

Central Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District

Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2026

Call to Order & Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair; David King at 10:00 AM.

Board Members in Attendance

David King, Chair, Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer, Juan Sanchez, Vice Chair, Mark Anaya, Member, Robert Coburn, Member, Danielle Johnston, Member, and Wendy Schurman, Member

Members Absent

None

Others Present

Brenda Smythe, District Manager and NMDA Specialist Katie Mechenbier

Approval of Agenda

Juan Sanchez motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Wendy Schurman.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

David King, Chair	yea	Robert Coburn, Member	yea
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	yea	Danielle Johnston, Member	yea
Bill King, Sec./Treasurer	yea	Wendy Schurman, Member	yea
Mark Anaya, Member	yea		

Approval of Minutes

The February board meeting minutes were reviewed. Bill King motioned to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Danielle Johnston.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

David King, Chair	yea	Robert Coburn, Member	yea
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	yea	Danielle Johnston, Member	yea
Bill King, Sec./Treasurer	yea	Wendy Schurman, Member	yea
Mark Anaya, Member	yea		

Treasurer Report

Bill King motioned approving the treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Juan Sanchez.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

David King, Chair	yea	Robert Coburn, Member	yea
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	yea	Danielle Johnston, Member	yea
Bill King, Sec./Treasurer	yea	Wendy Schurman, Member	yea
Mark Anaya, Member	yea		

OLD BUSINESS

2025 Audit

The 2025 Audit has been completed and is on the OSA website. The audit is unmodified.

Health Soils Program

Staff spoke to the board regarding not sponsoring any Health Soils Program applications for at least one year. Following discussion, Mark Anaya motioned to opt out of the program for at least one year, motion seconded by Juan Sanchez. Roll Call vote as follows:

David King, Chair	yea	Robert Coburn, Member	yea
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	yea	Danielle Johnston, Member	yea
Bill King, Sec./Treasurer	yea	Wendy Schurman, Member	yea
Mark Anaya, Member	yea		

NMFA Loan

The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) Application for building upgrades in the amount of \$219,422 has been approved following our appeal by our legal counsel and re-evaluation by NMFA Legal Department.

FY26 Capacity Building Grant

The District was funded \$160,000 of Capacity Building Funding through NMDA. Positions will be posted and interviews to be held in the next few months. The budget has been updated to include administration and training.

Document Scanning

Phase I of the document scanning began beginning with the most important documents. Once they have been scanned, staff will be trained to do the remaining documents.

Capital Outlay Request

Brenda met with Representative Stefani Lord and Senator Anthony Thornton. Senator Thornton approved the Request for Capital Outlay in the amount of \$85,000 for a new roof. We are awaiting the Governor's signature.

GRO Funding

Brenda submitted a request to Senator Anthony Thornton for GRO Funding in the amount of \$150,000 for a new truck and chipper. It was approved and awaiting the Governor's signature.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Robert Coburn has several items he wishes to discuss with the board.

1)South Mountain – What is our objective, and plan for the site? Bob would like to see it as a Conservation Education Site. Following discussion, David stated that the board voted years ago to keep South Mountain as a Conservation Site, with limited to no public access. This item was tabled until after the drone flight to assess access etc.

2)Small Acreage Producers – Help is needed for our small farmers/ranchers. Following discussion, the cost-share and budget committee will discuss financial assistance next month and the board will revisit this topic in the next few months to move forward with a meeting with our small farmers/ranchers.

3)Associate Board Members – Bob would like to consider bringing on Associate Members again due to our aging board.

4)Newsletter – Bob stated that he would like to see a mailed newsletter go out. Following discussion, staff reiterated that a mailed newsletter has been done in the past, but due to expense and logistics of the post office the board deemed it unfeasible to continue. Following discussion, an April Newsletter will be circulated via email, posted on our website and mailed to certain producers. A draft will be ready for the April meeting.

5)DC Spring Fly In – Bob would like to see someone attend the DC Fly In. Juan Sanchez will think about attending.

6)NRCS Watershed Funding – Bob would like staff to apply for the NRCS Watershed Funding. Central Tri-County SWCD has requested this funding for South Mountain for the past several years, but NRCS staff has not applied.

7)Legacy Funding – Bob would like staff to apply for Legacy Funding. The Central Tri County SWCD submitted four applications for Legacy Funding last year and wasn't awarded anything. Staff will apply again this year.

8)Conservation Easements were discussed. Tabled for further investigation.

REPORTS

Administrative/Technical Report

No written report.

NRCS Report

NRCS report was reviewed. District staff reported that Kenneth Lujan has been re-assigned as NM RCCP Coordinator last month.

NMDA Report

The NMDA Report was reviewed.

NMACD Report

The NACD Annual Meeting was held in San Antonio, TX February 15 – 19, 2026. Juan, Mark, Robert and Wendy attended.

EBWPC Report

Bill reported that Office of the State Engineer will be adopting the new regions and the Estancia Basin may be consolidated with the Tularosa Basin.

Torrance County P&Z Report

No Report

EBWH&R

No Report

MRGOG (Water Resources Board)

No Report.

East Mountain Wildfire Preparedness

No Report

State Land Office

No Report

NMSU – Santa Fe County Extension

No Report.

NMSU – Torrance County Extension

No Report

Pueblo of Isleta

Brenda reported that staff are working together with the Pueblo of Isleta again.

USFS Report – Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts

Shawn Martin, Mountainair Ranger was in attendance. He spoke about USFS projects and how we can continue to work together. He also will send Brenda thinning contractors for potential additions to our contractor list.

Public Comment

Next Meeting

Next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment at 11:55 AM motioned by Robert Coburn. Motion seconded by Juan Sanchez.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

David King, Chair	yea	Robert Coburn, Member	yea
Juan Sanchez, Vice-Chair	yea	Danielle Johnston, Member	yea
Bill King, Sec/Treasurer	yea	Wendy Schurman, Member	yea
Mark Anaya, Member	yea		

Bill King, Secretary/Treasurer