

Lava Soil & Water Conservation District

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Annual Report ***Fiscal Year 2020—2021*** July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Lava Soil & Water Conservation District started of the fiscal year under restrictions with COVID. No in person board meetings were held. With assistance from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture we were able to have virtual meetings via Zoom.

This was at times difficult, as Lava has new and enthusiastic board members, who were eager to get projects rolling. But we persevered and met on Zoom.

We have taken applications for cost share from local producers.

We have also done some on-site visits to potential cost share projects. This was led by Supervisor Mark Salazar in the San Mateo area.

Supervisor Michael Stogner, is planning to attend the NACD summer 2021 meeting in Chicago.

Lava passed the Mill Levy Rate Resolution for FY 2021-2022, and it was approved by the NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

Lava revised the Annual Plan of Work for FY 2021-2022. Added was community outreach as a component. Chair Chris Loeffler will write articles for various publications outlining the programs that Lava has to

offer to local producers. We will also attend land grant association meetings, and acequia meetings to inform local producers.

We are gearing up for the Local Election on November 2, 2021. There are three supervisor positions up for re-election in 2021.

The NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission approved the annual appointment of Anthony Martinez and Raymond Mark Salazar to Lava's Board.

Lava has also appointed Gilbert Louis, Jr. to fill Kit South's term. He is a long-time rancher from the Pueblo of Acoma. The Louis family was recognized by NACD for their long-time ranching and contributions to agriculture.

We have purchased a poly pipe welder for use by cooperators.

We are also looking into purchasing a side-by-side vehicle, equipped with a spray tank and trailer also to be borrowed by cooperators, who want to control noxious weeds.

In fiscal year 2021—2022 Lava hopes to get back into the “groove” and return to in person meetings, have an annual landowners' meeting, have AG Day for Cibola County Students, and take our display to Cibola General Hospital – Continental Divide Electric Cooperative health fair. These activities went away with COVID.

We are recognizing two outstanding cooperators for 2020 – 2021. Outstanding Conservation Farmer Alfred Saavedra for his alfalfa production. Alfred is a long-time former board member. Outstanding Conservation Rancher is Mathew Chavez, for his implementation of conservation methods in ranching.

We will also recognize Kit South, who was elected to the board, but moved out of town. Kit has been a tremendous asset to Lava's Board. We also recognize Desiree Chavez, the NRCS Range Planner for her excellent work with cooperators.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Christine Loeffler	Chairperson
Michael Stogner	V-Chairperson
Anthony Martinez	Secretary—Treasurer
Joseph DeSoto	Supervisor
Gilbert Louis, Jr.	Supervisor
Mark Salazar	Supervisor
Roman Sandoval	Supervisor

Lava would like to thank the following:

Cynthia Spidle, Lava SWCD Coordinator
Richard Montoya, NRCS District Conservationist
Autumn Waconda, Farm Bill Specialist