

HIDALGO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
405 DUNCAN HWY.
LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO 88045
505 542-9141 x116

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Eric McSpadden	Chairman
Hollis Vaughn	Vice-Chairman
Meira Gault	Secretary/Treasurer (Appointed)
Brandon Jones	Member
Frank Potter	Member
John Samuel	Member
Walt Anderson	Member (Appointed)

NRCS STAFF

Matt Wiseman, District Conservationist

Samantha Martinez, Range Conservationist

Logan Klump, Lead Planner

The Hidalgo SWCD regular meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm at the USDA District Office, 405 Duncan Hwy, in Lordsburg. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

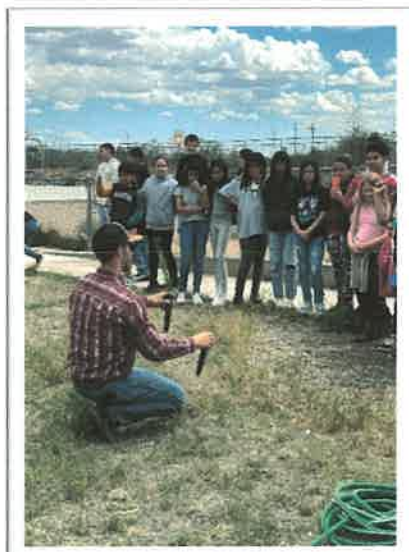
Mission Statement

The mission of the Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District is to protect, restore, enhance, and promote the proper use of soil, water, and other natural resources. This will be achieved by example through development of projects, education to the public, the cooperation of landowners/users, agencies, and other political subdivisions.

Education to the Public



The district, with the help of NRCS, presented the Annual Tree Seedling Demonstration to third and fourth graders at the Animas and Lordsburg Schools. The students learned how to plant and take care of their Afghanistan Pine tree seedling before taking one home of their own.



The district attended the Hidalgo County Fair with a public presentation booth that displayed pertinent information on soil and water issues, conservation practices and noxious weeds.



Appointed board supervisor, Walt Anderson, attended a public hearing at the Legislative Session in Santa Fe, NM to publicly discuss and support HB423.



Voice for Conservation



The district submitted letters to the State of New Mexico Public Lands Commissioner Stephanie Richard regarding opposition to Diamond A ROW, to the U.S. Forest Service in opposition of the Gila Wilderness Feral Cattle Removal, and to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the board's recommendations for the Gila Lower Box Recreation Plan.

The district submitted public comments to the New Mexico 30 x 30 committee, on two separate occasions, regarding the draft definitions for 'conserved lands' and 'climate stabilization areas'.

The district held two separate public meetings with the Bureau of Land Management: one on 2/3/2023 to address the Gila Lower Box Recreation Plan and the other on 2/21/2023 regarding Proposed Renewable Energy Projects.

The district was awarded \$19,027.88 in WQ&C Grant Funds for 2022-2023. Unfortunately, there were no projects that were funded. However, the district co-sponsored, with sponsor Hidalgo County, to secure EWP funds for producers in the district that experienced flood damage during the August 2022 Gila River flooding.

The district attended the following meetings, conferences, and trainings:

- Council of Border Conservation Districts
- SW NM Council of Governments
- Public Land Advisory Committee Meetings
- Water and Agriculture Committee Meetings
- Natural Resources Committee Meetings
- Malapai Borderlands Group
- NMACD/BLM/NRCS Coordination Meetings