen. His hope and his knowledge of current water challenges excited me in a way I haven't been excited for a long time. His approach is already bringing in a new crop of young people, eager to learn about water policy, sustainability and history. It's something the district needs as it enters its 100th year!

I hope you will vote to place Colin Baugh on the Board next week.
Please contact me with any questions at 505-220-5958 or dedefeld@comcast.net

Thank you.

Dede Feldman
1821 Meadow View Dr. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: [Public Information Officer](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: MRGCD Contact Us Form Submission
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:25:03 AM

First Name

Greg

Last Name

Gonzales

Address

1414 White Rim PI NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
United States
[Map It](#)

Email Address

ggonzales1010@hotmail.com

Daytime Phone

(505) 228-1465

Subject

Support for Colin T. Baugh to Board of Directors

Message

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I have known Mr. Baugh for 10 years both in his professional role and as a close personal friend. Colin is a Native New Mexican whose passion is to ensure New Mexico continues to be a State which provides a sustainable healthy environment for all residents to prosper.

Using his passion to drive this State forward in prosperity, he has taken the time to physically explore the watersheds and tributaries in order to understand this infrastructure which is critical to sustaining our way of life. He has seen first-hand, the geographic landscape of these waterways and how they navigate the New Mexico terrain, from the northern mountains through the Middle Rio Grande Valley, to the southern farmlands. All of which, are utilized by various industries (from manufacturing to farming) to create a robust economic base.

I urge you vote Colin Baugh onto the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy Board of Directors, as he is a resource who is trustworthy, dedicated, and passionate about our great State and who will bring ideas and positive energy to the Board to help accomplish its mission.

Should you like to have further discussions with me about Colin, I can be reached at 505-228-1465.
Sincerely,

MRGCD Request for Appointment

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: January 1, 2024 11:09 PM

Your full name

Elaine Hebard

Have you ever used a different name for school or employment? If so, please list the name(s) here.

Elaine Moore Hebard

Your Street Address

1513 Escalante SW

City

Albuquerque

Please select your county of residence.

Bernalillo County

State

New Mexico

Zip Code

87104

Contact phone number

(505) 247-8767

Your email address

ehebard@yahoo.com

What racial or ethnic group(s) best describe you?

Caucasian

Marital status

Married

Are you a New Mexico resident?

yes

If so, how long have you been a New Mexico resident

1967

Are you a registered voter?

yes

Explain why you are interested in serving on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Board of Directors

Using my background in science, law & planning, I've spent the past 25 years collaborating with others regarding our water resource and its management. I would like to put my knowledge to work. I believe that the MRGCD is poised to protect values we all hold most dear. Full statement forwarded.

Are you related to an employee of the State Agency that oversees this board/ commission no

What choice best fits your political affiliation?

Democrat

Have you changed your political party designation in the past 180 days?

no

If yes, please provide the dates of the change

Have you ever been a candidate for any local, state, or federal political office?

yes

If yes, please list positions and, if elected, dates of service

MRGCD in 2011

Have you ever been appointed to any paid or unpaid local, state, or federal position?

yes

If so, please identify the position, dates of service, and by whom you were appointed

Currently serving on the Albuquerque Indicators Progress Commission, appointed by Mayor Keller.

Have served on the Technicl Customer Advisory Committee of the ABCWUA, appointed by the Board.

Do you have any financial or other interests that might present a conflict of interest if you were to be appointed to the position for which you have applied? If yes, please explain in the space below

No

Have you ever received payment as a lobbyist or legislative agent?

no

If so, please list the name(s) of the entity(ies) you represented

Have you ever been found guilty of any criminal law or a traffic violation for which you were fined more than \$100?

no

If yes, please explain in the space below

Are you currently involved, or have you been involved in the past five (5) years in a civil suit?

no

Have you ever been accused of sexual harassment?

no

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, please provide an explanation

Please list all licensed professional or occupational membership affiliations

New Mexico Bar License, inactive

Are you currently an officer, director, partner, majority shareholder, managing member, or holder of a substantial interest in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity?

no

If yes, please list the name(s) and your relationship to the entity(ies)

Do you, your spouse, or any business in which you or your spouse hold 10% or more of the stock or membership interest, have any relationship with any federal, state, or local governments or Indian nation?

no

If yes, please identify every instance

Have you filed all federal and state tax returns that are now due or overdue?

yes

If no, please explain

Have all tax payments, fines, penalties, and interest been paid in full and/or otherwise settled with the taxing authority?

yes

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been initiated against you or your spouse by local, state, or federal authorities?

no

If so, please describe the circumstances and the resolution of the matter

If there are specific designated requirements related to the desired appointment (e.g. age requirements, professional license, or any other statutory or constitutional specification), please state how you meet the requirements

none

Education level

Juris Doctor; completed all course work for Masters in Community and Regional Planning

High school name

Los Alamos High School

City and state of high school

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Year graduated high school

1970

Please provide at least 2 (up to 3) references with contact information. Name of first reference:

Richard Romero, former State Senator

Phone number

(505) 453-1986

Relationship

colleague

Email

richardromero2@gmail.com

Name of second reference

Jorge Garcia

Phone number

(505) 459-4949

Email

<jorge@cesoss.org>; mexicatl@unm.edu

Name of third reference

Enrique Lamadrid

Phone number

(505) 269-5569

Relationship

colleague

Email

lamadrid@unm.edu

Have you ever served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard?

no

Required Field

Do you have a valid New Mexico driver's license?

yes

MRGCD will conduct a criminal background check, including requesting a criminal history from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. This information is kept strictly confidential and will not be released. Driver's license number:

Required fields

I hereby certify that this request contains no willful misrepresentation(s)., I understand that should any investigation disclose such misrepresentation or falsification, my application will be refected, my name removed from consideratin for appointment, or I may be removed from

appointment., I understand that submission of my request does not guarantee appointment. I understand that I may be required to submit to a background check as a condition of appointment., I understand that unsatisfactory results from, refusal to cooperate with, or any attempt to affect the result of these background checks will result in withdrawal of any offer or termination of appointment.

By signing my name below and submitting this request I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

Elaine Hobart

Today's date
January 1, 2024

MRGCD Board Position 4 Applicant Questions

1. What do you believe are the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years and why?

The biggest challenge facing the District right now is how to meet Compact and ESA requirements while fulfilling the promises made to Pueblos and holders of pre-1907 rights given the over allocation of water not to mention the ongoing reduction of surface flows due to climatic changes and more users, especially groundwater ones. To meet that multi-faceted conundrum will require the MRGCD to have sufficient resources to be flexible, to maintain its infrastructure and to collaborate with others while fulfilling its mission.

2. Please describe your understanding of MRGCD's relationship with the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos.

When El Vado is not under repairs, MRGCD provides water storage for Prior and Paramount uses, together with any water available when not under Article VI and VII restrictions. Three of the four diversions points of the District are on Pueblo property, requiring collaboration. Agreements on necessary work and water deliveries are often addressed at the monthly meetings with the Six Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblos Coalition, as well as with employees of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

3. Please describe your understanding of the challenges and opportunities the MRGCD has as increased urbanization continues within the benefited area.

Urban dwellers, such as me, often wonder what benefits the MRGCD provides --other than perhaps flood control-- and would be helped with a greater understanding of them. For instance, the ditches and drains replicate the original braided river, and together with flooded fields, add to the groundwater recharge, which in turn feeds domestic wells and deep water supply wells. Without this coordination, many of the legacy trees in the valley would not survive. The loss of our green belt would not only result in a loss to the groundwater, but would result in a loss of habitat, food security, air quality enhancement, and view sheds. The MRG would not be a green valley!

Countering such a scenario, the MRGCD could develop a neighborhood liaison program to engage the urban user -- through education, involvement (like the Atrisco Riverside Drain Trail) and neighborhood meetings. With such understanding, urbanites could become ardent collaborators in addressing the challenges the District is facing.

4. How would you, as a board member, interact with a constituent with different political views than you?

Listen with respect. For ten years, I successfully practiced law in Otero County, learning to work with various political, economic and social views. That was true in the 1997 to 2004 Regional Water Planning effort. We had to listen to each other in order to talk about solutions, and in

listening, we learned about each other's values. I used those same lessons when developing the subregional plans for the Rios Puerco and Jemez.

5. What are the 2 most important areas of improvement you believe the MRGCD needs to focus on over the next 2 years?

To address the challenges mentioned above, including improved infrastructure, clearly the District will need more resources. To prepare for upcoming regional water planning, collaborating on a regional water budget and depletions analysis are necessary first steps. In addition to the urban liaison position, a precursor to other activities is the continuation of the review of the land agreements (to clarify title, right-of-way, easements, and maintenance responsibilities for ditches in the Conservancy's service area).

6. Why should you be chosen for the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position 4 seat?

I am seeking a seat on the MRGCD Board because, above all else, I would like to help to ensure that those who come after us won't have to make ruthless 'either/or' decisions about who --or what-- has the right to water in the future.

There's no need to remind Board members and rate payers just how difficult the past few years have been in terms of meeting the water needs of all for whom the District is responsible. Lack of storage space in El Vado Reservoir will continue to make deliveries more vulnerable to the whims of Mother Nature, as we saw last year with the lack of a monsoon. Compact debts will continue to drive timing of releases of what water is in storage, that and compliance with ESA requirements. Already-declining river flows will continue to decline due to climate changes, not to mention that increasing temperatures will result in increased demands. Increased groundwater pumping to meet those demands will result in additional declining river flows.

Such concerns would seem to be overwhelming in and of themselves, but the difficulties don't stop there. For decades, we in the middle Rio Grande have been consuming more water than is renewably supplied, making up the difference with groundwater. As an invisible deficit, consequences of living beyond our means may not show up by any specific date.

A major trigger to the litigation with Texas was that our State had permitted too many groundwater uses, which use in turn drew down river flows. In the LRG, the State is encouraging a reduction of surface uses --so as to make deliveries now-- but ultimately depletions will have to be permanently reduced. Which means that groundwater pumping will need to be reduced.

The LRG will be keeping a closer eye on the deliveries to the Butte from the MRG. Since our region has been under-delivering for years, there is no option but to reduce depletions here. And yet we keep adding more. Consider the Maxeon application -- initially 5,600 af per year (to be reduced to approximately 560 af per year) of fresh water. Niagara Bottling has requested permission to triple its pumping, relying on leased water rights from PNM. We continue to act as if there will be new fonts of water to bail us out.

Anyone who seeks to serve as an MRGCD director needs a clear understanding of the conservancy's statutory responsibility to deliver irrigation water, and to provide drainage and flood protection to property in the Rio Grande floodplain. Equally important is an understanding of the tremendous pressure the District faces from increased urbanization, Endangered Species requirements, the uncertainty of water right ownership and priority, recreational use of MRGCD facilities, and increasingly rigorous standards for water quality and infrastructure safety. In addition, we can't forget that drought and climate variations are expected to further limit an already stretched water supply.

Unless there are concentrated efforts to defend both the water and the agency that conveys it, a day may come when there are no verdant ditch trails for walking, jogging or horseback riding; no essential recharge from irrigation to help balance the regional water budget; and no longer the means to produce food locally. The MRGCD is that important.

Using my background in science, law, and planning, I've spent the past twenty five years learning about our water resource and its management in the Middle Rio Grande. That volunteer work provided me with insight into diverse and complex issues, and the opportunity to collaborate with all kinds of water users. I would like to put my knowledge to work. I believe that the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District is well poised to protect the values we all hold most dear.

Water is my passion. I have the statesmanship to undertake policy changes and the vision to ensure surface water is there for future generations.

Elaine Moore Hebard
1513 Escalante SW
Albuquerque, New México 87104
(505) 247-8767
ehbard@yahoo.com

Resume

Education

University of New Mexico

- 1970-1973 Bachelor of University Studies with emphasis in chemistry
- 1973-1976 Juris Doctorate
- 1990-1994 Completed course work for masters in Latin American Studies and Community and Regional Planning

Water-Related Work & Volunteer Activities

- 1977–1987 Private practice in Alamogordo with husband
- 1997-to 2018 Volunteer with Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly / Advocates.
Completed tasks include: devising Community Conversations throughout the region, organizing annual assemblies, creating and presenting materials for various audiences; collaborating with other Assembly advocates to develop the Regional Water Plan, accepted by all local governments in the region; helped to develop the water budget model, which was updated as part of the regional water plan's update.
- 2002-2004 Consultant for the Rio Puerco y Rio Jemez Regional Water Plan
Tasks included holding meetings, and researching and writing plan and summary materials (see Chapter 12 at www.waterassembly.org/waterplan.htm)
- 2005-2010 Member of State Water Plan – Regional Water Plan Advisory Council
- 2000-2008 Mimbres Basin Water Dialogue facilitator
After identifying a problem (no groundwater treaty between the US and Mexico), researched and prepared a background paper; then based on a series of meetings, developed a Roadmap as a mechanism to share information about the mutual life-giving resource
- 2004-2006 Served on ABCWUA's Water Resources Advisory Committee
- 2015-2017 Served on ABCWUA's Technical Customer Advisory Committee
- 1997-date Regularly attend meetings, conferences and workshops on water issues.
- 1990-date Written numerous articles, given talks and read extensively on how to improve water resource management with resiliency as the goal.

From: [karen.lyall](#)
To: [DeAnna.Philips](#)
Subject: MRGCD candidates
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:44:17 AM

Dear MRGCD Board Members,

I would like to endorse Elaine Hebard for the MRGCD position. Her years of experience in water resource management makes her most qualified.

Thank you,

Karen Lyall

1616 Escalante Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: [Ian Colburn](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: MRGCD board appointment
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:43:04 AM

Good morning,

As a resident of the MRGCD voting area and a local farmer working land also within the District's zone, I would like to offer support to some of the candidates under review for appointment to the seat vacated by Joaquin Baca.

I believe Elaine Hebard is the strongest candidate for the position but I also support Colin Baugh and Lee Gamelsky for the job.

Thank you,

Ian Colburn

1002 Arno St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
2126 Cordova Rd SW, Albuquerque NM 87105
505-550-4953

MRGCD Request for Appointment

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: January 5, 2024 1:08 PM

Your full name

Lee Gamelsky

Have you ever used a different name for school or employment? If so, please list the name(s) here.

no

Your Street Address

3230 CAMILO LANE NW

City

Albuquerque

Please select your county of residence.

Bernalillo County

State

NM

Zip Code

87104

Contact phone number

(505) 362-4113

Your email address

lee@lganm.com

What racial or ethnic group(s) best describe you?

Caucasian

Marital status

Married

Are you a New Mexico resident?

yes

If so, how long have you been a New Mexico resident

48 years

Are you a registered voter?

yes

Explain why you are interested in serving on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Board of Directors

With an environmental background and practical land use experience i believe i can be an asset to the district. I understand the challenges that we all phase with climate change and water needs.

Are you related to an employee of the State Agency that oversees this board/commission

no

What choice best fits your political affiliation?

Democrat

Have you changed your political party designation in the past 180 days?

no

If yes, please provide the dates of the change

Have you ever been a candidate for any local, state, or federal political office?

no

If yes, please list positions and, if elected, dates of service

Have you ever been appointed to any paid or unpaid local, state, or federal position?

yes

If so, please identify the position, dates of service, and by whom you were appointed
City of Albuquerque Public Arts Board , City of Albuquerque Landmarks Commission.

Do you have any financial or other interests that might present a conflict of interest if you were to be appointed to the position for which you have applied? If yes, please explain in the space below

no

Have you ever received payment as a lobbyist or legislative agent?

no

If so, please list the name(s) of the entity(ies) you represented

Have you ever been found guilty of any criminal law or a traffic violation for which you were fined more than \$100?

no

If yes, please explain in the space below

Are you currently involved, or have you been involved in the past five (5) years in a civil suit?

no

Have you ever been accused of sexual harassment?

no

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, please provide an explanation

Please list all licensed professional or occupational membership affiliations

NM Architect, No. 1931

Are you currently an officer, director, partner, majority shareholder, managing member, or holder of a substantial interest in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity?

yes

If yes, please list the name(s) and your relationship to the entity(ies)

owenr of Lee Gamelsky Architects P.C.

Do you, your spouse, or any business in which you or your spouse hold 10% or more of the stock or membership interest, have any relationship with any federal, state, or local governments or Indian nation?

yes

If yes, please identify every instance
we have and have had government clients/ contracts.

Have you filed all federal and state tax returns that are now due or overdue?
yes

If no, please explain

Have all tax payments, fines, penalties, and interest been paid in full and/or otherwise
settled with the taxing authority?
yes

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure every been initiated against you or your
spouse by local, state, or federal authorities?
no

If so, please describe the circumstances and the resolution of the matter

If there are specific designated requirements related to the desired appointment (e.g.
age requirements, professional license, or any other statutory or constitutional
specification), please state how you meet the requirements
highest level of Education: Master of Architecture, BS Environmental Science

Education level
Master of Architecture

High school name
JFK

City and state of high school

Bellmore , NY

Year graduated high school

1971

Please provide at least 2 (up to 3) references with contact information. Name of first reference:

Barbara Baca

Phone number

(505) 269-6855

Relationship

friend, and former client representative, when she was the Director of the COA Parks and Recreation Dept.

Email

postbbaca@gmail.com

Name of second reference

David Flores- he is the associate director of the COA Parks and Recreation Dept, in which Lee has worked with him for over 20 years.

Phone number

(505) 235-1868

Email

DFlores@cabq.gov

Name of third reference

Phone number

Relationship

Email

Have you ever served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard?

no

Required Field

Do you have a valid New Mexico driver's license?

yes

MRGCD will conduct a criminal background check, including requesting a criminal history from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. This information is kept strictly confidential and will not be released. Driver's license number:

Last four digits of your SSN

Required fields

I hereby certify that this request contains no willful misrepresentation(s)., I understand that should any investigation disclose such misrepresentation or falsification, my application will be refected, my name removed from consideratin for appointment, or I may be removed from appointment., I understand that submission of my request does not guarantee appointment. I understand that I may be required to submit to a background check as a condition of appointment., I understand that unsatisfactory results from, refusal to cooperate with, or any attempt to affect the result of these background checks will result in withdrawal of any offer or termination of appointment.

By signing my name below and submitting this request I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wei Gao". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Today's date

January 5, 2024

MRGCD Board Position 4 Applicant Questions

Responses by Lee Gamelsky

1. What do you believe are the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years and why?

In meeting the Mission Statement of the MRGCD, the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years are:

- A. Providing sufficient water to meet the district's needs;
- B. Maintain the districts infrastructure;
- C. Maintain the cooperation with all of the numerous agencies and entities.

A. Water Supply

Meeting the needs of farmers, irrigators, riverine habitat, wildlife, and endangered species is a primary challenge to the district.

The delivery of irrigation water within the MRGCD is highly dynamic in that it is dependent on the natural flow of the Rio Grande River.

River flow is subject to the effects of climate change. We have had the hottest temperatures on record for several years. This has led to drought, high evaporation rates, and a decrease in the amount of water availability.

The district has limited water storage capability. El Vado dam is currently undergoing extensive repairs and renovations to its 92 year old, 230' high structure. As the only steel face plated dam in the country, the dam will be out of service for several years.

B. Maintenance

Rivers tend to move to new places and create new pathways. Extending 150 miles from Cochiti Dam south to the northern edge of Elephant Butte Reservoir the district maintains 4 diversion dams, and over 1,000 miles of irrigation canals, laterals, ditches, and drains to serve 11,000 farmers and over 70,000 acres of irrigated land. This infrastructure also supports recreation, and wildlife habitat. Having the monies and budget allocations to support these endeavors is always a challenge.

C. Cooperation

Maintaining the cooperation and participation of the numerous entities within the district will continue to facilitate the district's success in meeting its Mission Statement. In addition, this large group of constituents can support the district in obtaining assistance and monies for future endeavors. Comprising 11,000 farmers; 6 pueblos; the US Department of Interior: Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife; Army Corps of Engineers; Sandoval, Bernalillo, Valencia and Socorro Counties; cities, towns and villages along the river; the district has a tremendous lobbying capacity.

2. Please describe your understanding of MRGCD's relationship with the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos.

More than a thousand years ago the Pueblo people of the Rio Grande River Valley developed irrigation systems. Those same systems were expanded by the Spanish after they arrived in New Mexico at the end of the 16th century. In the early 1920's, Pablo Abeita of Isleta Pueblo was a leader and instrumental in the creation of the MRGCD.

As stated in the Water Distribution Policy of the MRGCD:

The Pueblos occupy a unique position legally, historically, culturally, and physically within the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Scheduling of water deliveries to Pueblo lands is normally done by Pueblo majordomos, in cooperation with MRGCD staff. The MRGCD, to the greatest extent possible, will cooperate with the Pueblo majordomos to meet Pueblo water needs. Pueblo irrigators and majordomos are encouraged to follow scheduling of water delivery in a manner similar to non-Pueblo lands. Certain Pueblo lands have been designated by the US Congress as having "Prior and Paramount" water rights. During times of shortage, these lands will receive water preferentially over all other MRGCD lands and the MRGCD will coordinate with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Designated Engineer to assure Prior and Paramount water deliveries to the Pueblos. Allocations of water to all Pueblo Lands shall be carried out in strict conformance with the Act of February 14, 1927 (44 Stat. 109), the Act of March 13, 1928 (45 Stat. 312) and the Act of August 27, 1935 (49 Stat. 887).

In essence, during times of drought and low water availability certain Pueblo lands that have been granted 'Prior and Paramount' water rights have preference to receive water over non-Pueblo lands.

3. Please describe your understanding of the challenges and opportunities the MRGCD has as increased urbanization continues within the benefitted area.

Since the arrival of the railroad in the 1880's, the land form of the Middle Rio Grande Valley has changed drastically. From an economy based on sheep grazing we developed irrigated farms, industrialized, and urbanized our ecology.

The Albuquerque division is the most urbanized area within the MRGCD. Nevertheless, the district has had an increase in urbanization.

The increase in urbanization has increased the amount of impervious land, thus reducing the amount of percolation and water that permeates down into the water table.

As stated on the MRGCD website: Urbanization has 'complicated' the delivery system of irrigation water. Open ditches have disappeared into pipe. The increase in subdivision of the land has increased the number of turnouts and increased the number of casual irrigators. Meeting the needs of casual irrigators along with farmers pose challenges as we deal with climate change and drought.

Per the MRGCD website: 73% of the 316 miles of water conveyance channels in the Albuquerque Division are used recreationally, and 34% of all of the District's waterways are classified as recreation use.

As more people are using the ditches for horse, bicycle, running, walking, bird watching, and fishing there is an increased need for maintenance. In addition, the increase of recreational use has impacted the riverine and wildlife habitat.

Nevertheless, with the challenges of conducting maintenance of the ditches while maintaining acceptable recreation paths, and improving wildlife habitat, there are education opportunities via signage and public outreach where people can gain a better understanding of the ecosystem.

Drains and wastewater channels can be 're-engineered' to improve wildlife habitat. Open water channels can be 're-engineered' to provide access along certain stretches of the canals.

As my property adjoins the Rio Grande Bosque, I can attest that the number of recreational users within the Albuquerque District has increased significantly since Covid. Maintaining and enhancing the recreational opportunities within the urbanized areas why enhancing the riverine and wildlife habitat is one of the best ways that the MRGCD fulfills their mission.

4. How would you, as a board member interact with a constituent with different political views than you?

As John Fleck, author, researcher, and Utton Center Scholar said at the MRGCD Centennial Celebration last year:

If we are going to understand our community, start with water, as water is one of the successful means by which people can come together.

As the district spans 150 miles, it encompasses many organizations, governmental agencies, and people with different agendas and some with common goals and ideals.

As I have served on several public boards and commissions (City of Albuquerque Public Arts Board and Landmarks Commission) I have always tried to be honest, respectful, fair, find common ground, ask questions to promote a better understanding, and always stick to the facts.

Regardless of what a constituent's political views are, I would treat them with the same courtesy and respect that I would with any other person.

5. What are the 2 most important areas of improvement you believe the MRGCD needs to focus on over the next 2 years?

The two most important areas of improvement that I believe the MRGCD should focus on over the next 2 years is maintaining and enhancing recreation opportunities while improving riverine and wildlife habitat in urban areas of the district, and to promote best irrigation practices.

Maintaining and Enhancing Recreation Opportunities while Improving the Riverine and Wildlife Habitat.

As the MRGCD Board Position 4 represents Bernalillo County, which lies within the most urbanized area of the district I believe the district should maintain and enhance the vast expanse of existing recreation infrastructure while improving riverine and wildlife habitat. A recent example of this is the Atrisco Acequia Madre project which is a partnership of the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and the district.

In addition, we should look at conducting experimental projects whereby the vegetation is left in place on drains and wasteways to promote a diversified wildlife habitat; and after major maintenance operations are complete, pathways should be leveled to enhance the recreation users experience.

Promote Best Irrigation Practices

As drought conditions continue the district should study and measure the inflow and outflow of irrigation water in ‘real time’ along canals and acequias. This will help obtain data on usage vs. waste and therefore help in the future allocation of water during times of drought.

In promoting best irrigation practices the district needs to keep their website up to date, letting the public know what the district is doing, when water is scheduled, etc.

The district should also partner with other agencies and academic institutions in obtaining grants to study best practices. IE: Research the possibilities of using ditch water, storing it, filtering it and then pumping it into a drip irrigation system. As climate change is here, temperatures are rising, we need to be proactive in implementing new initiatives.

6. Why should you be chosen for the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position 4 seat?

I should be selected to fill the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position 4 seat because of my extensive experience, education, and commitment to a better environment for all.

I am a part-time farmer and beekeeper. Though I use well water, I am surrounded by MRGCD water conveyances. As I live adjacent to the Bosque and recreate in it on a continual basis I have a great understanding of the ecosystem, habitat and recreational users of the District.

My undergraduate degree is in Environmental Science and Studio Art. I have a Masters of Architecture from UNM. I have been a licensed architect for over 38 years and practiced within the profession for 46 years. I understand design, construction, civil engineering, grading and drainage design. I understand and am experienced with the legality and laws of land ownership, easements, zoning, planning, and the entitlement processes. I am also a licensed NM General Contractor, GB-98.

I have served over 9 years on public boards and commissions. I am currently vice-president of the Los Duranes neighborhood Association, and a City of Albuquerque Landmarks Commissioner. I am very well versed on the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and understand proper public etiquette.

I understand personally how climate change is affecting us all. I am very concerned about our river, water supply, conveyance system, water quality and how it effects our habitat.

Agua es Vida

From: amendolagine@juno.com
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: Board
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:28:12 AM

Dear Deanna,

I highly recommend Lee Gamelsky for Mrgcd board. He is a man of the highest integrity, is sharp, Is well versed in these matters, and has a very strong commitment to the people of Albuquerque and the earth.

Vincent Amendolagine PT

MRGCD Request for Appointment

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: January 8, 2024 1:31 PM

Your full name

Simon T. (Scooter) Haynes

Have you ever used a different name for school or employment? If so, please list the name(s) here.

Your Street Address

PO Box 9043

City

Albuquerque

Please select your county of residence.

Bernalillo County

State

NM

Zip Code

87119

Contact phone number

(505) 898-6622

Your email address

scooter@scmpartners.com

What racial or ethnic group(s) best describe you?

Marital status

Are you a New Mexico resident?

yes

If so, how long have you been a New Mexico resident

Life long

Are you a registered voter?

yes

Explain why you are interested in serving on the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's Board of Directors

To serve the constituents and irrigators of the MRGCD by providing a fiscally conservative and operationally responsive voice to the Board.

Are you related to an employee of the State Agency that oversees this board/
commission no

What choice best fits your political affiliation?

Independent/Decline to State

Have you changed your political party designation in the past 180 days?

no

If yes, please provide the dates of the change

Have you ever been a candidate for any local, state, or federal political office?

yes

If yes, please list positions and, if elected, dates of service

Candidate for MRGCD Position No. 4 - Bernalillo County in 2021

Have you ever been appointed to any paid or unpaid local, state, or federal position?

no

If so, please identify the position, dates of service, and by whom you were appointed

Do you have any financial or other interests that might present a conflict of interest if you were to be appointed to the position for which you have applied? If yes, please explain in the space below

No

Have you ever received payment as a lobbyist or legislative agent?

no

If so, please list the name(s) of the entity(ies) you represented

Have you ever been found guilty of any criminal law or a traffic violation for which you were fined more than \$100?

no

If yes, please explain in the space below

Are you currently involved, or have you been involved in the past five (5) years in a civil suit?

yes

Have you ever been accused of sexual harassment?

no

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, please provide an explanation

Civil Lawsuit related to Business

Please list all licensed professional or occupational membership affiliations

NM Real Estate Associate Broker

Are you currently an officer, director, partner, majority shareholder, managing member, or holder of a substantial interest in any corporation, partnership, or other business entity?

yes

If yes, please list the name(s) and your relationship to the entity(ies)

Multiple, as partner, manager, and officer.

Do you, your spouse, or any business in which you or your spouse hold 10% or more of the stock or membership interest, have any relationship with any federal, state, or local governments or Indian nation?

no

If yes, please identify every instance

Have you filed all federal and state tax returns that are now due or overdue?

yes

If no, please explain

Have all tax payments, fines, penalties, and interest been paid in full and/or otherwise settled with the taxing authority?

yes

Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been initiated against you or your spouse by local, state, or federal authorities?

no

If so, please describe the circumstances and the resolution of the matter

If there are specific designated requirements related to the desired appointment (e.g. age requirements, professional license, or any other statutory or constitutional specification), please state how you meet the requirements

Education level

BS and BBA

High school name

Sandia Preparatory School

City and state of high school
Albuquerque, NM

Year graduated high school
2001

Please provide at least 2 (up to 3) references with contact information. Name of first reference:

Chris Sichler

Phone number
(505) 610-2838

Relationship
Friend, fellow farmer, former MRGCD Board Member

Email
cjsichler@yahoo.com

Name of second reference
Jim Roberts

Phone number
(505) 270-3399

Email
robertsjt3@comcast.net

Name of third reference

Phone number

Relationship

Email

Have you ever served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard?

no

Required Field

Do you have a valid New Mexico driver's license?

yes

MRGCD will conduct a criminal background check, including requesting a criminal history from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety. This information is kept strictly confidential and will not be released. Driver's license number:

Required fields

I hereby certify that this request contains no willful misrepresentation(s)., I understand that should any investigation disclose such misrepresentation or falsification, my application will be relected, my name removed from consideratin for appointment, or I may be removed from appointment., I understand that submission of my request does not guarantee appointment. I

understand that I may be required to submit to a background check as a condition of appointment., I understand that unsatisfactory results from, refusal to cooperate with, or any attempt to affect the result of these background checks will result in withdrawal of any offer or termination of appointment.

By signing my name below and submitting this request I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' shape with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Today's date
January 8, 2024

MRGCD Board Position 4 Applicant Questions

Scooter Haynes

1. What do you believe are the 3 biggest challenges the MRGCD faces over the next 5 years and why?

- **Water Supply and Storage:** Our changing water supply as we face dry vs. wet years is a major challenge in determining how the MRGCD manages its obligations for delivery of water. This is further complicated by the District's inability to currently store water. These circumstances have caused major challenges with delivery obligations, and with compact compliance. The following are more areas of challenge that impact our water supply and storage:
 - El Vado dam: The infrastructure projects at El Vado Dam and the years it is taking to complete the work create a cascading effect of further challenges for the MRGCD to manage, including storage and delivery issues.
 - Cross Storage Agreements: Without agreements in place to allow for utilization of other facilities when the MRGCD is in a position to store water, the District is missing out on opportunities to improve delivery of water to irrigators and Compact compliance.
 - Article 7 of the Rio Grande Compact: Maintaining compliance with the Rio Grande Compact is a huge burden that the MRGCD faces. The need for storage opportunities for the MRGCD is a major issue.

- **Aging Infrastructure and its Maintenance and Repair:** As an irrigator off the Corrales Main and the Summerford I have been in the unfortunate position of being at the mercy of one of the MRGCD's greatest infrastructure failures: the Corrales siphon collapse and failure. As we head into the third year of the District being unable to fully serve and deliver water to its westside irrigators due to the infrastructure failure, and failure to timely repair, I can assure you that proactive management is of utmost importance to me.

- **Politicalization and Bureaucratization of the MRGCD:** The MRGCD is supposed to be a non-partisan body. In past MRGCD elections and in this current process for appointment of a board member the public and political operatives are discussing party politics and trying to falsely identify people as one party or another in an effort to attempt to sway Board member and public input. The work of the MRGCD board should not involve partisan politics. Its work is not and should not become political. The focus should remain on managing the District and its responsibilities to its constituents and irrigators. As the MRGCD's staffing and project work increases, the largess of its overhead spending and the complications that come with that increase also cause me concern. Fiscal responsibility and management of such a large organization are paramount to holding the MRGCD accountable to its constituents.

2. Please describe your understanding of MRGCD's relationship with the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos.

The MRGCD is a service provider to the irrigators of the 6 Middle Rio Grande Pueblos. The MRGCD has an obligation to deliver water including Prior and Paramount water to the Pueblos.

3. Please describe your understanding of the challenges and opportunities the MRGCD has as increased urbanization continues within the Benefited Area.

Increased urbanization allows for a greater tax base within the Benefited Area, translating to increased funding for the MRGCD. The MRGCD must provide improved communication and transparency as to the benefits of living or owning property within the Benefited Area. While urbanization may create a decrease in water delivery requirements, there are increased pressures on District facilities and other demands on water usage (with or without rights), including, for example, recreation. It's important to note that decreased water delivery can also cause harm to the recreational use and enjoyment of those accessing District facilities.

4. How would you, as a board member, interact with a constituent with different political views than you?

The MRGCD is a non-partisan quasi-governmental entity. Politics should have little to do with its governance. Additionally, I do not align with either major political party, which allows me to better listen and understand everyone's views. In a time where there is so much divisiveness surrounding politics, it is imperative that we listen more, and engage in respectful dialogue to understand others' points of view and concerns. We may not always agree, but respect and conversation are a must in all situations.

5. What are the 2 most important areas of improvement you believe the MRGCD needs to focus on over the next 2 years?

- Communication with Constituents: When I first ran for this seat in 2021, I talked about the need for increased communication from the Board and District. Since then, some small changes have been made, like updates about the water reports being made available on the website – but not much else. As was evidenced at several Board meetings last summer, a huge failure in communication to irrigators about what delivery and schedules looked like, who to communicate with, and then continued receipt of inaccurate information from ISOs – there is still a lot of work to be done.
- Water management and delivery, including infrastructure repair and maintenance.

6. Why should you be chosen for the vacant Bernalillo County Board Position 4 seat?

I have shown my interest and commitment to serve on the MRGCD Board by previously running for this position. I have a depth of historical knowledge about the MRGCD and its operations, and challenges it faces due to my involvement and interactions with MRGCD staff and Board Members. I also have resources available to me such as advisors with a breadth of knowledge of ongoing water issues in New Mexico, along with constituents who irrigate, those who only use MRGCD facilities for recreation, and those who do neither – but are still assessed by the District. The knowledge, opinions, concerns and ideas of these people will assist in my ability to serve the MRGCD well.

I would bring a unique perspective to the board as a small business owner and employer – someone who must face the realities of managing a business, personnel and the day-to-day operations that go with that. I have direct and hands on experience in farming, construction, business management and planning. I was born and raised in the middle Rio Grande and have spent my life working with and engaging with the MRGCD as a farmer and constituent.

Scooter Haynes

Simon T. (Scooter) Haynes
PO Box 9043, Albuquerque, NM 87119
(505) 898-6622 | scooter@scmpartners.com

Professional Summary

Experienced business owner, real estate professional, farmer and community member seeking to impact management and implementation of policies at the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

As a 4th generation New Mexican I have spent my life living along the Rio Grande and feeling its immediate impact in my personal and professional life. I grew up farming and learning how to manage crops, irrigation schedules. I learned quickly how good and bad water years impact livestock, crops and the livelihood of those supported by each. As a real estate and construction professional I have seen the impact of water policy, Rio Grande Compact requirements and changing river and environmental conditions on our communities.

My experience in managing employees, running multiple businesses, and my direct experience as a farmer and irrigator will bring a unique and helpful perspective to the MRGCD Board to bring forward and implement policies that will benefit constituents and farmers.

Experience

Architectural Contractors, Inc.

2006 – Current

Vice President

- Architectural Contractors Inc. is a captive General Contractor providing horizontal and vertical construction services for commercial and residential projects.

Capworks Corporation

2006 - Current

President

- Capworks Corporation provides property management services for commercial property throughout New Mexico.

Capworks Agri-Business, LLC

2006 – Current

Managing Member

- Farming owned and leased property in the middle Rio Grande Valley of the Albuquerque metropolitan area. Current and past farming activities have included market crops, forage feed and permanent pasture of up to 60 acres.

SCM Partners, LLC

2003 – Current

Partner

- SCM Partners, LLC is a family-owned real estate holding company that builds, owns, and manages commercial properties throughout New Mexico.

Mesilla Valley Feeders, LLC
September 2002 – August 2005
Partner

- MVF Operated a 2000 head feedlot which serviced the dairy and beef industry in southern New Mexico.

Laser Farms
1995 – 2002
Owner

- Sold farmed and brokered agricultural products to the equine and livestock community.

Community Involvement

NAIOP Governmental Affairs Committee
June 2022 – Present
Member

- Provides analysis and input regarding policies which impact businesses in New Mexico.
- Works to educate the business community about policy-making, and new rules and procedures implemented by governmental entities.

CCIM National Strategic Planning Committee
January 2016 to December 2016
Member

- Provided strategic planning direction and guidance to the CCIM National Board of Directors for policy, planning, and membership expansion.

CCIM New Mexico Board (Certified Commercial Investment Manager)
January 2011 to December 2016
President, and Board Member

- Active Board Member for over 5 years providing governance and financial advice to the leadership team.
- Created the New Mexico CCIM Chapter's first endowed scholarship to support real estate professionals seeking the CCIM designation for training and coursework associated with the designation.

Education

- **Bachelor of Business Administration** – New Mexico State University, May 2009
- **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture** – New Mexico State University, December 2009
- **High School Diploma** – Sandia Preparatory School, Albuquerque, NM, June 2001

From: [Janelle Johnson](#)
To: [DeAnna Phillips](#)
Subject: Scooter Haynes
Date: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:55:11 AM

Hi DeAnna . . .

We have lived in the Village of Los Ranchos since 1981 along the Pueblo Lateral. Scooter and his wife's family have been amazing stewards of our acequia, and are authentically caring members of our agricultural community.

We see one of his family members on a daily basis walking the family dog, and this individual takes the time to pick up canine feces droppings from the irresponsible members of our community each time they use the trail.

Their family has made Los Ranchos and the acequias their home for far longer than we have. It is our opinion that they have a deep knowledge and respect for the sacred waters of the acequias and will continue to be good stewards is Scooter is appointed to this unexpired term.

Kind Regards,
Janelle

Janelle Miller Johnson
Community Management Group LLC
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[505] 344-0822 tel / [505] 345-6033 fax