



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
April 5, 2007**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster, Vice-Chairman
Richard Shovelin
LeRoy Candelaria
Randy Simmons

Supervisors Absent: Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Melissa Kayser, Administrative Assistant
Brent Racher
Stan Bulsterbaum, Project Coordinator
Colvin Connell
Paul Gardner

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, Mountainair, NM at 6:10 p.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES: The Absentee was excused.

APPROVAL/AGENDA:

- Richard moved to accept the agenda as presented. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Richard moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting as amended. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. A copy is attached. She also presented the Accounts Payable, in the approximate amount of **\$2,911.88**. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy moved to accept the report and pay all accounts payable. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- Dee reviewed the 3rd Quarterly Report with the Board.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

NMDA REPORT:

- Dee, reviewed Russ Bennett's monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

FO REPORT:

- Dee, reviewed Louis King's monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Dee reviewed the District Manager's report with Board. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Correspondence was reviewed with the Board. See attached list.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant –

Dee reported to the Board she sent progress reports on Projects 73, 44 and 25 as requested by Jana Egbert, Senior Program Administrator with NM Finance Authority (NMFA). The financial report included in the progress reports balance with NMFA's records. Dee hand delivered these progress reports to NMFA in Santa Fe. Brent Racher and Stan Bulsterbaum reported there will be a Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 11th. Representatives from several agencies, Torrance County and the two land grants have been invited to participate in the meeting. Brent and Stan hope these additional representatives will continue to participate in the Steering Committee to give the District direction on the watershed project. Brent and Stan would also like recommendations for monitoring, treatment

prescriptions, and landowner participation. The grant agreement with NMFA says the District is responsible for moving the project forward toward completion. Dee gave each board member draft copies of the new landowner agreements; a resolution to charge for technical fees the District will need to pass at its next board meeting and agreements for participating SWCDs to sign with Claunch – Pinto SWCD to participate in the grant. She asked each board member to review these agreements and get their comments to her as soon as possible. Stan Bulsterbaum, Interim Project Coordinator reported on the Evaluation Committee meeting held on April 5th for the monitoring portion of the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project. There were four proposals submitted for review. There will be a best and final evaluation before a contract can be issued. Stan asked the Board if they would give Felipe the authority to sign a contract after the best and final evaluation. Discussion followed.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard moved to have Felipe sign the contract for monitoring project as soon as Stan gets the best and final negotiations completed. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation –

Melissa reported to the board she attended the CNMCWMA Steering Committee Meeting on March 27, 2007. Tom gave his monthly report. The Committee will be working on the Soil & Water Commission Grant. Jim Berlier appointed Brenda Smythe, Kelly Archuleta and Tom Perkins to the grant subcommittee. They are to develop a draft copy and e-mail to all members to evaluate.

State Forestry Noxious Weed Grant

State Forestry Grant – FY03 Funding

Dee reported FY03 grant has been completed. The District received another grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Wildfire Urban Interface Projects within the District. Most of this money has already been committed and the projects must be completed by November 30, 2007.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project -

Stan reviewed and handed out his monthly report to the Board. Stan reported Ciudad SWCD has reached agreement with City of Rio Rancho to proceed with Willow Creek provided City of Rio Rancho properly controls weeds on the site prior to planting riparian vegetation. The access problem to the Atrisco site for Ciudad district continues to be a significant problem. The temporary bridge cost was beyond budget limits and Stan is currently trying to find another avenue to gain access to the site. Stan reported Valencia SWCD has completed the Los Lunas Bridge Bosque project. The completed acreage is 32 acres. The project was accomplished in less than one week. Stan has completed final check out and is ready to certify payment. On Claunch-Pinto SWCD Stan reported the Abo Arroyo is progressing very well. The anticipated finish date is targeted to be April 15, 2007. The Upper Rio Grande Steering Committee has initiated planning for statewide meeting of the salt cedar regions. The meeting is sponsored by the Upper Rio Grande Project specifically the East Rio Arriba SWCD. This

is the first attempt to have a coordinated meeting of all regions in a very long time period. The goal of the session is to develop a coordinated strategic work plan for the coming year that includes funding avenues and a work program coordinated with the member agencies of the NM Phreatophyte Control Plan. This effort is needed to gain total state coordination and understanding of program and financial needs.

New Grant Opportunities

Dee reported to the Board we have received \$30,000.00 from State Forestry for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the District. We have also applied to the New Mexico Association of Counties for \$50,000 for a CWPP. We should know if we have received this funding about May 15th. We can start the planning process after we know how much funding we will have for the CWPP process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Dee suggested to the Board that we use the \$200,000.00 capital outlay money they received to have a full set of architectural drawings completed for the new building.
- Dee reported to the Board the Black Mesa Academy is in July. She asked the Board if the District would pay for the registration for 4 or 5 students. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to pay the Black Mesa Academy registration fees for 4 or 5 students. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Melissa Kayser will be going to the Kids, Kows & More this year with the fourth graders. She asked the Board if the District would pay for the meal for the kids and the gas for the school bus to go to Moriarty. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to pay for the 4th graders lunch and the gas for the school bus. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee reported to the Board on the WERC Summer Environmental Academy. She suggested to the Board that we send one teacher and one student to this Academy. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved that the Claunch-Pinto SWCD pay for registration only for one teacher and one student. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee explained to the Board the District could enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with New Mexico State Forestry Inmate Crew. The crew would consist of 12 people including an herbicide applicator if needed and would cost \$250.00 a day for the entire crew. Some the projects the District could use this crew for would be controlling noxious weeds; planting grass seed in the Abo Arroyo; and thinning trees in project areas. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to have Felipe sign the JPA between Claunch-Pinto SWCD and State Forestry. LeRoy seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

- Dee reviewed Resolution No. 15-07 for a loan request to the New Mexico Finance Authority to purchase the 39.5 acres from Exito Enterprises, LLC. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to approve Resolution 15-07. William

seconded the motion. Motion carried. Roll call vote: LeRoy Candelaria –yes, William Caster –yes, Richard Shovelin –yes, Randy Simmons –yes, Brian Greene –absent.

- Dee reported to the board that Pete Kopczuk resigned his duties as Field Tech for the Claunch-Pinto SWCD. Dee asked the Board's approval to advertise this open position. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to approve the advertisement for the Field Tech position. Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

- Felipe thanked Colvin Connell and Paul Gardner for attending the Claunch-Pinto meetings. He encouraged both to attend as many meetings as would fit into their schedules.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

- The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday May 4, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair, New Mexico.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Names for Appointed Supervisor
- Workshop with Lawrence Crane, State Forestry for Forest Thinning

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Richard seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

/s/ _____
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/ _____
J. BRIAN GREENE, SEC.-TREAS