

## **Stephanie Russo Baca Board Reports October 14, 2024**

### **Report on the Tribal Water Law Conference, September 9-10, 2024**

The conference highlights tribal water law. A vital conference topic was Pueblo water rights and tribal water rights settlements. This topic is especially important because the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos are starting a tribal water rights settlement. The ISC also presented at this conference.

### **Report on the Centennial Committee Meeting, September 11, 2024**

The Centennial Committee finalized the updated logo for the centennial celebration and the list of events that MRGCD will be attending to celebrate the centennial next year.

### **Report on the La Joya Site Visit, September 13, 2024- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/r7P7KfNuqzHz7XhJ6>**

MRGCD staff and I toured the La Joya facilities as part of the ongoing conversations with the La Joya Acequia Association, potentially joining the benefitted area of the MRGCD.

### **Report on the Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting, September 19, 2024**

#### Current Hydrology Update – Casey Ish

Del Norte (S L Valley) –512 (July) – 687 (August) – 646 (September)  
 Lobatos (NM/CO Line) –120 (July) – 187 (August) - 39 (September)  
 La Puente (Chama) –60 (July) – 174 ( August) – 86 (September)  
 Below Abiquiu (Chama) –295 (July) – 300 ( August) – 143 (September)  
 Otowi (Main Stem) –433 (July) – 772 (August) – 486 (September)  
 Below Cochiti –263 (July) – 599 ( August) – 339 (September)  
 Bosque Farms –103 (July) – 38 ( August) – 40 (September)  
 Narrows (Just above EB) –44 (July) – 79 ( August) – 40 (September)  
Peralta WW OCS Update – Casey Ish

- Gates have been purchased and will be delivered in early October

#### Water Leasing Program Application Update – Ashley Veihl

- Screen design complete
- Connection to County databases to verify ownership is almost complete

#### Personnel Update- Ashley Veihl

This was Ashley's last CAC meeting,

### **Report on The VCSWCD Annual Desert Willow & Pollinator Festival, September 21, 2024- Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area**

This festival highlighted the importance of native plants and pollinators in our natural areas, especially in the bosque. Many great booths shared excellent information about pollinator habitat and the importance of soil health, native species, and diverse ecosystems. Bees and prairie dogs were on display. Additionally, water groups were there, and I represented MRGCD.

### **Report on the Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting, September 24, 2024**

Discussion on the budget as well as union negotiations talks.

### **Report on the Vasquez Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting, September 26, 2024**

This discussion revolved mainly around the farm bill and how it will affect NM and those who utilize the programs it funds, such as the NRCS programs and all the farm bill titles. A new farm bill has not yet been passed, but hopefully, it will soon. Further, U.S. Representative Gabe Vasquez (N.M.-02) announced the introduction of his bill, the *Farmer-to-Farmer Education Act*, which supports farmers by creating mentorship programs where experienced farmers can provide hands-on training and guidance to new producers.

### **Report on the Coalition of Rio Grande Water Users 2024 Conference, October 1 – 3, 2024**

This was the second annual CRGWUA conference. Many great speakers highlighted water users on the Rio Grande. Speakers included the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers. Speakers represented NM, TX, CO, and a panel of farmers.

### **Report on the Legislative Committee Meeting, October 7, 2024**

Discussions were on the upcoming legislative session and MRGCD priorities. These include the possible introduction of recreational statutes protecting special districts. MRGCD is also planning a social network hour with legislators in Santa Fe to celebrate the centennial.

### **Report on the Meeting with CABQ Parks & Rec / MRGCD: E-Bikes Paved Multi-Use Trails, October 9, 2024**

There was a discussion regarding e-bikes with Dave Simon, Director of CABQ Parks and Rec, where CABQ and MRGCD have a JPA and MRGCD public process regarding E-Bikes.

### **Report on the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Coalition Meeting, October 10**

Mr. Casuga presented the MRGCD Water Operations update, rotation schedule, cultural uses, startup date for 2025, and an MRGCD Elections/ LEA update.