Southwest Quay
Soil & Water Conservation District

3551 CR 14, MELROSE, NM 88124

2020-2021 Report of Activities

Board and Mission
Southwest Quay Soil and Water Conservation works with producers in the area to safeguard and enhance soils in our district. We are committed to promoting soil health through outreach, research, and support to our local producers. We encourage and educate current farmers and ranchers as well as up-coming farmers and ranchers about the many ways to preserve the land.

We also work with the producers to improve and protect our water resources. We advise land owners on nutrient management strategies and erosion prevention practices. We make sure land owners have the proper tools they need to protect water from sediment runoff, nutrients and other contaminants. With our area being in a drought, we work with stakeholders in managing water quantity to help ensure a sufficient supply exists to meet a variety of needs. We work to prevent and mitigate the effects of drought.

We take great pride in our land and the resources in it. We love to work with the producers in helping them get the most they can out of their land and water. We do the best we can to meet the needs of all the producers and encourage them to reach out to us to let us know what we can do for them.

Your District Board Members include:
Chairman-Lisa Runyan            Supervisor-Jovani Armendariz
Vice Chair- Clyde Moon           Supervisor- Tom Sidwell
Sec/trea- Cedar Rush            Supervisor- Kole Tatum
Supervisor- Kandy Hutchins      District Manager- Lynnae Abarca

Funding
SW Quay SWCD receives a majority of their funding from the state legislation using the Point System. We also are set up to receive a 5% administrative fee for being the eligible entity for the Healthy Soil Grant for grant winner Randall Rush.
**Education**

Each of our board members have all taken time to attend many educational meetings and workshops. Some of these include NMACD and NACD meetings, Healthy Soil Trainings, and Meat School. We have also had the opportunity to sponsor some of our local 4-H kids in being a sponsor for the Quay County 4-H Rodeo.

**Conservation Projects**

Groundwater Hydrology Study As many of you know, Southwest Quay SWCD launched a long-term groundwater monitoring project at the beginning of 2017. In partnership with a team of geologists with Zeigler Geologic Consulting, the SWCD is seeking to gather data to help us all understand the groundwater resources our producers rely on. We’ve learned quite a lot in the last four years, but we still have a ways to go to fully understand the aquifers in the area. The data that we are gathering includes static water level measurements, water chemistry, and tritium isotopes. Each August and each February, the geology team comes through to check the depth to water in the 35+ wells that are part of the monitoring network.

South West Quay Soil and Water Conservation likes to offer a few cost-share programs to our producers. The two that we currently offer are Shade Balls and Brush Control. In both of these programs we will pay for a portion of the total cost of purchasing brush control or shade balls.

We have been given the privilege this year of working with Randall Rush, winner of the Healthy Soil Project Grant. Randall has been working with Southwest Quay Soil and Water Conservation District to develop and implement a land management plan to better care for his land. Through this grant he will then be able to bring a portion of the expenses related to the management plan back to us for reimbursement.

We are also excited to be able to offer Playa Lake Restoration in this upcoming year. Playas provide many benefits to people and wildlife including groundwater recharge, water filtration, erosion and flood control, and upland game bird hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Voice of Conservation**

Many of our board members have been given the opportunity to speak and participate in different webinars and workshops. Some of these include the ENM drought webinar, Western Meat Institute webinar, and other workgroups via zoom.

In conjunction with the NACD we also hosted our annual Poster Contest. This was for all age group within our district (adult to kindergarten). We were able to educate all of the participates about healthy forests = healthy communities through this contest. Below are pictures of the winning posters for this years contest.
This year SW Quay SWCD has also started sending out quarterly newsletters. These newsletters have been great for staying in touch with the producers and what they want to see from us. They have also been great for being able to inform the producers on everything that we have to offer.

Awards

We work yearly with other districts in the state to be able to award kids that participate in FFA and 4-H judging contests. These contest this year include land, range, agronomy, homesite, and forestry. Through help form other districts we were able to fund the first place team as well as the first second and third place individuals in these contests.

We were happy to award Stoney Price, a young individual in our district, with the opportunity to attend Ranch Management Camp hosted this last June by the Extension specialists, County Extension agents and members of the ranching industry. This camp helps individuals learn about the many aspects of camping as well as gain great hands on experience.