**Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

*New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division*

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[*http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/*](http://www.nmda.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-conservation-districts/)

**May 2018**

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| April 30th  | 3rd quarterly budget report due to DFA‐LGD (cc: SWCC, SWCC Region Commissioner and NMDA Specialist). |
| April/May | Pass annual mil levy rate resolution and submit to the SWCC for approval by June 1st (cc: your NMDA Specialist). |
| April/May | Appointed Supervisor Positions due to the SWCC by June 1st (cc: your NMDA Specialist). See item #3. |
| May 15th or July 1st (Depending on annual budget, see more information in item #2) | Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form and the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor. This applies to Tiers 3-7. |
| June | Finalize annual work plan for coming fiscal year. |
| June 1 | Budget and budget resolution for the coming fiscal year due to DFA‐LGD, (cc: SWCC and SWCC Region Commissioner). |
| July 15 | Point System Worksheet due. |

1. **Point System Worksheets – Things to Know before Submitting**

NMDA would like to remind all SWCDs to use the new Point System Worksheet for FY17-18, which is attached. Below is a brief overview of the worksheet’s requirements:

Items 1-5 will be required to attain the base allocation awarded by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. If any one of items 1-5 is incomplete, the SWCD will not receive their base allocation of $2,500.

The following must be completed and/or submitted:

1. Open Meetings Act Resolution passed and effective 1/1/2018.
2. Quorum present at board meetings (1 point per meeting; 10 points max).
3. Point system score sheet and supporting documentation must be submitted no later than 7/15/2018.
4. All DFA quarterly reports and budgets submitted to SWCC.
5. Annual report of activities for FY16 submitted to SWCC.

For items 6-9, please do not repeat activities in the spreadsheet, as they will be only be counted once. A single activity or accomplishment will earn points in **only one** category. Except where indicated, activities must have occurred July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 to earn points.

**It is not too late to submit DFA quarterly reports and budget to the SWCC, the SWCC should have been emailed a copy of each for the FY17-18. Be sure to submit all quarterly reports and budgets before June 30th. As a reminder, if any of the items 1-5 are incomplete, which includes not submitting required documents to the SWCC, the base allocation of $2,500 will not be awarded.**

Please contact your specialist with any questions on the new Point System Worksheet.

1. **AUP Deadlines**

SWCD **Audit/AUP contract** must be completed by July 1st. (Unless your annual budget is $500,000 or more, then the due date is **May 15th**.) All contracts must also be completed online using the NM State Auditor’s online portal OSA-Connect. For more information about OSA-Connect call Chris Garcia at (505) 476-3814 or Frank Valdez at the same number.

**AUP reports** should be completed and submitted to the NM State Auditor by December 15.

1. **Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations**

Please submit your Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations to the SWCC by **June 1st**. Appointed Supervisor nominations should be submitted for **each** supervisor in positions 6 and 7.

1. **Presentation & Demonstration on Seepage Control for Dirt Tanks/Ponds**

This will be held on May 22 at 12:30 pm at the Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District office in Capitan. Their office is located at 516 Smokey Bear Blvd., Capitan, NM. If you have questions, please contact Wanda at 575-354-2220 or Karyn at 575-937-8868. Please refer to the attachment for more information.

1. **NM Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition Spring Workshop**

The NM Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition will hold their annual spring workshop May 10th and 11th at the Hotel Encanto, in Las Cruces. The theme for this year’s NMWDOC workshop is Mitigating Hazards of Aging Dams and Restoration of Degraded Watersheds.

Hotel Encanto will offer discounted room rates of $99.00 per night for guests attending the workshop.  To reserve your hotel room, call 575-522-4300 or 866-383-0443 and reference the NMWDOC conference.

This year’s presentations will include:

\*(presentations vary on One Day or Two Day registration)

* State of New Mexico Dams
* Update on NM Activities of the NRCS and Dam Watch
* Report on PMP Analysis Tool
* Lessons learned from Dam Emergency Evacuations
* Update from the National Watershed Coalition
* Update on studies and programs developed by the Rio Grande Water Fund
* Rincon watershed
* Raton watershed recovery
* Other watershed initiatives
* Recent lesson learned from a dam in New Mexico
* Cutting edge modeling
* Tools for simplifying EAP’s
* Developing EAP’s that will work for Emergency Managers, Value of Exercising Plans
* NMDHSEM perspective EAP’s and Dam Safety, and funding opportunities

\*Day Two will continue with a field trip and tour to Elephant Butte Dam

For more information, visit: <https://nmwsc.org/wp/workshops/nmwdoc-spring-workshop/nmwdoc-spring-workshop/>, or call Cheri Dunkleberger at (505) 821-6646.

1. **Listening Sessions with Ag Producers**

NMSU’s College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences Dean Rolando Flores and NM Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte will host two listening sessions. The first session will be held on May 31 in Belen and the second session will be held July 18 in Alamogordo. Time and place have yet to be announced.

For more information, please visit: <https://newscenter.nmsu.edu/Articles/view/13002/nmsu-nmda-agricultural-leaders-listening-sessions-begin-in-roswell-march-28> .

1. **House Bill 98**

House Bill 98 (HB 98) enacts the Local Election Act, which provides for a single election day and uniform processes for certain local government elections. The bill provides that certain ballot measure elections that are held at times other than with regular local elections will only be conducted by mailed ballot and also requires special statewide ballot question elections to be conducted by mailed ballot.

The bill also creates the local election fund to cover state and county costs of elections held under the Act. Local governments are assessed $250 per $1 million of their general fund expenditures to be paid to the local election fund. Local Governments with general fund expenditures of less than $100 thousand shall pay no assessment.

The bill is also related to special districts; it expands the term and increases the amount of a potential levy assessed by a soil and water conservation district (SWCD). HB 98 amends Section 73-20-46 of the SWCD Act to increase the amount a SWCD may levy from one dollar ($1.00) to five dollars ($5.00) per thousand dollars ($1,000) of net taxable value. Further, the bill eliminates the sunset clause that limits the levy to ten years and strikes additional language related to the sunset clause.

NMDA will be providing more information on the impacts this bill has on SWCDs and Watersheds.

1. **NMSU Extension Hosts NM Youth Ranch Management Camp**

The 2018 New Mexico Youth Ranch Camp will be held June 10-15. This year the camp will be held at the CS Ranch near Cimarron, NM.

The camp, designed for New Mexico youth ages 15-19, is an effort to reverse the aging trend in ranching. Nationally, the average age in the ranching community continues to increase as more young people are opting to leave the ranch for careers outside of production agriculture. As a result, the fabric of rural economies, as well as ranching tradition and cultures, are in jeopardy. In a rural state like New Mexico, the situation has significant implications.

For more information or to apply visit: <http://nmyrm.nmsu.edu> . If application is accepted, there is a $300 camp fee.

1. **Dairy Producers of NM Annual Convention/Trade Show**

The Dairy Producers of New Mexico will host their Annual Convention/Trade Show and Golf Tournament in Ruidoso, June 8th-9th, 2018.

The Trade Show will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, June 8. The Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Golf Course.

Information/Registration forms will be sent to members in late March/early April. Non members will receive info/forms about 10 days after members. If you would like to receive info/forms, please email dpnm@juno.com or visit <http://nmdairy.org/convention.htm> .

1. **NM Cattle Grower’s Association, NM CowBelles Mid-Year Meeting**

The meeting will be held from June 10-12 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Early bird registration is $120. Please register by June 1. Please refer to the attachment for information on hotel reservations. Please note that the hotel reservation cutoff is May 21.

1. **State Forestry Funding Opportunities**

NM Community Forestry Assistance Cost-Share Program, funding from USDA Forest Service for community forestry projects up to $15K, due May 11. For more information visit: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html>

NM Clean Water State Revolving Fund, through May 16 – habitat protection/restoration, projects that remediate or prevent pollution (green infrastructure). For more information visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZUAyM4aF8vSX3oAWy9XrJ_2a3KZWvOC7FqBCqWG17VNt6eg/viewform>

1. **State Forestry News Resources**

Publication: U.S. Urban Forest Statistics, Values, and Projections 2018 (Nowak and Greenfield) <https://www.fs.usda.gov/treesearch/pubs/55818>

Publication: Council of Western State Foresters, Beyond the Zone: Western Urban and Community Forestry Projects that Go Above and Beyond <https://issuu.com/councilofwesternstateforesters/docs/beyond_the_zone_publication>

Publication: 2017 NM Forest Health Conditions Report <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/FWHPlan/documents/NMForestHealthConditionsReportComplete.pdf>

Website: Vibrant Cities Lab: Resources for Urban Forestry, Trees, and Green Infrastructure [www.vibrantcitieslab.com](http://www.vibrantcitieslab.com)

1. **3rd Annual New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute Conference on Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds**

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is pleased to host the 3rd annual conference on Environmental Conditions of the Animas and San Juan Watersheds: Past, Present and Future. The Conference Planning Committee is eager to build on the success of the last two conferences in bringing together researchers and the general public to meet, learn from, and share the results of ongoing research associated with the August 2015 Gold King Mine spill, as well as other mine waste issues.

This year the scope of the conference has broadened to include all related water quality topics in the Animas and San Juan Watersheds.

The conference will take place from June 19-22, 2018 at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico. The technical program will include oral and poster presentations. A June 19 pre-conference field trip will give participants a geologic tour of the Silverton area and a guided mine tour. The post-conference field trip on June 22 will include a Teach-In at the Navajo Shiprock Chapter House.

The conference will be held at the San Juan College, Henderson Fine Arts Center, Farmington, NM.

For more information visit <https://animas.nmwrri.nmsu.edu/2018/>

1. **73rd Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference**

The 73rd International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference (SWCS) will be held in Albuquerque this year July 29th-August 1st. The theme of the conference is Culture, Climate, and Conservation.

This year's conference will take place in the Albuquerque Convention Center, which is located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, the SWCS headquarters hotel. The SWCS has negotiated a discounted conference rate of $149 for single and double occupancy rooms. This block is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the discounted rate is available through July 5, 2018. Hyatt Regency Albuquerque is located at 330 Tijeras Avenue NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. To reserve your room call: (505) 842-1234.

Sponsors and exhibitors are welcome and needed for this year’s conference. If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact Jamie Nieman; corporate.info@swcs.org.

**Full Conference Registration Rates**:

 SWCS Members: $435

 Register and Join SWCS: $540

 Non-Members: $450

 Seniors (65+): $325

 Full-Time Students: $250 (includes a 12-month student membership)

**One-Day Rates**:

SWCS Members: $250/day

 Non-Members: $300

 Senior: $185

 Full-Time Students: $130 (no membership)

 Wednesday ONLY: $150

For more information visit: <https://www.swcs.org/events/conferences/2018-annual-conference/>

1. **Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM**

All five of the National Forests in New Mexico are in various stages of completing their Forest Plan Revision. For updates, please visit the National Forests’ websites below for meeting times and comment opportunities.

• Cibola NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cibola/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSBDEV3_065627>

• Carson NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/carson/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5443166>

• Santa Fe NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3791442>

• Gila NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gila/home/?cid=STELPRD3828671>

• Lincoln NF: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/home/?cid=stelprd3814307>

NMDA encourages all SWCDs to stay active in the Forest Plan Revision process for all five national forests. We also encourage SWCDs to provide information as requested to make sure that SWCD information is included in the process.

1. **SWCD Boundary Description Project**

Thank you to all of the districts that have submitted their packet to the Secretary of State’s (SoS) office.

There are some districts with whom we’ve not heard back from that should have received their updated legal description and map. Please file the packet with the SoS’s office. Send to Christina Espinoza at christina.espinoza@state.nm.us.

If you have filed your packet with the SoS and not received a confirmation receipt, please contact Christina Espinoza via email at christina.espinoza@state.nm.us, she will be able to assist you.

*After the SoS’s office confirms receipt of the packet, please forward that email to the SWCC (**swcc@nmda.nmsu.edu* *) and your NMDA Specialist.* We will be contacting those districts we have not heard from, if we do not receive anything within the next few months.

If you have questions, have not received the packet from NMDA, or have had any trouble receiving/opening any of the attachments that were sent, please inform Katie Kruthaupt at kkruthaupt@nmda.nmsu.edu.

1. **2018 AgriFuture**

The 2018 AgriFuture Educational Institute brings together the wisdom and experiential knowledge of past and present farmers and ranchers, along with the fresh thinking and enthusiasm of the next generation. The event aims to connect, inform and inspire the next generation of farmers, ranchers and others in agriculture. AgriFuture is May 15-17 in Albuquerque. This year marks the third biennial conference with 150 attendees expected and will feature educational speakers, breakout sessions, dinner with mentors, networking opportunities and more. For more information, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/agrifuture-2018-tickets-39879237874> .