



**CHAVES COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

William E. Cavin, Chair  
Jeff Bilberry, Vice Chairman



Dara Dana, Member  
T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member  
Richard C Taylor, Member

William B. Williams, County Manager

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**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021**

**EASTERN NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR GROUNDS**  
**MEETING HALL – 2500 SE MAIN STREET, ROSWELL, NM 88203**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those present were, Commissioners Cavin, Bilberry, Ezzell, Dana, and Taylor. Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, news media, staff, and guests. Chairman Cavin led in the pledge and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer. Commissioner Cavin introduced Margaret Byfield with the American Stewards of Liberty.

**PRESENTATION**

*Presenter: Margaret Byfield, American Stewards of Liberty*

Ms. Byfield thanked the Commissioners and those in attendance. She stated when it comes to the really big fights, fights where they need Counties and landowners, they can always count on Chaves County. The new administration is pushing a radical environmental agenda. American Stewards is a property rights organization. She gave some history about the ranch her family ran in Nevada. In 1991, they filed the first land grazing case which went all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did not hear the case. Ms. Byfield quoted E. Wayne Hage, "Either you have the right to own property, or you are property". They follow the environmental movement very closely because they always want to be ahead of what they're going to do. After we learned that President Biden was going to be our President, they began to look at the policy positions and who would be in those positions. They kept seeing 30 x 30 in all the environmental literature. They found that in the last session, there was a Senate and House resolution for 30 x 30 that was co-sponsored by then, Senator Harris and Representative Haaland. 30 x 30 is a very radical environmental agenda that believes we must permanently protect 30% of our lands and oceans by 2030 in its natural state. Senator Udall is also a key component of this. Only ten Senators signed on to this resolution in the Senate and only five in the House, this is not a popular concept. The key is, now all their people are in power.

The Center for American Progress put out a report called "How much nature should America Keep?". This is a very progressive, left organization. There were five important take a ways from this report that they believe

1. 1 million species will go extinct worldwide in the coming decades, including 1/3 of all species in the US. Ms. Byfield stated there is no science behind this. They are using models which are highly unreliable.
2. We are losing a football field of habitat every 30 seconds.
3. 2/3 of development is on private lands and we have only permanently protected 1%
4. Only 12% of total land in the US is permanently protected in its natural state
5. Lands preserved must include areas of high biodiversity and productivity.

American Stewards wrote an article on January 21, 2021 called "Remember Cattle Free by '93? Here comes 30 x 30" to make people aware. On January 27, 2021, a 57-page climate crisis executive order was issued. In section 216 the President says the Secretary of Interior, along with other agencies "shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030". The same day, the DOI issued a fact sheet. They state that 60% of land in the continental US is in a natural state but we are