

**Carlsbad Soil & Water Conservation District
Annual Work Plan
Fiscal Year 2017**

The Board of Supervisors of the Carlsbad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), along with the employees of the district, outline a planned program to accomplish the on-going and proposed activities that will be set forth in the district. This will stem off our Long-Range Plan of operations. Currently, the Board of Supervisors are:

Nathan Jurva	Chairman
Charles Goodwin	Vice-Chairman
Jim Carr	Secretary/Treasurer
Kristin Pope	Supervisor
Lupe Carrasco	Supervisor
Henry Vasquez	Supervisor
Fred Beard	Supervisor

The current employees for the District are:

Judy Bock	District Manager
Judith McCollaum	Information & Education Specialist

The following outline presents the objectives and goals the District has proposed to accomplish in fiscal year 2017.

Mission:

To facilitate programs that conserve our district's natural resources for all citizens and future generations by utilizing any available funding technical and educational resources and through voluntary efforts.

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Objective I. Continue to improve watershed health using proven conservation practices to assist landowners.

Actions:

- 1) Work with local State and Federal agencies and assist landowners on watersheds within the district to apply noxious/invasive vegetation control and restoration projects.
 - a) Develop new and maintain existing agreements with federal and state agencies for assistance to carry out restoration and noxious/invasive vegetation control on public lands throughout the watershed.
 - b) Work with the private landowners along the Pecos and its tributaries to implement control of non-native phreatophytes and restoration of areas previously treated.
 - c) Assist BLM in projects with Healthy Lands Initiative and Restore New Mexico programs.
- 2) Continue support of the Lower Pecos River Watershed Alliance.
- 3) Maintain and expand the vegetation management program to assist landowners with the removal of brush and other invasive plant species.
- 4) Continue implementation of the Gopher Tail Bounty program for the control of pocket gophers within the district.
- 5) Develop plans and implement watershed improvement projects designed to reduce flooding and erosion in area watersheds.
- 6) Investigate for new/innovative opportunities to continue watershed improvement.

Responsible parties: Project management and district staff

Objective II. Maintain the Information and Education program to improve the knowledge of conservation in our district.

Actions:

- 1) Maintain Carlsbad SWCD website and optimize use of internet for distribution of information to educators and others within the district.
- 2) Provide current information and better education about district activities by producing newspaper articles on conservation issues or district activities; modifying or preparing at least three pamphlets or brochures; and maintaining the district quarterly newsletter.
- 3) Visit the community and local civic organizations periodically to inform the public of Carlsbad SWCD projects.
 - a) Communicate with public through media such as radio, television, newspaper, pamphlets, etc. on district activities.
 - b) Obtain responses from community on our projects.
- 4) Apply for grants to continue the information and education programs and/or activities.
- 5) Establish tour of district watershed activities as needed.
- 6) Continue our support and efforts of information and education through the annual Eddy County Fair.
- 7) Continue participation with district schools during Soil and Water Stewardship Week, Environmental Education Week, and Children's Water Festival.
- 8) Establish a herbarium library of plants found within local area.
- 9) Continue to inform schools of resources and opportunities available.

Responsible parties: Information/education Specialist assisted by board members as needed

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Objective III. Maintain our participation in projects that benefit communities within the district.

Actions:

- 1) Inform the community on funding for community projects, using Carlsbad SWCD forms as guidelines for requests.
 - a) ranking of applications
 - b) award project
 - c) project completion
- 2) Seek grants for assistance on the application of community projects.
- 3) Investigate the development of a Native Species Propagation Center
- 4) Maintain Xeric Garden Demonstrations plots.
- 5) Continue collaboration with local agencies and community through assistance with development of xeric landscape designs.
- 6) Continue collaboration with Living Desert State Park on xeric gardening, rain harvesting, and composting workshops.

Responsible parties: District staff assisted by board members as needed

Objective IV. Continue our interagency relations and support on conservation issues of common interest.

Actions:

- 1) Continue to provide co-leadership in the Eddy County Cooperative Weed Management Area.
 - a) Carry out quarterly noxious weed group meetings.
 - b) Contact additional agencies to collaborate and strengthen the task force.
 - c) Continue seeking funds for the noxious weed task force.
- 2) Maintain our working relationship with our local Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - a) Assist with the Farm Bill Specialist as needed.
 - b) Assist NRCS to meet producer requests for assistance.
- 3) Maintain partnerships with agencies dealing in natural resource concerns and work at implementing best practices for conservation.
 - a) Assist the BLM Southeast District on brush control, noxious weed treatment, and reclamation projects.
 - b) Assist the BOR with assistance as needed.
- 4) Continue to review and revise MOU's with all agencies involved with the district as required.
- 5) Continue to review and submit comments on the terrain management portions of proposed residential and commercial subdivisions from the Eddy County commission that are within the district.

Responsible parties: Carlsbad SWCD Board assisted by district staff

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Objective V. Develop and maintain flood control projects within the district.

Actions:

- 1) Continue support for the Hackberry Draw Watershed District in the maintenance and project efforts.
- 2) Continue support for the Avalon/Alacran and Cass Draw watershed projects.

Responsible parties: Carlsbad SWCD Board assisted by district staff

Objective VI. Increase involvement in the legislative activities that affect the district.

Actions:

- 1) Continue a good working relationship with public officials.
- 2) Follow up on communication with local officials, state, and national legislators on topics dealing with issues the district faces.
- 3) Review and revise our Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) legislative plan to allow our State legislators a more direct vision of what the district's needs are during legislative sessions.
- 4) Provide information to our legislators on how the District implements the bills they carry.

Responsible parties: Carlsbad SWCD Board assisted by district staff

Objective VII. Support development and implementation of innovative ideas for maintenance of irrigation infrastructure.

Actions:

- 1) Investigate opportunities for various types of ditch repairs.
- 2) Create clearinghouse of information for local farmers.
- 3) Develop and host community forum and idea exchange on irrigation principals and ditch repair.

Responsible parties: Carlsbad SWCD Board assisted by district staff