## Current NMACD Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Willard Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Josh Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Kandy Hutchins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 1 Chair</td>
<td>Julian Sanchez</td>
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<td>Region 2 Chair</td>
<td>Joseph Sanchez</td>
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<td>Region 3 Chair</td>
<td>Dusty Hunt</td>
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<td>Region 4 Chair</td>
<td>Mary Libby Campbell</td>
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<td>Region 5 Chair</td>
<td>Lisa Runyan</td>
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<td>Region 6 Chair</td>
<td>Camille Runyan</td>
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<td>Region 1 Vice Chair</td>
<td>Lynn Montgomery</td>
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<td>Horace Leyba</td>
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<td>Region 3 Vice Chair</td>
<td>Jim Wood</td>
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<td>Kendell Buzard</td>
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<td>Region 6 Vice Chair</td>
<td>Kendal Wilson</td>
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NMACD Staff

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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Debbie Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Affairs Director</td>
<td>Brent Van Dyke</td>
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<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
<td>Troy Hood</td>
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<td>Joe Grainey</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Ken Leiting</td>
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<td>Don Ellsworth</td>
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<td>Jesse Juen</td>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>Donald Griego</td>
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<td>Administrative Coordinator</td>
<td>Linda Hood</td>
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NMACD is very well represented at the National Association of Conservation District meetings. Willard serves as NACD Board Delegate and Josh is Alternate Board Delegate. Josh is also serving as the SW Region Vice Chair and is a member of the Next Generation Leadership Group. Jim Berlier represents the SW on the NACD Executive Board.

NMACD concentrates resources and energy on legislative advocacy on behalf of New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
The 30-day Legislative session was very stressful because one-half was virtual and almost impossible to communicate with legislators. We were able to get 3 million dollars for SWCD projects and 1 million for soil health projects.

**NMACD IS VERY ACTIVE AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL WORKING WITH CONGRESS ON THE FARM BILL AND OTHER NATIONAL POLICY AND FUNDING ISSUES FOR DISTRICTS IN NEW MEXICO.**

*NMACD SUPPORTS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PROJECTS THROUGH PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SHARING.*

We recently counted 97 2019 and newer Supervisors, District Employees and TSP employees. Of the 97 there are 66 who have not completed the District
Supervisor Certification Training. We held one in-person training after the Region V Meeting in Portales, and there are several Supervisors who have completed the on-line training. The training is found on the NMACD website under Education/Training. If your District is willing to host training in your location, please call Linda (505-681-9675) or Troy Hood (505-280-8102) to schedule and work out the details.

NMACD CONTINUES TO WORK WITH LOCAL DISTRICTS AND PARTNERS TO IMPROVE INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

The New Mexico Envirothon continues to be supported by NMACD. This includes financial support and judges for the contest. Congratulations to the first place winning Scat Cats from Truth or Consequences!!

For the tenth time in eleven years the Scat Cats, Hot Springs High’s Envirothon team has taken the state championship and will be representing New Mexico in the North American Envirothon competition later this summer. At state in their recent competition, held at the Cook Canyon Camp in Lincoln County, outside Ruidoso Downs, ten teams gathered from around the state for the April 21-23 competition.

Conservation Women in New Mexico

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NMACD along with federal and state partners brought the summer Region meetings back to the districts: Region I - Grants; Region II - Hernandez; Region III - Tor C; Region IV - Mosquero; Region V - Portales; Region VI - Upper Hondo.
Reports and updates were given at their respective locations by NM NRCS Area Conservationists, along with D’Laynn Bruce, Acting; NMDA Specialists, Kathryn Kruthaupt, Dean Bruce, and Katie Mechenbier. NACD was represented by SW Region Representative Rachel Theler who attended Regions 3, 4 and 6 meetings.

A special thank you to event sponsors: Lava SWCD, East Rio Arriba SWCD, Taos SWCD, De Baca SWCD, Roosevelt SWCD, Border SWCD, Ute Creek SWCD, Sierra SWCD and Upper Hondo SWCD. The regional meetings had the extra and very much appreciated help from Megan Goyette Lanford, Cynthia Spidle, Richard Montoya, Dawn Privett, Judy Bock.

NMACD is continuing to work with Senator Ivey Soto on changes to the NM Watershed District Act and the District Act. The possibility exists that districts may be required to zone. We will continue to work with the bill sponsor to make changes that support conservation and working lands.
Additional NMACD activities include, but are not limited to: Weekly engagement with New Mexico First, Food, Water and Agriculture Policy Working Group on alleviating food and water insecurity in New Mexico, development of agriculture policy in the form of legislative bills that help with agriculture sustainability and resilience, ongoing evaluation of programs that will help keep "New Mexico grown" agriculture products on New Mexico grocery shelves.

**NMACD OPERATIONS**

NMACD continues to use the Payday iSolve HCM program to manage Farm Bill, TSP and Vendor bills, payments to SWCD and the Board members for travel. Linda processes Farm Bill Bi-Weekly Payroll and develops and submits NMACD monthly invoices to NMDA for reimbursement.

This now includes payments to SWCDs and the Board members for travel. A new system to electronically move information from Payday iSolve to NMACD QuickBooks has been implemented. This allows for more information to be recorded in QuickBooks and provide additional reports.

NMACD has a new Account/Bookkeeper, Benjamin Arguello. Benjamin was an SWCD Board member some years ago and is familiar with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The SharePoint software has become the primary filing system for NMACD records. This includes: All NMACD Organization information; billings and payments; personnel and vendor information; grants, contracts, agreements, correspondence, and financial status. The software is part of Microsoft 365, which resides in the cloud. All Program Managers have access from their home internet systems. Backup software is set up to prevent loss of the files.

**REPRESENTATION OF SWCDs' NEEDS AND INTERESTS**

NMACD represents districts at the state level through policies passed at the state level utilizing the resolution process.

NMACD board meetings, region meetings, annual conference, conference calls, web page, social media, newsletters, and email are utilized to communicate activities and attempt to represent district needs and interests. NMACD Program Managers coordinate with SWCDs and inform them of current activities regarding funding
programs and technical service assistance activities within their individual districts.

NMACD assisted Lava, Lea, and Quemado SWCD’s develop preproposal applications for the NMDA $3 million FY 2023 funding.

### 2020 NMACD OUTSTANDING ANNUAL AWARDS

**OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF CONSERVATION AWARD**

**GORDON (CORKY) HERKENHOF**

- Corky has been improving his 4th generation farm since the 1980s. In that time he has quadrupled its size from 179 acres to over 700. Nominated by the Socorro SWCD, it is the passion for conservation that stands out about his operation.
- The clearing of Salt Cedar and installation of concrete ditches has allowed the farm to become more resilient. The farm has become a testament to Corky’s dedication.
- The farm is an inspiration for others to follow.
- There is not one inch of dirt ditch on the farm.

**OUTSTANDING LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

- James Johnson is this year’s winner of the Outstanding Land Stewardship Award. James was nominated by the Deming SWCD and lives in Columbus, New Mexico.
- Not only is James an amazing farmer, but he also serves as a member of the Healthy Soils Working Group and Regenerative Agriculture Podcat.

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**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

NMDA 2019 TSP contract extended to June 30, 2023; NMACD responded to Request for Proposals for a new TSP contract. Contract activities are comprised of three categories:

**NMACD BI-WEEKLY EMPLOYEES**

Current staffing - 14 employees
FY 23 staffing plan - 15 employees
Employees hired past year - 5; Number of separations - 4
Fund Balance June 30, 2022 - $378,302
Budget Estimate, all employees, contractors - $1,006,356

**DISTRICT CAPACITY PROGRAM EMPLOYEES**

Participating SWCD’s - 7 with one vacant position
Number of employees - 5 (1 Vacant)
District Capacity current year budget - $55,268 (included in above budget estimate)

**ON-DEMAND INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS**
Number of contractors - 31 active conservationists.
Number of archaeology contractors - 11
Program Managers - 7 conservationists
Program Coordinators - 2 administrative
FY 23 Estimated cost: $100,000

**DISTRICT SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING**
Purpose of training program - inform SWCD supervisors of responsibilities, duties, District laws, financial and personnel programs, etc.
Training provided - in-person, classroom style; via NMACD website; or Virtual ZOOM sessions.
Coordinators - Linda Hood; Troy Hood
Training conducted past 12 months: 2 in person; 1 virtual

**NACD GRANT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
2019 grant, $140,000 completed 9-30-2021
2020 grant, $78,810 in effect 9-30-2021
Both grants completed and closed out FY 2022

**SOIL HEALTH ACTIVITIES**

- **SWCD, Quivira and NMACD Soil Health Workshops**: 8 workshops completed with 7 SWCDs: Western Mora, Ciudad, Carlsbad, Deming, SW Quay and East Rio Arriba, and San Felipe Pueblo.
- **Soil Health Technical Assistance Provided to SWCDs**: Taos, Coronado, Lea, and SW Quay. Also assisted five farmers/ranchers in developing plans and NM Health Soils Grant applications.
- **Partnership Activities**: Quivira, NMDA, NRCS, NMSU (Clovis and Las Cruces), Western Cover Crop Council, and the NM Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society
Soil Health Workshops conducted around New Mexico

COORDINATION OF “RESTORE NM” PROGRAM WITH BLM

Pecos District Office

One project currently under way is the reclamation of caliche pits and old roads and well pads. The Carlsbad SWCD currently has four construction companies reclaiming these pits and approximately 138 acres have been reclaimed and reseeded to date.

Old Caliche Pits Restored

The second project for the Pecos District is the treatment of mesquite/creosote. This past spring 2,641 acres of creosote were treated in Eddy County. Funding is still available in the task treatment to treat mesquite if conditions are right for the treatment. If we can’t treat mesquite, the additional acres of creosote will be treated.

Albuquerque District

One project for this district is the tree stands exams in the North Sandoval County. Approximately 603 plots will be examined starting this August. A contract has
been let to Kurt Sweringen. This contract was issued by NMACD TSP, Joe Grainey, and a pre-work conference is scheduled for August 4, 2022.

Another project with the Albuquerque District is a cut stump project to treat salt cedar and Russian Olive in the Rio Salado Watershed. The Cuba SWCD issued a RFP for potential contractors on 7/28/2022.

![Cut Stump Treatment of Russian Olive and Salt Cedar Before and After Treatment](image)

**Cut Stump Treatment of Russian Olive and Salt Cedar Before and After Treatment**

Farmington District

One project to be completed for the Farmington Field Office is the treatment of approximately 14,000 acres of sage brush and another 2,000 acres of pinyon/juniper. The San Juan SWCD, with assistance from the Cuba SWCD will be issue a RFP by 8/5/2022 for potential contractors for this project. The project will be completed in October/November of this year.

The San Juan SWCD also issued a contract for the maintenance of fifteen sediment ponds in the Farmington Field Office, BLM. Work has started on this project and four ponds have been maintained in the Animas River watershed.

We are also working on another tree stand exam for the Taos Field Office on approximately 265 acres. This project will be issued by NMACD TSP, Joe Grainey.

**NM STATE LAND OFFICE (SLO)**

NMACD has a 2023 agreement with NM State Land Office (up to $60,000) to assist them with gathering historical project treatment data, site evaluation, and monitoring on state lands within two Collaborative Forest Restoration Project areas.
STATE LAND OFFICE - VEGETATIVE ASSESSMENTS

- **Chupadera Mesa Project**: NMACD is assisting SLO assess high grass production sites for historic woody species treatment. NMACD completed GIS vegetative assessments in April and began in-field assessments in June. SLO will use the assessments to plan CFRP restoration goals and future treatments.

- **Crossroads Project**: NMACD is currently interviewing ranchers on the Crossroads Project, near the Clines Corner area. When interviews are complete, NMACD will begin GIS and in-field vegetative assessments as in the Chupadera Project above.

WORK ON CHUPADERA MESA WITH STATE LAND OFFICE

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

**The Restore NM RCPP**: The agreement was finalized in May 2022 as a result of signing the Restore NM Renewal supplemental agreement.

**Restore NM Renewal RCPP**: The supplemental agreement which renewed the agreement was signed May 2022. The agreement has $4,000,000 of financial assistance and $880,000 technical assistance for ranchers. Currently coordinating with NRCS to publicly announce the program.

Final monitoring completed on the Canadian River RCPP 2017 on effects of brush control with chemical treatment. Three-year results following treatment ranged from 38% root kill on juniper-covered areas treated electrostatically to 96% control on electrostatic treatment without juniper present. Conventional control on monitored ranch showed 74% overall root kill on monitored area. Working with Ute Creek SWCD to finalize the project report for NRCS this fall.

With final approval of the Prairie Grassland RCPP on Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat, Kenny Walker, Jesse Juen, and Steve Kadas will work on strategies for outreach activities for this project. Partner contacts will also be conducted to prepare for first application announcement.
Pecos River watershed conservation RCPP Technical Assistance, Southeast NM - $37,750. The NRCS completed advertisement, ranking, and evaluation of the projects in June 2022. Most of these funds will likely go toward cultural resource clearance work, but some may also be used to provide technical assistance.

NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF)

NMACD successfully closed out the second pronghorn National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant with the Chaves and Carlsbad SWCD’s. We have one more ongoing grant for big game habitat with the Taos SWCD which will be completed in 2023. Another volunteer project was completed in June and the fence modification project will be completed this fall.

Fence Removal for wildlife migration
FORESTRY COORDINATION

Signed a new Agreement for $150,000 with Region 3 of the US Forest Service to provide planning and archaeology clearance services to the Range and Wildlife section. Working with Forest Service to help document structural damage to fences, Acequias, water systems, etc., on the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. NMACD is working with State Forestry to provide 2 prescribed fire trailers to districts in New Mexico.

ACEQUIA REVITALIZATION ON HISTORIC IRRIGATED LANDS

New Mexico Acequia Revitalization on Historic Irrigated Lands (NMAR) - First in the nation to utilize “Alternative Funding Agreement” with NRCS. Provided by USDA’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program, NMACD and nine partner organizations are working to significantly improve irrigation efficiency in the nearly 400-year-old systems.

2018 RCPP Agreement

Area of Participation - Statewide
Awarded - $2,907,614
Expended - $1,409,155.71 FA & TA

Financial Assistance - expended $1,076,932.05 of $2.2 mil
Technical Assistance - expended $332,223.66 of $581,500.00

Applications received - 87
Initial Partner Contribution commitment - $11,983,326

Core Partners:
- Interstate Stream Commission
- New Mexico Acequia Association
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- East Rio Arriba SWCD, Upper Chama SWCD, Tierra Y Montes SWCD, Taos SWCD
- New Mexico Acequia Commission

10 projects completed
- Acequia de la Canova at Velarde -
- Heredia Ditch at Mimbres - first phase
- Acequia del La Joya at Socorro - Completed (ACOE & ISC)
- Martinez-Medio at Santa Cruz
- Heredia Ditch at Mimbres - completed, second phase
- Acequia del Llano - Canjilon
- Acequia del Brazito - Chama
- Acequia de Rio Chama - Rio Chama/Medanales
- Luna Community Ditch at Luna
Abeyta-Trujillo, Abiquiu - completed phase one under USFWS

**Under Construction - On-going projects - 2018**

- Acequia de las Joyas - Pojoaque, designed
- Acequia de los Ortiz - Nambe, designed second phase
- Lower Bull Creek, Pecos - designed
- Acequia de los Trigos - Riveria, planning phase
- Acequia Madre de Costilla - designed
- San Cristobal Ditch Association - Planning phase
- Acequia de la Plaza - Servilleta Plaza - planning phase
- Abeyta-Trujillo, Abiquiu, slough designed
- Acequia de Anton Chico - Tecolotito - designed (Capital Outlay)
- Acequia del Cano - designed
- Acequia de la Canova at Servillita - designed
- Acequia del Agua, Las Vegas - Designed
- Grijalva Ditch, Mimbres - Designed, postponing until fall due to USFWS consultation

**Requirements**

- Canada Ancha, Chimayo - Designed, waiting on decision by group
- Valley Canal, Virden - 1st phase completed, 2nd phase being designed
- Acequia del Otra Banda, Cordova - Designed, waiting for all funding sources to finalize
- Cleveland Mill Ditch, Cleveland - Designed, ready for bidding process
- Hillside Ditch at Farmington - planning process on going
- Tularosa Ditch at Tularosa - planning process on going
Receives Second New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award

Sid & Cheryl Goodloe have been selected as the recipient of the 2nd New Mexico Leopold Conservation Award. Sid & Cheryl will be presented with the $10,000 award at the NMACD Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, November 8, 2022.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the prestigious award recognizes farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on private, working lands.

Sand County Foundation and national sponsor American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 23 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. In New Mexico, the award is presented with New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Quivira Coalition and USDA-NRCS.

DIAMOND LEVEL DISTRICT SUPPORT TO NMACD

Carlsbad SWCD
Central Curry SWCD
East Torrance SWCD
Lava SWCD
Lea SWCD
Otero SWCD
Tierra Y Montes SWCD

GOLD LEVEL DISTRICT SUPPORT TO NMACD

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