



# Minutes

Village of Los Ranchos

Agriculture Committee Meeting

Agri-Nature Center located at 4920 Rio Grande Blvd NW

DATE- 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 - 3:00 pm – 4.00pm

Zoom Digital Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Henry Shonerd, Bob Martinez, Bill Shen, Joshua O'Halloran, Sabrina Apodaca, Sarah Cobb, Joe Craig, Sue Brawley.

1. Overview of Notes and Rules of Meeting – Meeting was called to order by Joshua O'Halloran at 3:04 pm. Sabrina Apodaca read previous meeting minutes.
2. Agri Nature Center Report – Joshua O'Halloran
  - a. AgriFutures met on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the teams are moving forward with their projects. We met again February 7<sup>th</sup> and the teams have selected their projects and are working towards an April deadline.
  - b. We have installed Sigflow soil sensors at the ANC to monitor soil temperature and moisture and demonstrate some new technologies in agriculture.
  - c. In January we held a workshop on agricultural taxes led by John Garlisch of Bernalillo County extension.
  - d. The New Mexico Wine Association will be holding their annual educational conference for wine makers and growers at the Agri-Nature Center from March 14-16.
  - e. In 2021, our workshops brought in \$736.47 in online and cash sales with about 163 participants.
  - f. We held the Ag Committee Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the possibility of a seed library at the Agri-Nature Center, and a spring plant swap event in April.
  - g. We are working with the Friends of Los Ranchos with regards to the moving of the Schulte house to a new location. An MOU was drafted and we have chosen a new site location for the house and obtained a quote for moving it.
  - h. We are working with Nature's Nino's outdoor school. They will hold classes at the Agri-Nature Center three days every month throughout the Spring semester beginning February 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. We continue to plan our Matanza scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>. It is coming together and we already have over 100 tickets sold.
  - j. The community garden team of Agrifutures has spread compost on the new vegetable farm site and is installing drip irrigation. We plan on planting by the end of February.

### 3. AgriFutures Report

- a. Team 1 Community Farm: The team applied compost, installed irrigation, and they are planting next week in the hoop house. A volunteer carpenter is going to make a kiosk.
- b. Team 2 Regenerative Agriculture: They are looking at an event at Los Poblanos and John Sparks property, then have a meal here sponsored by Seeding Regenerative Agriculture at the ANC. The event will be focused on Healthy Soils
- c. Team 3 Economic Development and Agritourism: They had a listening session at Matanza and the next step is community outreach.
- d. Team 4 ANC Soil and Water Lab: They are planning a Soils Lab launch on March 26. Gabby presented for the board and finalized a fee schedule.

### 4. Water

- a. Continuing the question asked at the last Ag Committee meeting: Can you divert acequia water, store it, and use it periodically? Joshua: No, it's illegal from what I could find. Also, ditch water wouldn't work well for drip irrigation since it's so muddy. It'll clog. If you want to use drip, your own well may be required.
  - i. We are purchasing water rights for the ANC and Osuna Park. It'll help us have more reliable water access due to water laws. The older the water rights, the longer we can water.
- a. Rain Water Catchments: all our rain comes in about 1 or 2 months. If we can store it and use it on drip, it could help. Henry: residential zoning states that you can only use your roof to catch, no other part of your property. Bill: The rain is not ours to take. As a government entity the ANC has to be especially careful. Joshua: With our large building, we could get a lot of water, however, we would need very large containers to catch all of it. We need to make sure it's legal here. Sarah: It'll be great for demonstrating to other farmers. Joshua: Maybe instead of a large system we can just do a model. Something scalable.
- b. Water Rights: You can sell or transfer water rights to a well, but it has to be in the same water basin. Bob: They have to be on the same basin, but the seller has to agree that the seller will never irrigate the section they sold.
- c. Sarah: Can we get education non how to use water efficiently? We can talk about ollas, swales, and different methods. Bill: We need to be able to measure our rain, so we know how much to water. Joshua: We should have a weather station that we can monitor here. Bob: We need to teach about water meters. Legally your well needs to be metered since 80% of water in the state is used in agriculture.

Meeting was adjourned by Joshua at 4:00 PM  
Next meeting is scheduled on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm  
Respectively submitted by Sabrina Apodaca

**The Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Committee is an advisory committee and does not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board of Trustees or Planning and Zoning Commission. Any recommendations made by the Agriculture Committee are non-binding. All members of the public are invited to attend. Summary notes of meetings will be available upon request.**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend and/or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Village Clerk at 505-344-6582 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.