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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2009**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato Jr., - Chairman
William Caster –Vice-Chairman
J. Brian Greene, Secretary – Treasurer
Richard Shovelin
LeRoy Candelaria

Supervisors Absent: Jerry Melaragno
William “Bill” Hignight

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Karen Smith, Administrative Assistant
Louis King, District Conservationist
Art Swenka, East Torrance SWCD

CALL TO ORDER:

- The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall at 8:20 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES: The Absentees were excused.

APPROVAL/AGENDA:

- Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as presented. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The Board reviewed the minutes of the December 5, 2008 meeting. The following additions and corrections were made to the minutes: Approval/Disapproval of Minutes: business was misspelled; Treasurer's Report and Approval/Disapproval of Vouchers: Add "as amended" to "Brian moved to accept the report". Richard moved to approve the minutes with the additions and corrections. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2008 with the accounts payable for January, 2009 in the amount of \$15,691.67. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- Dee reviewed the second quarter DFA report with the Board. She advised the Board the District has not received the November Mil Levy from Torrance County and Socorro County. Dee has visited with the Torrance County Treasurer and has been told it may be several weeks before she can get the Treasurer's office to the point where she will know she is sending the correct amount of mil levy to the Districts. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to approve the quarterly report and file it for audit. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee explained the Auditor should be back in the office the following week to finish his worksheets, so he can complete the audits for 2007 and 2008.

NMDA REPORT:

- Dee reviewed the NMDA Field Specialist's monthly report with the Board. NMDA will conduct trainings for the Water Conservation Tax Credit and Liability Insurance during the week of January 25, 2009. Dee reviewed the dates for the regional forums for the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for New Mexico with the Board. There will be a Supervisor training at the next Board meeting. The training will consist of executive session information and State statutes and codes. Discussion followed.

FIELD OFFICE REPORT:

- Louis King, District Conservationist, reviewed his monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The District Manager's report for December had been mailed out with the Board packets. Dee made two additions to the report as follows: There was \$52,000 in reimbursements through the EWP Program which were not included in the report. Dee and Vern had also worked with NM State Forestry on future projects. NM State Forestry is expecting approximately \$5M from the US Forest Service for defensible and hazardous fuels reductions projects. Art Swenka asked Dee to work with Lawrence Crane to see which way would be more advantageous for the Districts to apply for this money either all together or separately. Dee called the Board's attention to the new format of the report. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Correspondence was reviewed with the Board including:

Letter from NM Department of Finance and Administration – Local Government Division concerning the Potential Budget Shortfalls for FY2008-09
NMSU holding a pilot workshop on agriculture emergencies
Information on Special Game Commission Meeting
2009 NACD Annual Meeting
Regional Forums on the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for NM
NACD Joint Task Force Survey
NACD Economic Stimulus Proposal

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant –

Dee reported Ken Smith, Director of the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute has resigned. He moved back to Tennessee and took over his old job with the University of Tennessee. Joe Zebrowski will be the acting coordinator for the Estancia Basin Project representing the Institute. An acting director has not been appointed at this time. SWCA has finished the draft monitoring report. Joe Zebrowski and Dee have reviewed the report for SWCA. There are a couple of minor corrections and all of the sponsors of the project need to be listed on the front cover. The final report will be ready for the CORE Steering Committee meeting on January 26, 2008. Dee is hoping to have all of the 2007 WTB funding allocated to Claunch-Pinto contracted by January 15, 2009. With the possibility of receiving some of the new money allocated to NM State Forestry Dee has decided to hold the projects in the Red Canyon area for the 2008 WTB funding. The District might be able to

use both the State Forestry funding and the WTB funding to work on landscape projects in that area. We have 8 cooperators waiting for the chipper at this time. Dee asked the Board about leasing a chipper for a month at a cost of \$3,500.00. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to lease a chipper for a month for these projects. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee explained to the Board they needed to set one more work day on the Torres Project. We need to watch the weather for the next few days. Dee will let everyone know about the next date to work.

The NM Water Trust Board will meet on January 15th. We will find out about our 2009 proposal at this meeting.

We closed out the 2005 WTB grant on January 8th with all of the final reimbursements. We should have the 2006 WTB grant drawn down and closed by June, 2009.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project

The Upper Rio Grande Steering Committee will be attending the Legislature as a group. They are looking for small trees to give to each legislator, with a card asking for support of the Salt Cedar Funding. Vern and Dee helped the Santa Fe – Pojoaque and Ciudad SWCDs purchase GPS units for their districts.

They will be able to map the projects in their area and develop conservation plans for these projects. We have a crew from the Santo Domingo Tribe working on a cut stump project in the Santa Fe – Pojoaque District.

EWP Program

The District staff and Richard Shovelin met with Orlando Lopez from the Manzano Domestic Water Association and Violette Valerio-Hirschfeld from NM Environment Department – Drinking Water Division to look at the arroyo next to the domestic water wells in Manzano. Richard reported he had taken Larry Zamora out to the site and they thought we should remove 100 – 200 feet of soil and rock in an area that is 50 ft. wide and 175 feet long. The approximate cost would be \$3,200.00. The Domestic Water Association has met and would like to do the project themselves. Richard and Dee will meet with Orlando and get everything set up for this project.

Dee explained to the Board there is a shortage on the Trigo Fire EWP Program funding. Don Ashby is working with the NRCS State office to secure the balance of funding needed to complete the hazardous waste material removal.

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Project

Dee submitted a report on January 5, 2009 showing the District has a contract with an architect. The District should be able to keep this funding in place.

NMED RERI Grant – Abo Arroyo

This report was given under the District Manager's report.

OJO Peak CFRP

Dee reported the young people who have been working their presentation to be given at the CFRP Annual Workshop in Santa Fe on January 28, 2009. Richard Shovelin will be driving the bus to Santa Fe for these young people.

New Grant Opportunities

The State Forestry RFP should be out by the end of January.
BLM will have an RFP for noxious weeds out by the end of January.
Bureau of Reclamation has a couple of RFPs out.
Brian Greene suggested the District should consider purchasing a small saw mill. This might be an opportunity for the District to have workshops and trainings on how to use a saw mill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee: The architect has received the topographic survey and is continuing to work on the design for the building. Discussion followed on the report submitted to NMEMNRD for the Clean Energy Project. Dee reported she will be having lunch with Rhonda King on January 14th. They are hoping Pete Campos will be attending the Legislative Finance Committee meeting, so they can talk to him about the District's capital outlay request. We have been looking for foundation funding, but we will need a nonprofit sponsor. The Board discussed submitting a project proposal application to Hub RC&D for their approval, so the District can use their non-profit status for foundation applications as needed.

Dee has asked Roy Todd and Marsha Wright from NMDA to help review the personnel and the policy and procedures handbook before the Board reviews them.

The proposal the District submitted to BNSF Railway Co. for the restoration work in the canyon after the double tracking construction is completed has been accepted by the railroad.

The Edgewood, East Torrance and Claunch-Pinto SWCD representatives met on January 8, 2009 to discuss the Water Conservation Tax Credit program. Following discussion, they are recommending to all three District Boards that a \$200 fee be implemented, with a site-visit completed for each project. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to accept the recommendation of the committee. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard moved to table the discussion of payments in lieu of taxes that affect the mil levy since Dee has not be able to meet with the County Manager. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board discussed sponsorship of the NM Envirothon. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to help sponsor the NM Envirothon in the amount of \$500.00. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dee reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement for Radio Station KXNM 88.7 with the Board. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement to include \$1,000 per year for services. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dee also explained to the Board the District is co-sponsoring a project proposal to Hub RC&D for the radio station with both East Torrance and Edgewood SWCDs.

The Board reviewed the proposed meetings dates for FY2009. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to approve the proposed meeting dates for FY2009. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee read William Hignight's letter of resignation to the Board. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to accept Mr. Hignight's resignation. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee explained to the Board they had an extra scanner in the office. She asked the Board for permission to give the scanner to the Northeastern SWCD. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to give the scanner to Northeastern SWCD. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee reviewed the information on the 2009 Water Conservation Conference. At this time there will not be anyone from the Claunch-Pinto SWCD attending this conference.

Dee reviewed information concerning trees for Arbor Day to give to the students at both the Mountainair and Corona Public Schools. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to purchase 200 trees. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee reviewed a project in partnership with the Quivira Coalition on a workshop for the Mestano Draw Ranch. Joan Bybee asked if the District would co-sponsor this and provide \$1,500 in funding for a loader to move rocks. Discussion followed. The Board decided they would need more information on this project to make a decision. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to table action on this proposal until Dee can get more information on the project. Richard seconded the motion.

REPORTS:

Hub RC&D – William reported he will be attending a full Council meeting on January 14, 2009 to be held in the Conference Room at the Edgewood SWCD office. He will

also be attending a meeting on January 23, 2009 in Albuquerque to work on the National RC&D meeting to be held in Albuquerque in the summer.

South Central Mountain RC&D – Brian reported the next meeting will be held on January 22, 2009. He would not be able to attend. He will be attending the Southwest Regional RC&D meeting in Spearfish, S.D. January 25 – 28, 2009. Richard will attend the South Central Mountain RC&D meeting in Alamogordo on January 22, 2009. The RC&D Coordinator retired on January 3, 2009.

EBWPC – Brian reported the December meeting was cancelled.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday February 6, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of 3rd Street and Sunset in Mountainair, NM.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/
J. BRIAN GREENE, SEC.-TREA