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Bob Nichols, Chairman Eddie Vigil, Member

Rick Baish, Vice Chairman James Evrage, Member

Jeff Rabon, Secretary/Treasurer Colt Howland, Member

Clifton Varbel, Member

**OTERO SWCD MINUTES**

#  DECEMBER 16, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT MEMBERS ABSENT GUESTS**

Bob Nichols Colt Howland Laura Doth, RC&D

Jeff Rabon James Evrage

Rick Baish

Eddie Vigil **STAFF**

Clifton Varbel Vicky Milne

**CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed. Jeff Rabon motioned to approve the agenda, Rick Baish seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

EMNRD Sacramento River WUI Fuels Reduction Grant Application Approval - The grant proposes to conduct fuels reduction treatments on at least 100 acres of private property adjacent to and near the sunspot highway and Sacramento River, including the communities of Bug Scuffle and Timberon, NM. Specifications will roughly match those of the soon-to-be expired Southern Sacramento WUI grant and will be another 50%-50% match grant. Max reimbursement is TBD, but Trystan is hoping to increase the reimbursement amount above the $1,150/acre currently in the Southern Sacramento WUI. Laura Doth gave an update on the current projects. There was discussion on the per acre cost. Rick Baish motioned to approve sponsoring the project, Jeff Rabon seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Ranching without Red Tape - A bill to allow holders of certain grazing permits to make minor range improvements and to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior respond to requests for range improvements within 30 days. Rick Baish thought the bill could be a way for producers to speed up necessary work. Jeff Rabon suggested keeping it on the agenda for discussion at future meetings.

With no further business to discuss, Rick Baish motioned to adjourn, Jeff Rabon seconded, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

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Bob Nichols, Chairman Jeff Rabon, Secretary/ Treasurer