

Annual Meeting – January 15, 2011

Moriarty, New Mexico

Art Swenka called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation were said, Art introduced Chuck DuMars who gave a program on New Mexico water rights. He stated that there are political as well as geologic boundaries that surround water. The New Mexico Supreme Court rendered a decision that declares ground water to be public. According to the “Prior Appropriation Doctrine” the first person to put water to beneficial use gets the water right. Administrators, however, are given the ability to make a subjective decision on which water rights have priority. This places them in a very powerful position. He went on to talk about future water planning for the Estancia Basin. He ended his program with a quote from Mark Twain: “Whiskey is for drinking; water if for fighting over”.

Art Swenka introduced the Board of Directors.

Jace Alderson moved to approve the agenda. Jim Schwebach seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jim Schwebach moved to accept the minutes of the January, 2010 Annual Meeting. Diane Stearley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Door prizes donated by Gustin Hardware, Nancy Brockerman and Angela’s Salon in Torreon were drawn.

Art introduced David Lightfoot with SWCA who gave a presentation on the monitoring of forest thinning treatments. David said that the research indicates that forests that are thinned survive more easily during wild fire than do densely populated forests. Fuel load that is close to the ground and thick causes intense heat during a fire. This heat results in crowning and swift burning which leave the trees dead and the soil sterilized. A slow moving fire that crawls along the ground will assist grass and plant growth, leaving the forest in a healthier state. David said the funding for this research project comes from the Water Trust Board. All sites are on private land and they monitor soils, hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife. The information obtained from the research can be seen at <http://.nmfwri.org/estanciabasinmonitoring>.

Door prizes donated by Jace Alderson, Diane Stearley, Nancy Brockerman, Gustin Hardware and East Mountain RV and Auto were drawn.

Art Swenka introduced Ted Barela of the nominating committee. Ted announced the nominations to the board of Mike Akin, Barbara Kinney, Ed Sandoval and Jon Shively. He called for nominations from the floor. Jim Schwebach moved nominations cease and the above be elected by acclamation. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Door prizes donated by Schwebach, LLC, Hart’s Hardware, The Watering Hole on 66, Gustin Hardware and Babbi Baker were drawn.

Art Swenka reviewed 2010. He mentioned the Manzano Foothills Water Company, and that EBRA was instrumental in its owner, Gerald Ohlsen pulling back the place of use to the boundary of Tranquillo Pines and no further west. He said that Hidden Oceans, LLC bottled water will only use 13 acre feet of water at full operating capacity and it will create 30 jobs for the basin, so it poses no threat. SLK Trust filed an expanded place of use to include Cedar Crest and much of the same area that Entramosa Water already has.

There was a question about the EMW water system. Jim Schwebach reported that the federal money for it will remain stalled for now.

Barbara Kinney gave the treasurer's report.

Art thanked all in attendance and stressed the importance of dues.

There was discussion about the Governor's possible appointment of a new State Engineer.

Door prizes donated by Eastview Electric, Nancy Brockerman, Bella Notte Restaurant and Ted Barela were drawn.

Art Swenka asked for suggestions on what to include in the annual meetings. There was a question on the progress of the radio station. Doug Mills and Art Swenka reported on it.

Art was thanked for all of his hard work.

Jim Schwebach moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Babbi Baker