

"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 X No

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

Yes x No

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

Yes X No

They do receive benefits. Wildlife habitat, green space, flood control and the system of trails benefit all ratepayers. However the benefits they receive are not proportional to the percentage of income that is generated for the district from their assessments. Urban ratepayers would benefit from better trail maintenance, more education about the ditches and the benefits they provide, and more equitable treatment.

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

Yes No

It does help promote and preserve agricultural uses in the valley but there is a problem with over appropriation. What if someone buys land and wants to farm it and use irrigation water from the ditch but the previous owner sold the water rights? I would want to talk to small farmers and get their opinions on it. I think we should be encouraging small landowners to grow crops.

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

Yes No

Election reform is sorely needed. If issues with the pueblos and addressing could be resolved, my preference would be mail in ballots.

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

See above

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

Yes No

I consider myself an environmentalist but I cannot give a blanket No statement because sometimes a lawsuit might be filed to resolve underlying legal issues and it might be in the best interest of ratepayers to have those issues resolved.

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

Yes No

If yes, how? Not filing frivolous lawsuits, not having to defend against frivolous lawsuits and better oversight of attorney's fees.

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

Yes No

Once the legislature made this practice legal, its use has been widespread. I think that the State legislature will resolve this issue soon and come up with something that the Governor will sign. I prefer it to be resolved in this manner so that district employees are treated the same as other PERA and ERA employees.

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?

I am currently the environmental review officer for the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. I have previously worked for the New Mexico State Legislature (one session) as an administrator for Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos and for 10 years I was a community planner for the City of Albuquerque.

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

I once worked part-time during the legislative session for the Conservation Voters Alliance. I presume that the second question only pertains to me if I have been the driving force behind an environmental law being passed, etc. and I have not played a significant role in any environmental protections.