DISTRICT PRIORITIES:

- Improve irrigation system efficiency on farmland within Socorro SWCD utilizing Cost Share program.
- Continue management/eradication program for noxious weeds on private land.
- Continue to educate public with emphasis on schools about the importance of soil and water conservation.
- Develop federally authorized Conservation Program.
- Assist local entities with conservation needs.
- Promote proper drainage and treatment of high water table and related problems.
- Improve management on irrigated pastures in District.
- Administer Loan Program.
- Reduce erosion and increase productivity of rangeland within the Socorro SWCD.
- Improve management of irrigated cropland in District.
- Promote Soil and Water Conservation District publicly with media.
- Educate the Public in water rights and declaration processes.
- Continue to work with ISC on Regional and State water plans.
- Actively pursue grants to accomplish conservation programs.
- Lead SWCDs along Lower Rio Grande in Salt cedar management and revegetation program.
- Seek funds to conduct revegetation work on land that has been treated for Salt cedar infestation.
- Develop monitoring system of wells, piezometers, drains for water quality and quantity parameters.
- Pursue funding for water monitoring systems.

PRIORITY: Improve Irrigation System Efficiency on farmland, reduce erosion and increase productivity of rangeland within the Socorro SWCD utilizing Cost Share program.

Goal: Conserve and improve water conservation measures within the District.

Action:

1. Administer Cost Share program.
2. Advertise Cost Share program.
3. Develop Conservation Plans with landowners, especially those applying for Cost Share assistance.
4. Continue Soil Testing Cost Share program for private landowners and work with the County Extension Agent.
5. Continue promoting drip irrigation Cost Share program.
6. Continue promoting low flow water devices Cost Share program.
7. Work with cooperators who apply for Cost Share Program for brush management in the treatment of juniper infested lands.
8. Improve management on irrigated pastures in District by encouraging landowners to level fields and re-establish pasture to be more efficient and productive.

PRIORITY: Continue management/eradication program for noxious weeds on private land.

Goal: Educate the public on noxious weeds. Eradicate small populations and control larger infestations.

Action:

1. Continue control/eradication program with local landowners.
2. Expand noxious weed program into Catron County and investigate disturbed sites as requested by the Bureau of Land Management.
3. Educate public with seminars, newspaper articles, and brochures.
4. Pursue funding sources for herbicide and equipment.
5. Continue writing management plans with local entities.
6. Coordinate noxious weed treatments with all government entities on their land.
7. Seek funding and methods for control of aquatic Parrotfeather infestations in drains.

PRIORITY: Continue to educate public with emphasis on schools about the importance of soil and water conservation.

Goal: Reach at least 2000 people first hand demonstrating benefits of soil and water conservation.

Action:

1. Use outdoor classroom in partnership with Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge for environmental education.
2. Update and advertise website: www.socorroswcd.com
3. Continue to publish quarterly newsletter with soil and water conservation issues and topics.
4. Sponsor youth to New Mexico State Forestry Camp.

5. Provide soil stewardship materials to grade schools for Soil Stewardship Week.
6. Set up display booth at Socorro County Fair.
7. Participate in Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Day.
8. Participate in Bosque Conservation Day.
9. Promote and sponsor local school participants in Environthon.
10. Promote and sponsor conservation of natural resources awards in the local senior and mid school level science fairs.
11. Continue working with the Socorro County Extension Agent to sponsor and promote Kids, Cows, and More.
12. Continue to work with School Administration to develop education program in schools.
13. Parkview Elementary – technical assistance, noxious weed control, construction of wetland/riparian area.

PRIORITY: Develop federally authorized conservation program.

Goal: Update criteria for Socorro County Irrigated Valley, Lower Rio Grande Geographic Priority Area, and the Yellow Dog Canyon Geographic Priority Area.

Action:

1. Participate in Local WORK Group Meeting as needed.

PRIORITY: Assist local entities with rural conservation needs.

Goal- Assist County, City, and local community groups with conservation related projects.

Action:

1. Contact City and other entities as needed and offer applicable technical and planning assistance.
2. Work with Jornada Resource Conservation & Development on such projects.
3. Assist in fuels reduction under Socorro County Fire Plan.
4. Assist Save Our Bosque Task Force with education and public benefit programs.

PRIORITY: Promote proper drainage and treatment of high water table and related problems.

Goal: Review of drainage system for function every year.

Action:

1. Meet with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District at least once during year to express district concerns over aquatic weed infestations and ditch maintenance.
2. Special Emphasis Areas of concern:
   a. Drainage ditches infested with Parrotfeather.
   b. Submit grants to address this problem.

PRIORITY: Administer Loan Program.

Goal: Enhance District's loan program.

1. Continue to collect loan repayments from cooperators participating in loan program.

PRIORITY: Lead SWCDs along Rio Grande in Salt cedar eradication program.

Goal: Continue treatment/removal of Salt cedar and native vegetation restoration.

Action:

1. Treat Salt cedar.
2. Continue developing restoration plans with individual landowners.
3. Seek more funding for continued management and for revegetation.
4. Continue using excavator for re-sprout treatment and pole planting.

PRIORITY: Water Issues and planning.

Goal: Develop understanding of water issues related to Socorro SWCD.

Action:

1. Pursue grants for funding conservation practices.
2. Continue to work with Interstate Stream Commission on Regional and State water plans.
3. Continue to work with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District on drainage and conveyance ditch conservation measures.
4. Compile local Socorro SWCD historical water data for long range natural resource protection measures in reducing soil erosion and implementing water conservation.
5. Develop monitor system for water use/conservation measures
6. Identify and monitor wells/piezometers, ditches, and/or drains to compare historic and recent data.
7. Determine hydrologic connectivity, salinity, groundwater re-charge for landowners and agricultural producers.

Approved:

Chairman _____ Date 8/10/2010