



New Mexico Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition

2025 Conference & Business Meeting

"What's the Dirt??!!"

May 7-9, 2025

Sagebrush Inn & Suites, Taos, NM

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

7:30 **Registration** (Room: Chamisa I)

9:00 **The Billy T's of Watershed Structure Survival**

Workshop (3-hrs; 09:00-12:00, Room: Chamisa I)

Facilitators: Chuck Caruso, P.E. – Owner, Agrimex

10:30 **15-min Break** (Room: Chamisa II)

10:45 **Workshop** *continued* (Room: Chamisa I)

12:00 **Lunch & Networking** (Room: Chamisa II)

1:00 **WATERSHED TOUR – Las Cruces Dam on Taos Pueblo (maintained by Town of Taos)**

Tim Corner, CFM – GIS Analyst, Floodplain Manager, Town of Taos

Peter Vigil – District Manager, Taos SWCD

Chuck Caruso, P.E. – Owner, Agrimex

Las Cruces Arroyo Flood Control Dam, RC&D Project #83

Tour will meet and leave from Sagebrush Inn & Suites together in provided vans

Snacks provided by Taos SWCD

END OF DAY 1



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7:00 **Breakfast** (Room: Chamisa II)

8:15 **Welcome!** (Room: Chamisa I)

Marietta Fambro – Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Taos

8:30 **State of New Mexico Dams Address**

Sushil Chaudhary, D.Eng., PE – Dam Safety Bureau Chief, Office of the State Engineer

9:00 **New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts – Update**

Josh Smith – President, NMACD; Executive Board, NACD; Chairman, Dona Ana SWCD; Manager, EBID

9:30 **National Watershed Coalition Update – Federal Update**

Gene Saurborn and Dan Sebert – National Watershed Coalition

10:00 **Rio Grande Water Fund Update & Other Initiatives**

Jason Scullion – Forest Strategy Director, The Nature Conservancy New Mexico

10:30 **30-min Break** (Room: Chamisa II)

Tract One – Less Technical (Room: Pinon)

11:00 **TNC – Watershed Scale Lessons Learned**

Jason Scullion and AJ Jones – The Nature Conservancy

11:30 **Community-based and Watershed-scale Projects in the Rio Grande Basin Restoring Natural Functions to Mitigate Floods and Droughts**

Dr. Connie Maxwell, Ph.D. – NMSU Water Resource Research Institute

Tract Two – More Technical/Engineering (Room: Chamisa I)

11:00 **Addressing Spillway Capacity Deficiency for Dams**

Sushil Chaudhary, D.Eng., PE - Dam Safety Bureau Chief, Office of the State Engineer

11:30 **Effects of Slope, Compaction, Gravel Mulch and Landscape Fabric on Infiltration for Sandy Soils**

Gerhard Schoener, Ph.D. – Senior Hydrologist, SCAFCFA

12:00 **Lunch & Keynote Speaker:** Liz Anderson, PE, New Mexico State Engineer
(Room: Chamisa II)

Tract One – Less Technical (cont'd)

1:30 **Improving Stormwater Infrastructure – Flood Capture and Control through Partnerships in The Lower Rio Grande**

Ryan Serrano – Lower Rio Grande Basin Manager, NM Interstate Stream Commission

2:00 **Watershed Restoration at the Lordsburg Playa**
Mike Gaglio – Founder, High Desert Native Plants

2:30 **Asset Based Approach to Dam Ownership**

Brad Kirksey, PE – Freese & Nichols

3:00 **Effects of wildfires on hydrology and soils in NM**

David Smith, PE – Engineering Analytics, Inc.

Tract Two – More Technical/ Engineering (cont'd)

1:30 **Nichols Dam Construction Project above Santa Fe**
Don Lopez, PE – Principal Civil Geotechnical Engineer, AECOM

Jackson Moloney, PE – AECOM

2:00 **Rehabilitation of Rio Hondo Dam**

Amanda Lopez, PE – Senior Associate, Hazen-Sawyer

Justin Stoeber, PE – Senior Dams Engineer, AECOM

2:30 **CFD Modeling for Complex Drainage Analysis**

Chris Naidu, PE, NM Water Business Leader, WSP

3:00 **Pintada Arroyo Watershed Rehabilitation Planning**

Jacob Lobato, PE – Tetra Tech, Inc
Joseph Sing, EIT – Tetra Tech, Inc



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3:30 **30-min Break** (Room: Chamisa II)

4:00 **Panel Discussion: Watershed & Structure Health – How watershed health affects flood control** (Room: Chamisa I)
Moderator: Chuck Easterling, PE

Panel Members: Alfredo Roybal – *Chairman, SF-Pojoaque SWCD*
Hugh Floyd, PE – *Managing Member, Community Design Solutions; Huning Ranch*
Andres Sanchez, PE – *Design Services Director, SCAFCA*
Chuck Caruso, PE – *Owner, Agrimex*

END OF DAY 2

5:00 – 6:30 **Reception/Social** (Room: Chamisa II)
Hors d'oeuvres provided
Cash bar

Many Thanks to our Loyal Sponsors!!!

Bohannon Houston

Tetra Tech

Wilson & Company

WSP

Caballo SWCD





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Friday, May 9, 2025

- 7:00 **Breakfast** (*Room: Chamisa II*)
- 8:00 **General Membership Meeting** (*Room: Chamisa I*)
Zack Libbin, PE - *Chair, NMWDOC*
- 9:00 **NMDA Healthy Soil Program**
Dean Bruce & Katie Crayton – *Healthy Soil Program Co-Leads, New Mexico Department of Agriculture*
- 9:30 **USACE Silver Jackets Program**
Brad Bingham, PE – *Program Manager, Floodplain Management Services, USACE*
- 10:00 **15-min Break** (*Room: Chamisa II*)
- 10:15 **NRCS Soil Survey...*access to data, use, and limitations***
Rick Strait – *State Soil Scientist, NRCS*
- 11:15 **Embankment Structure Maintenance Discussion**
Susan Downs – *Programs Manager, Caballo SWCD*
Zack Libbin, PE – *Principal Engineer, Libbin Underwood Engineering & Surveying*
Casey McGuire – *Supervisor, Caballo SWCD*
- 11:45 **Geotechnical Aspects of Embankment Dam Maintenance and Repairs**
Bob Huzjak, PE – *President, RJH Consultants*
- 12:15 **Lunch and Continue Membership Discussion** (*Room: Chamisa II*)
- 1:30 **Adjourn Conference**

END OF CONFERENCE

Travel Safe! – We'll see you next year!!