MEETING MINUTES
FARMER'S DITCH
AZTEC, NM

These minutes are for the meeting held on October 7, 2025, at Flora Vista Water Association's (FVWA) 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) Bonnie Yoakum- Board Member D2
(V) David Elder - Board Member D3
(V) Dale Rhodes
Luanne Rhodes
Misty Boone
(V) Richard Boone
(V) Mike Wells
(V) Mike Huddleston
(V) Pamela Carlisle
Michelle Williams
(V) Eric Edgerton
Addison Yoakum

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 <u>prior</u> to the next regular meeting, for inclusion into the final version.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mr. John Lofgren.

2. Review of the sign in sheet was completed to ensure all attendees had signed in.

3. The previous meeting minutes were posted in accordance with NMSA, no corrections were submitted. Bonnie Yoakum motioned to accept the meeting minutes, Misty Boone seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. The financial report for the first quarter were available for review. There were questions on the gas station charges. Mr. Lofgren stated they were fuel for his vehicle and fuel for the rental equipment. There were questions on what was purchased from Lowes. Mr. Lofgren stated he purchased hand tools and "loppers" for weed control. Mr. Boone asked if an inventory of all equipment purchased was kept. It is not. Mr. Boone stated he believed one should be kept. Ms. Yoakum agreed.

Mr. Huddleston inquired why one load of material for the recent ditch repairs was substantially higher than the others. Mr. Lofgren stated he did not know, after further inquiry, he believes it was for a different type of material (gravel vs. dirt). No load tickets were available for review.

There is a recurring Durango Herald charge. Misty Boone inquired what it was for. Mr. Lofgren is not sure what it is for, but believes they signed he up for a subscription when he placed an ad for an upcoming meeting. He was asked to cancel it by Ms. Yoakum prior to this meeting and he was asked again during the meeting to coordinate the cancellation. He stated he called twice, but has not been successful in getting it cancelled. Ms. Boone stated he should use email.

An invoice for Mr. Lester (last name unknown and invoice unreadable) was presented by John Lofgren. This service was unknown to other board members, but it was stated he was a day laborer used for trench digging. The invoice was for $400.00.

After all questions were answered, Mr. Boone motioned to accept the financial report, seconded by Ms. Boone. Motion carried.

5. The agenda stated that the City of Farmington check to pay for the culverts was lost, however, during the meeting Mr. Lofgren stated he received it and had deposited it. This concludes the sale, pick up and payment of the culverts. Five culverts remain.

   Mr. Lofgren and Mr. Elder stated that they should be used at the head of the ditch to prevent debris from entering the ditch and at a location “behind the FVWA office” to shorten the ditch”. Ms. Boone asked if the land owner had agreed and they stated yes, he welcomed the culverts. Mr. Boone inquired if anyone had worked with an engineer to assess and create a storm water management plan. It has not been done, but will be before changes are made to the ditch. Bids will be required to move and place the culverts. The culverts weigh approximately 26K lbs. A crane (Drake) required to move them is estimated at $285 per hour.

   Mr. Lofgren would like to place the two at the head of the ditch when the water is at it’s lowest; approximately June/July. Mr. Wells asked if they had permission to place them in the river, Mr. Lofgren stated yes, Office of State Engineers (OSE) didn’t seem to have a problem with it.

   Storage fees are still due to Mr. Ron Baca until all culverts are removed from his property.

6. To date no ditch rider has been hired. Mr. Lofgren stated he did not want to hire a ditch rider and he would continue to perform the duties as required. Mr. Boone stated there may be a conflict with the Board President performing as the Ditch Rider. Ms. Boone elaborated that it may upset the checks and balances that are needed. Ms. Yoakum agreed.

Mr. Boone stated he would look into the NMSA and by laws for any conflicts. Ms. Yoakum believed that no board members should be filling the role and a ditch rider should be hired.

Mr. Elder expressed frustration that the members did not appreciate the work he had performed as a board member reference the City of Farmington contract and he was accused of “not respecting the farmers”. He asserted he was a farmer and did respect them. He also stated that he felt the members were never on our (board) side.

Mr. Elder also stated that Mr. Lofgren could spend whatever was needed to repair the ditch, as he needed the water for shallow rooted plants. He stated emergency repairs are different than planned repairs and did not need the same approvals. Ms. Boone agreed that not all emergencies could be approved before hand.

Ms. Boone stated that she was not attacking any one personally. Mr. Lofgren stated it is hard not to take it personal and Mr. Elder said he felt personally attacked. Mr. Wells stated he felt as if the board can’t be challenged by the membership. Ms. Boone stated she just wanted to find common ground.

A conversation about ensuring money was not wasted or ditch alterations were not properly planned, i.e. the Vanilla Moose project, was had. Mr. Lofgren requested that everyone stop bringing up the Vanilla Moose project as it was in the past.

Mr. Boone again stated that it (President/Ditch rider) may be an issue, Mr. Lofgren stated it was his right to do so. Mr. Lofgren asserted that Bloomfield District’s board members also performed as ditch riders.

Ms. Yoakum brought up concerns of insurance covering a board member if they were performing ditch rider duties, but not disclosed on the insurance documents. She was also confused that Mr. Lofgren continues to state he doesn’t want to use 1099 contractors due to insurance concerns, but has hired multiple 1099 contractors in the past month to assist with the ditch. None of which provided bonding/insurance documentation.

Ms. Boone stated that over all, it muddied the waters; and stated that clear roles and limitations need to be in place.

Mr. Lofgren stated he didn’t want to use the previous day laborer (Buster Hoke) moving forward because he submitted hours he did not actually work. Ms. Yoakum reminded him that Mr. Hoke stated he had in fact worked the hours. Mr. Lofgren stated he asked Mr. Hoke to clean screens and it was not done. He also stated that he didn’t want to turn him loose on the customers.

However, Ms. Yoakum noted that he just called Mr. Hoke to work on the two recent leaks, but he insists he does poor work. She was confused on why he would continually call someone who he thinks provides poor performance.

Mr. Wells stated he thought the position would be a great way for a younger person to start their own business and have a better future.

Mr. Lofgren stated he would like one month to find a ditch rider or step down as a board member.

7. Interviews for a bookkeeper would be conducted immediately after the meeting. Updates would be forthcoming.

8. Ms. Yoakum stated that an annual budget is required. An assessment of the ditch is needed and a report of all suggest repairs needed. Once complete, bids for the prioritized projects would need to be received to budget for the current Fiscal Year. Ms. Yoakum stated she would have the ditch rider perform the assessment, however one was not available. Mr. Elder stated that an assessment by himself, Mr. Lofgren and Ms. Cargile was completed in previous years. It may be able to be updated.

   Mr. Huddleston stated that he didn't believe a ditch rider should/could properly assess the ditch for required repairs, especially at the rate of $60K per annum.

   Mr. Lofgren and Mr. Elder stated there was a repair to concrete that was needed and banks that had been "shrunk" by land owners over time, that would need repairs.

9. Ms. Yoakum mentioned that the By Laws are required to be updated. Ms. Boone stated she is working with the County to determine what is needed and for clarification. She stated she would provide feedback once those meetings were conducted. Mr. Lofgren stated to look at Farmers and Bloomfield side-by-side for input.

10. An off agenda item was presented by Mr. Eric Edgerton. He was requesting information to install a new headgate at 191/193. He had spoken to Mr. Lofgren already. He wanted to make sure he had all the information and approvals. He also requested input on who to use. Several responses on documents required, insurance required and possible sources were presented. Ms. Yoakum stated she would email the member details as well. Mr. Edgerton also stated that he believe he could complete the work himself. It was confirmed he could with proper insurance/bonding. Mr. Edgerton would also like to install a bridge at his property over the ditch.

11. Ms. Carlisle asked where to locate a complete list of all the water right owners on the ditch. Ms. Yoakum stated a list can be received at the OSE. Ms. Rhodes wanted to know why more members did not attend the meetings. No one was sure; but Mr. Lofgren stated most people don't get involved unless it affects their life. Ms. Rhodes also stated that board members should not be in a rush to end the meeting, and if they were, maybe they shouldn't be board members. Ms. Yoakum stated she respected individual's time.

There were interviews that were scheduled, members who had other things to attend to and we were in a borrowed space that required people to remain and lock up. It was important to start and finish on time.

12. A mailer for the upcoming election will be sent for November. The mailer will include a request for email addresses for easier communication. The list from OSE only contains physical/mailing addresses. The opening and counting of the votes will occur in a special meeting.

13. There was a duplicated payment to NM Mutual (insurance). A reimbursement check had been sent. Mr. Lofgren will deposit.

14. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lofgren, the motion was seconded by Ms. Yoakum. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. mountain.