

Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

Date: July 14, 2026

Time: Dinner at 6:00 PM | Call to Order at 7:00 PM

Location: NRCS Field Office, 307 12th Street, Carrizozo, NM 88301

Attendance

Board Members Present:

- Bryan Hightower (Chair)
- Barbie Roper
- Melvin Johnson
- Kendal Wilson
- Jim Grider
- Gray Gallacher

Board Members Absent:

- Ron Merritt

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Bryan Hightower.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to the board.

- **Motion:** Made by Kendal Wilson to approve the agenda as presented with Chair modifications.

- **Second:** Gray Gallacher.
- **Vote:** Motion carried.

3. Cost-Share Programs

The board reviewed and acted upon the following Agricultural Cost-Share applications:

- **Mel Gnatkowski:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Barbie Roper to approve.
 - *Second:* Melvin Johnson. *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **Dan Bell:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Melvin Johnson to approve.
 - *Second:* Barbie Roper. *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **Ross Griffin:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Melvin Johnson to approve.
 - *Second:* Kendal Wilson. *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **Jack Davidson:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Barbie Roper to approve.
 - *Second:* Jim Grider. *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **Gray Gallacher:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Melvin Johnson to approve.
 - *Second:* Barbie Roper. *Vote:* Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from both the June 9, 2026 regular meeting and the recent Special Meeting were presented for review.

- **Motion:** Made by Jim Grider to approve both sets of minutes.

- **Second:** Kendal Wilson.
- **Vote:** Motion carried.

5. Financial Reports and Bills

The board reviewed financial packets and signed corresponding vouchers.

- **June Monthly Financial Report:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Barbie Roper to approve the June report pending policy review regarding over-the-phone meeting attendance.
 - *Second:* Gray Gallacher.
 - *Vote:* Approved pending policy review.
- **June Mileage and Per Diem Reimbursements:**
 - *Motion:* Made by Kendal Wilson to approve.
 - *Second:* Melvin Johnson.
 - *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **FY 25-26 Fourth Quarter Financial Report:**
 - *Motion:* Motion made and carried to approve the Q4 report.

6. Agency and District Reports

- **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):** Report submitted by Katie Crayton (see supporting documents).
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Report submitted by Maggie Gnann (see supporting documents).
- **Farm Service Agency (FSA):** Melvin Johnson reported that FSA meetings occur every other month. Interviews for the area director position are scheduled for August after opening the application portal to a wider applicant pool. Noted Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) funding availability based on 70%–75% drought conditions in the state.
- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM):** Not Present

- **Carrizozo SWCD Report:** District operational updates provided by Fernando Najera.

7. New Business

- **FY 25-26 Budget Adjustment:** Presented for formal board approval.
 - *Motion:* Made by Melvin Johnson to approve the FY 25-26 budget adjustments.
 - *Second:* Barbie Roper.
 - *Roll Call Vote:* Motion carried.
 - **Bryan Hightower:** Yes
 - **Barbie Roper:** Yes
 - **Melvin Johnson:** Yes
 - **Kendal Wilson:** Yes
 - **Jim Grider:** Yes
 - **Gray Gallacher:** Yes
 - **Ron Merritt:** Absent
- **FY 25-26 4th Quarter Resolution:** Presented for approval, contingent upon budget adjustments.
 - *Motion:* Made by Gray Gallacher to approve the 4th Quarter Resolution pending budget adjustment approval.
 - *Second:* Kendal Wilson.
 - *Roll Call Vote:* Motion carried.
 - **Bryan Hightower:** Yes
 - **Barbie Roper:** Yes
 - **Melvin Johnson:** Yes
 - **Kendal Wilson:** Yes

- **Jim Grider:** Yes
 - **Gray Gallacher:** Yes
 - **Ron Merritt:** Absent
- **FY 26-27 Budget Approval & Adoption:** Formal budget presented for board adoption.
 - *Motion:* Made by Kendal Wilson to approve and adopt the FY 26-27 Budget.
 - *Second:* Barbie Roper.
 - *Roll Call Vote:* Motion carried.
 - **Bryan Hightower:** Yes
 - **Barbie Roper:** Yes
 - **Melvin Johnson:** Yes
 - **Kendal Wilson:** Yes
 - **Jim Grider:** Yes
 - **Gray Gallacher:** Yes
 - **Ron Merritt:** Absent
- **Lincoln County Fair Sponsorship:** Board discussed support for youth exhibitors.
 - *Motion:* Made by Kendal Wilson to allocate \$100 to each youth participant who does not make the junior livestock sale, and to purchase animals from district youth exhibitors during the auction.
 - *Second:* Jim Grider.
 - *Vote:* Motion carried.
- **Lincoln County Fair Buyers Clubs Sponsorships:** Reviewed; no buyers club funding allocated at this time.

- **August 11 Meeting Schedule Adjustment:** Board addressed scheduling conflicts with the Western SARE meeting.
 - *Motion:* Made by Melvin Johnson to change the August 11, 2026 meeting location to El Corral Cafe and adjust the meeting time to 4:30 PM.
 - *Second:* Kendal Wilson.
 - *Vote:* Motion carried.

8. Old Business

- **MOA with NMSU:** Confirmed that the Memorandum of Agreement with New Mexico State University for the District Opportunities Grant has been officially signed.

9. Adjournment

- **Motion:** Made by Kendal Wilson to adjourn.
- **Second:** [Second not recorded].
- **Vote:** Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Next Meeting Notice

Date: August 11, 2026

Timeline: Meeting at 4:30 PM

Location: El Corral Cafe (adjusted location/time for Western SARE event)

Virtual Access: Call 575-315-6585 if virtual link/access is required.

Minutes submitted for approval by: _____