



Northeastern Soil & Water Conservation District

~ 20 North 2nd Street Clayton, New Mexico 88415 ~ (575) 374-9461 ext. 101 ~

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021/2022

Board Members / Employee:

Justin Bennett, Chairman
129 Bennett Rd, Des Moines, NM 88418

Brett Bannon, Vice Chairman
4721 Dry Cimarron HWY, Folsom, NM 88419

Henry Brown, Member
536 Long Canyon Rd, Folsom, NM 88419

Kenneth Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer
15 Mormon Rt, Clayton, NM 88415

Lynn Clay, Member
123 Plainview Rd, Clayton, NM 88415

Ariel Fury – District Clerk
600 East Market Street, Texline, TX 79087



CONSERVATION - DEVELOPMENT - SELF GOVERNMENT

The following are the activities and accomplishments of the Northeastern Soil and Water Conservation District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

The NSWCD is in the northeastern corner of New Mexico; covering 2,302,160 acres. The district has a five-member board comprised of Justin Bennett; Chairman, Brett Bannon; Vice Chairman, Kenneth Taylor; Supervisor/Treasurer/Secretary, Lynn Clay; Supervisor, Henry Brown; Supervisor and Phyllis Emery; District Clerk. As of the beginning of May 2022 the Mrs. Emery left the position and it was then filled by Ariel Fury. The board meetings are normally held at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office located at 20 North Second Street, in Clayton, New Mexico on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am. Due to the COVID restrictions imposed during the pandemic, meetings have been held in New Mexico Bank & Trust boardroom and via ZOOM for most of the fiscal year 2021/2022. Twelve regular meetings were held this year with a quorum present at all 12 meetings.

MAJOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The district sold trees and drip supplies to 9 districts in 3 states as well as the districts constituents. During the District's Annual Tree Program; 1,250 trees, 6,500-ft. drip tubing, 38,000- Sq. ft. of landscape fabric, along with other drip accessories, were distributed. In the past, most of the trees sold by the district were used in wind breaks. Some are still sold for wind breaks or to replace trees that have died in windbreaks, but most trees purchased are now used in landscaping. Drip supplies and fabric are available to the district all year!

Our district has completed the 2021 phase of the multi-year Union County Hydrology Study Project. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Zeigler Geologic Consulting measured static water level in 79 wells and collected groundwater for chemistry analyses from 14 wells, as well as continued geologic mapping efforts on three 1:24,000 quadrangles in the Dry Cimarron and digitized the Clayton West 1:50,000 quadrangle.

Combined information from water chemistry, static water levels, data logs from wells, and surface mapping demonstrate the complexity of the geology in Union County. The primary aquifer units (or hydrostratigraphic units) in Union County include the Exeter Sandstone, Morrison Formation, Dakota Sandstone and Ogallala Formation with more limited groundwater resources occurring in the Dockum Group. Future work includes continued monitoring of static water level measurements to continue tracking rates of changes between minimum and maximum use seasons and on an annual basis, as well working through more of the geologic mapping to continue to refine our understanding of the aquifer systems in use. Further sampling for major cation/anion geochemistry, trace metals, and tritium will help us continue to refine our understanding of where modern recharge is occurring on the landscape.

(The district has no source of State or Federal funding other than the income that is generated by our District Programs and the money that the state legislature gives NMDA.)

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:

One of our priority programs is informing and educating district youth in the value of conservation and natural resources. The Northeastern SWCD continued its Annual Kindergarten Tree Program. This is the 38th consecutive year for this program. Each Kindergarten class at Clayton, NM, Des Moines, NM, Texline, TX as well as the local Mennonite School were given a one-gallon Austrian Pine tree for each graduating Kindergarten. Along with the 85 trees that were given to students, they were taught the proper way to care for their tree. An explanation of how to plant a tree and why trees are needed was given by Lead Soil Conservationist Cody Townsend along with Phyllis Emery, district clerk.

The NSWCD has revived and started up once again their quarterly newsletter! It holds information on water conservation tips, soil conservation, an update from NRCS, dates of events and meetings, a recipe, a puzzle/game, and information on products that the district has for sale for the community! It will be a great way to send out more tree forms and draw in the community on conserving resources by using the NSWCD as a resource! The district printed and mailed out the first newsletter for the reviving in June of 2022!

The NSWCD has a Facebook page that has been stagnant for a while but has recently been updated and communicates with the public as much as possible. Information and updates about upcoming events, informative sessions, supplies for purchase, and conservation tips are now being posted for the public and messages concerning any of those topics are being answered!

The district also has students participate in judging livestock at the county fair in three different classes. The district hosted the Annual Plant ID contest at last year's fair in Clayton, NM. The board and district clerk look forward to the opportunity of educating the local youth on identifying grasses, weeds, and native species as well as providing information about each item in the contest! The district will once again host the contest at the upcoming fair in August of 2022! To not only reward the winners but to also spread awareness of the district's presence in the community, the belt buckles given out for both Jr. and Sr. divisions have been handed out every year as top prizes! For the year of 2022 the buckles now bear small writing in the corners stating that they have been sponsored by the NSWCD!

REGULAR MEETING DATES:

The regular meeting of the Northeastern Soil & Water Conservation District is the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am at the NM Bank & Trust Office Building at 20 North Second Street, Clayton, New Mexico. These meetings are held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.