

*Board of Supervisors*

*Horace Leyba,  
Chairman*

*Eloy Olivas,  
Vice-Chairman*

*Frank Martinez*

*Secretary/Treasurer*

*J. Agapito Candelaria  
Supervisor*

*Lorrie A.V. Leyba,  
Supervisor*

*District Manager  
Jo Ann Valdez*

*TSP  
Johnny Ulibarri*

*Noxious Weed Coordinator  
Tony Soto*

*NRCS Soil Conservationist  
Tommy Casados*

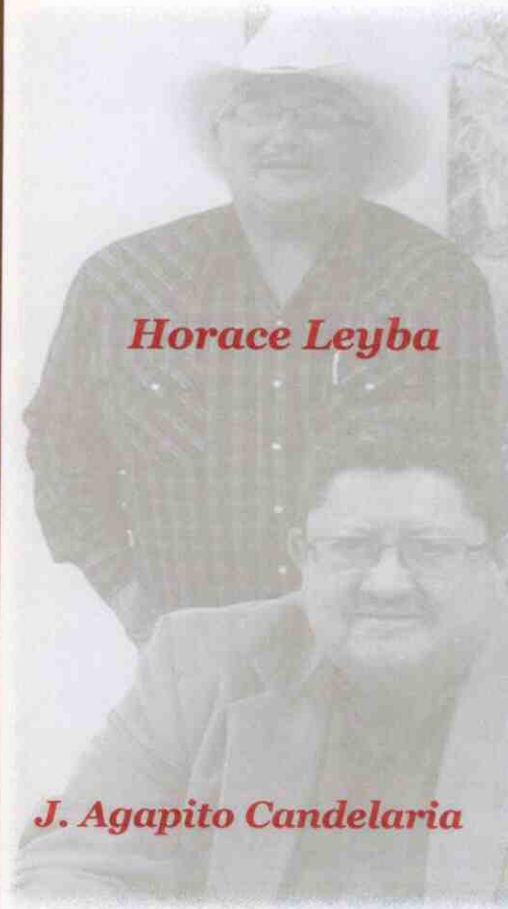
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# Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District Quarterly News

January – March, 2017

## District Board Election

*Time sure flies. It is now Election Time. The District will be conducting an election for positions #3 and #4. Currently position #3 is being filled by Mr. Horace Leyba, Chairman and position #4 by Mr. J. Agapito Candelaria. Mr. Leyba has served on the board for over eight and half (8 1/2) years and Mr. Candelaria fifteen (15) years.*



**Horace Leyba**

**J. Agapito Candelaria**

*Mr. Leyba is retired from the Department of Transportation but helps run the family cattle ranch. Mr. Candelaria just recently retired as the Rio Arriba County Treasurer. Both have thorough knowledge and good understanding of their responsibilities. Being on the board for so many years is a characteristic of a close personal relationship with other supervisors, each other, and all entities the District is part of. It takes a team to build a successful venture. The board is responsible for the success or the failure of the District. They are the voice for the entire District. At the time of this newsletter neither board supervisor had indicated that he will re-run for the May election.*

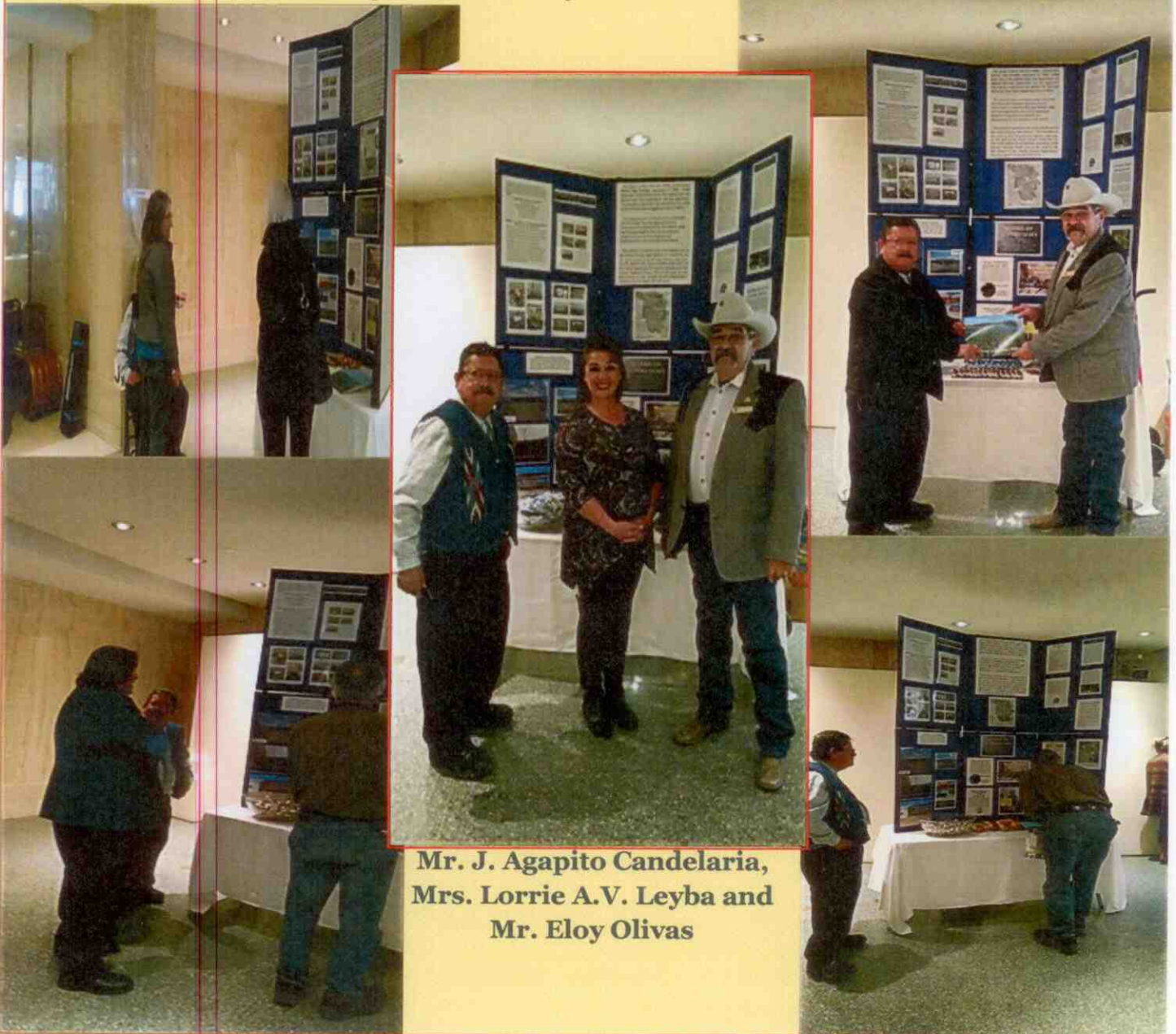
## Mr. J. Agapito Candelaria, Supervisor Awarded Certificate of Appreciation

Ever since George Washington, our first President took office in 1798, Agricultural statistics in the United States were in existence. President Washington was an avid farmer. He possessed innovative farming practices from April to October. He documented and kept statistics. Not until 1861 when Abraham Lincoln became President did agricultural statistics become an official agency. The Annual Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on November 8-9, 2017. As one of twenty two members, I was delegated to assume the role of advising at the national level. As one of sixteen members I felt the 2016 meeting was the most productive. The sole purpose of the committee is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the conduct of the periodic census and surveys of agriculture, other related surveys and the type of agricultural information obtained from respondents. The committee also prepares recommendations regarding the content of agricultural reports and presents the views and needs for data of major suppliers and users of agricultural statistics. The duties are solely advisory. It makes recommendations to the Secretary with regards to the agricultural statistics program on NASS. Within the last two years one recommendation that was of great importance was the development of a Task Force, that included NASS, ERA, FSA, RMA with the possibility of inclusion of other USDA Agencies. The goal is to develop a "Dashboard" of useful information and data that the producer only has access to when they provide their data to NASS. The most interesting phase of this two day Advisory Committee meeting was when the committee met to review documentation provided by farmers. All this information is strictly confidential. This information is under tight security behind lock doors. Only certain individuals are permitted to be part as the Agricultural Secretary signs the NASS documentation that will be released.



## 2017 Soil and Water Conservation District Day at the Legislature

*Mr. J. Agapito Candelaria, Supervisor, Mrs. Lorrie A.V. Leyba, Supervisor, and Mr. Eloy Olivas, Vice-Chairman manned a District booth at the February 7, 2017 Legislature. For the last several years these three supervisors having been manning a booth at the Legislature. The three reported at the February board meeting that this year's booth attracted many visitors, farmers, ranchers and other district supervisors with questions about the Upper Chama SWCD and its many endeavors. The booth gave information on the Noxious Weeds program, the Noxious Weed Coordinator, the District equipment loan program, the completion of the addition to the current district building, and other information.*



**Mr. J. Agapito Candelaria,  
Mrs. Lorrie A.V. Leyba and  
Mr. Eloy Olivas**