

"Campaigns & Elections" on the side menu. Please submit completed questionnaires to leanne@cvm.org.

Issue Questions:

1. Should MRGCD-owned ditch banks be open to public use?

Yes No

This is an issue that needs to be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Because the ditch banks of the MRGCD are located on both tribal/non-tribal lands, matters of sovereignty and jurisdiction come into question. Thus, even though ditch right-of-ways are identified, boundaries must need to be recognized and respected.

2. Should the Conservancy District allow farmers to forbear from using water in exchange for compensation in water-short years?

Yes No

Surface water right holders in the MRGCD should be allowed to treat their irrigation right as a property right. One that can be given up during times of need.

3. Do you believe that urban ratepayers receive benefits from the District? How would you increase the benefits that they receive?

Yes No

Because the works of the MRGCD are for "flood control," those within the benefitted areas are, in effect, receiving the benefit of "flood protection." I do, however, believe that the MRGCD could engage in a proactive educational campaign to ensure those urban ratepayers understand the additional benefits provided by the MRGCD (i.e., recreational trails and environmental stewardship).

4. Should farmers be allowed to continue irrigating after they have sold their water rights?

Yes No

The right to irrigate needs to be treated like a property right that if sold, cannot continue to be utilized.

5. Should Conservancy District elections be held at the same time as General Elections?

Yes No

This might create more awareness and voter participation with regard to the important issues surrounding water in the middle Rio Grande.

6. How would you increase participation in Conservancy District elections?

Engage in the public education of the services of the MRGCD, benefits of the MRGCD and how those that live in the District can become involved.

7. Should ratepayer monies be used to oppose environmental protections?

Yes No

Ratepayer monies should be utilized to protect the values of the MRGCD. Values that must be supported by those ratepayers, voiced by Board Members and not of the MRGCD administrative staff. Thus, if certain environmental protections are supported by the constituents of the MRGCD, then their monies should not be used to fight such efforts.

8. Should the Conservancy District reduce the amount of ratepayer money that it spends on attorney's fees?

Yes No

If yes, how?

Hire an in-house legal team to work on a salary basis.

9. Should previously retired employees of the district be allowed to collect retirement pay as well as a salary?

Yes No

If their contracts state such, then it is only fair to honor said contracts. However, the MRGCD's management structure and future contract provisions need to be reviewed to ensure prudent budget expenditures.

Background and Campaign-Related Questions:

1. Describe your current occupation and other employment experience relevant to the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. What other relevant positions have you held, if any?

Current occupation:

- Attorney
- Adjunct Professor; University of New Mexico
- Business Owner

Relevant employment experience:

- Water Resources Manager; Pueblo of Sandia (1997-2003)
- Legal Consultant (2006-2009)
- Adjunct Professor (2007-2009)

Relevant positions:

- Chairman; Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos Water Coalition (2000-2003)

2. What experience do you have with conservation issues? What, if any, specific environmental accomplishments are you most proud of?

With 6+ years working for the Pueblo of Sandia environmental department, I was a contributor on many conservation efforts. From bosque restoration projects, wastewater treatment projects and water resources conservation and education efforts, I have been able to learn from such experiences and accomplishments.