

**Lava Soil & Water Conservation District  
1020 Nimitz Drive  
Grants, NM 87020  
(505) 287-4045**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024**  
**July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**

LAVA SPONSORED – Brad Louis and Matthew Valdo, who attended the CS Ranch Camp in Cimmaron, NM. Both reported that the camp was very informative and lots of fun.

SUPERVISOR MIKE STOGNER – attended the NACD Summer meeting in Bismark, North Dakota. He reported to the board on the events.

LAVA SWCD hosted the annual LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING. Items discussed are: agricultural programs with the NRCS.

ANTHONY MARTINEZ reported on the 2023 NMACD REGION I meeting that was held at the Whitfield Wildlife area near Belen.

LAVA SWCD submitted documentation to the Points System worksheet.

PROP CANYON DAM INSPECTIONS – Lava SWCD Supervisors did their annual inspection of the Prop Canyon Dams. Lava has a “land rights easement” to these two dams. They are PL 566 Structures built in the late 1950’s.

ANNUAL LANDOWNERS MEETING 2023 – the event took place at the Pueblo of Acoma, Sky City Banquet room on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 95 individuals attended. Awards were given to the OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMER STANLEY MICHAEL, FOR HIS FARMING/ORCHARD OPERATION in San Mateo.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION RANCHERS WERE TAMMY AND PAUL MANDAGARAN. Who ranch in the Tinaja area.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION TEACHER is AMANDA VALDEZ. Amanda has put together an outstanding Ag Day for Cibola County Students.

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting was held in November of 2023 in Albuquerque. Representing Lava SWCD were: Andy Martinez, Gilbert Louis Jr., and Cynthia Spidle.

SOIL & WATER AT THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE – Lava SWCD set up the display at the rotunda in the Round House in January 2024.

SOIL & WATER SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2023. The following were re-elected to the board of Supervisors – Roman Sandoval and Gilbert Louis Jr. The third position, which was vacant has been filled by Kameron Carver, a local farmer/rancher.

HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM – Kevin Branum and the Ramah Ranches participated in the Healthy Soils Program.

SCIENCE FAIRS – Lava SWCD has participated in the Local and Four Corners Regional Science Fairs for many years. Four awards are presented at each fair. Winning projects must have a theme that deals with the conservation of natural resources.

BUDGET FOR FY 2024-2025 – Lava has submitted a budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Department of Finance and Administration and also the NM Department of Agriculture.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT – each year, Lava Supervisors pass the resolution and also publish it in the legal notices of the local newspaper.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2024 MEETING. Attending the event in San Diego, CA were: Gilbert Louis, Jr., Andy Martinez, and Michael Stogner.

AG DAY FOR CIBOLA COUNTY STUDENTS – this long-running event took place in April of 2024, at the old Grants High School Gym, due to the construction at the local rodeo grounds. Grants High School teacher Amador Gonzales is in charge of this event. Lava SWCD's Rolling Rivers Watershed Trailer was manned by Andy Martinez, Gilbert Louis, Jr., and Kameron Carver. Lava provides educational materials for second and sixth grade students. This

event was started by former Lava SWCD Supervisor Tanya Ott in 2007. It has only missed two years due to COVID.

#### CONTINENTAL DIVIDE – CIBOLA GENERAL HOSPITAL HEALTH FAIR.

Lava SWCD sets up the display at this event each year. Continental Divide is the local electric cooperative, which has an election at this time, and the Cibola General Hospital staff provides various health tests for attendees. Approximately 1000 to 1500 people attend this event at Grants High School Gym.

ENVIROTHON 2024 – Supervisor Andy Martinez attended the event in Cloudcroft, NM this year. He plans to recruit attendees to go to the 2025 Envirothon .

VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR POSITION – Lava SWCD is in the process of revising the project description and has an individual who is interested in mapping of the area.

COST SHARE PROGRAM – Lava SWCD has a long running cost share program for conservation projects. The program assists smaller ranchers/farmers with cost share.

In the very near future Lava SWCD will be setting a date, procuring a speaker for the 2024 ANNUAL LANDOWNERS MEETING.

Lava would like to thank the NRCS Staff – Desiree Chavez, Autumn Waconda, and Ana Cruz-Ibarra for their assistance with our conservation programs. Also thank you to Cynthia Spidle, Lava Administrator. And we can't forget retired long-time District Conservationist Richard Montoya, who comes by to help occasionally.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
ANTHONY MARTINEZ  
LAVA SWCD CHAIR