

## Draft Meeting Minutes August 25<sup>th</sup>

Meeting of Acequia del Caño Commission was held after notification with agenda mailed to parcientes on August 13, 2010. Meeting started at 7:10 pm. The President, Secretary and Mayordomo were in attendance constituting a quorum. Three cards to be sent from the Acequia to Governor Richardson, Speaker Ben Lujan and Representative Ben Ray Lujan thanking them for their efforts in obtaining stimulus funds for the Acequia del Caño were circulated for signatures. These funds are to be used for diversion pipeline to be built from the diversion to the headgate. Certified engineer drawings have been completed by NRCS for the project.

Minutes from March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and adopted. Resignation of Treasurer was announced. Recruitment to Commission for that position is to be pursued by Commission and Mayordomo.

Most of meeting was spent looking at photos of work and describing annual cleaning, ditch-wide maintenance, and maintenance at CR 84G and for the diversion. Secretary who has honchoed most of the actual onsite work described the problems overcome and the field engineering that went into making progress on work while keeping acequia flowing. Progress has been significant and all projects can be completed by the end of the season.

President described administrative efforts and struggles to obtain agreement with county, highway department and other entities to minimize delays at sites. After pictures of individual projects were shown, the President presented a spreadsheet of expenditures, per project and in summary. At the end of the photo display the president also suggested amount for consideration to be billed parcientes. Motion to bill shareholders for \$100.00/acre right was moved and passed. Shareholders understood importance of completing and saving projects from possible floods. Most of the Spring Meeting business centered on CR 84G and the diversion maintenance. So too did this meeting. Nobody wants to pay for things twice.

Pictures of the affected areas of acequia were shown before the start of projects, during project work, during and after floods and in present condition. A large amount of money has been invested by all shareholders this year plus lots of volunteer time and labor by Meade and Pete Romero. Progress is evident and well-received by those in attendance. Long-term issues are being addressed and diminishing.

The Commission promised to seek a low interest loan to assist in acequia in paying for the project at CR 84G. No commercial institution would offer a loan to a government entity which the acequia is. Loan funds are available from the Interstate Stream Commission at 2.5%. These are only given to projects that have Army Corps 404 Exemption, certified-engineer drawings and are agreed to by every shareholder. Only the CR 84G project qualified. The Association could take a loan for this project; however, none in attendance were supportive. The Commission did not recommend this action. Private financing is considered best.

The president moved the Commission make an additional assessment of \$100.00/acre right for each shareholder to complete CR 84G and continue elevation restoration project at the river. It passed.

Pete Romero, the president Jim Rogers and the secretary Meade Martin attended a presentation in Taos where an award of stimulus funding was granted to the Acequia del Caño. We were told that we will be informed of all the grant terms and conditions in mid-September, when we meet together with the Commissioners of the five other New Mexico acequias that were awarded funds and officials from the ISC and DFA. Updates will follow. "Thank you" cards for Governor Richardson, Speaker Ben Lujan and Representative Ben Ray Lujan were collected from shareholders near the end of the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.