

MEETING MINUTES
FARMER'S DITCH
AZTEC, NM

These minutes are for the special meeting held on August 13, 2025, at Flora Vista Water Association's office located at 2 Road 3499 #C, Flora Vista, NM 87415 at 6:00 p.m. mountain time.

The following were attendees (V = Voting member):

(V) John Lofgren - Board Member D1
(V) David Elder - Board Member D3
(V) Bonnie Yoakum - Board Member D2
Misty Boone
(V) Stanley (Mike) Wells
(V) Pamela Carlisle
(V) Mike Huddleston
(V) Dale Rhodes
Luanne Rhodes

These minutes are prepared in accordance with Farmer's Ditch bylaws, paragraph 2.3. These minutes are a summary of the meeting and are not a transcript. They are intended to record the key decisions and actions taken. **Any discrepancies shall be brought to the board for correction no less than two weeks prior to the next regular meeting, for inclusion into the final version.**

1. This special meeting was called to clarify the last meeting motion and approvals intent for the ditch rider's salary. Also on the agenda was to get approval to send a mailer for the upcoming election and request for email addresses for easier communication. The special meeting announcement was posted on the Facebook page and official website.
2. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. John Lofgren.
3. Mr. Lofgren opened the meeting by stating he felt that the previous meeting implied that the approved \$60,000 was a cap and not the agreed to amount. Ms. Yoakum stated that the board was not agreeing on the interpretation, and the meeting was needed. Mr. Lofgren stated he wanted to renegotiate the salary.
4. Mr. Lofgren stated that he believed \$22.00 an hour was fair and appropriate and that is what the current helper had been getting paid. He also stated that he felt that was high, but it was the agreed to amount since the labor required for filling sand bags was hard labor. He stated that he also wanted to keep an eye on the proposed ditch rider as he was new and did not have a lot of experience.

Mr. Lofgren also raised concerns that paying the member once per month may not be ideal as he wasn't sure the proposed applicant could manage his finances. He also mentioned that he was concerned that we were no longer going to pay the worker's compensation, taxes, etc.

for the ditch rider; he was not sure the proposed applicant would pay them. Members all stated that it was the applicants responsibility and if he couldn't pay his taxes, perhaps he shouldn't hold the position.

Members also stated that we are not in a position currently to pay the taxes and all the associated bills as we don't have a bookkeeper yet.

Ms. Yoakum reminded the membership that the salary and contract cannot be applied to an individual, but must be agreed to with no in particular person in mind. She also informed the membership that Mr. Lofgren requested that a pesticide license be added to the requirements and a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) be listed as preferred. Ms. Yoakum felt those requirements increased the salary base for the position above normal labor standards.

Mr. Lofgren concurred he asked for those items and reiterated that the CDL is not mandatory, but is in the best interest of the ditch for safety. He stated the previous ditch rider did not have a CDL, but he hauled equipment exceeding normal license requirements

Ms. Misty Boone stated that we need to be prepared that the City of Farmington may not be taking as much or any water for the remainder of the year due to the water restrictions which could affect funding.

Mr. Lofgren stated that the one applicant was asked not to attend due to the topic. However, he stated that he thought everyone would like the member and he was a sweetheart and a hard worker. Ms. Boone stated he should have attended to meet the members and build relationships.

Mr. Rhodes stated that the contractor should be required to supply all equipment if being hired as a contractor. Ms. Yoakum stated that the proposed contract stated that all specialty equipment will be supplied by the ditch. Everyone stated the contract should stipulate that it is a labor contract only.

Mr. Lofgren brought up the discussion on whether the district's insurance and bonding covered the ditch rider and all board members. This was unknown, but Ms. Yoakum stated it was not relevant to the contract and could not be discussed as it was not on the agenda. Mr. Lofgren stated he wanted the information to be reviewed. The topic will be reviewed. It was noted that the individual hired will be responsible to have insurance and bonding for the work they perform.

A motion was made to clarify that the contract shall be for \$60,000 annually, all expenses, taxes, insurance, and bonding included and that the individual be paid monthly as a 1099 contractor. The motion was seconded (Mr. Elder the first time, Ms. Boone the second). The motion carried with six votes.

5. Ms. Boone stated she wanted to remove the term "Mayordomo" from the contract as she did not feel the ditch rider should have those authorities. She recommended one of the board members hold those responsibilities. She requested a copy of the contract be sent for review.

6. The topic of the election mailer was brought up, Ms. Yoakum motioned for a \$2,000 cap on expenses. Ms. Boone stated that no motion or approval was necessary for expenses associated with elections. We will include the request for emails in the election mailer to save on expenses.
7. Ms. Boone asked who paid taxes and how it was assessed. She also stated the board is responsible for provide the county with an updated list of owners annually. Ms. Rhodes stated it was only water owners. Ms. Boone stated she would contact the county for more details.
8. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lofgren, the motion was seconded by Ms. Yoakum. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. mountain.