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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING June 5, 2009

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato Jr., - Chairman
William Caster –Vice-Chairman
J. Brian Greene, Sec. - Treasurer
LeRoy Candelaria
Jerry Melaragno

Supervisors Absent: Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist
Roy Todd, NMDA Field Specialist
Patsy Fitzgerald
Dan Williams
Carolyn Fulfer
Derrek Riley
Joan Bybee, Mestaño Draw Ranch
Lee Gamelsky, Architect
Juanita Chavez, My Bank
Joyce Becerra, My Bank

Prior to the convening the meeting, Felipe Lovato introduced Dan Williams and Patsy Fitzgerald. Mr. Williams has recently moved to the Corona area and is interested in representing that area as an appointed supervisor on the Claunch-Pinto SWCD Board. Mr. Williams explained he is a native New Mexican who has worked in Texas and New Mexico. He was living in Edgewood prior to moving to the Corona area. Ms. Fitzgerald was born and raised on a ranch south of Mountainair. She is a widow and has been ranching on a portion of the family ranch for over 20 years.

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, located at the corner of Sunset

and Third Streets in Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES:

Richard Shovelin was unable to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL/AGENDA:

Brian Greene moved to approve the agenda as presented. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The following changes were made to the minutes: Page 3: Central NM Cooperative Weed Management Area – change work to workshop; Unfinished Business: change contact to contract, change the to with; New Business: Chipper Purchase - change is to if; third paragraph – change call to called; Reports – Hub RC&D – change meet to meeting; South Central Mtn RC&D – change the to is. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting as amended. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of May, 2009 with the accounts payable. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee reviewed the expenditures for May, 2009 to the year-to-date expenditures versus the FY2009 budget.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

NMDA REPORT:

Roy Todd, NMDA Field Specialist, reviewed the NMDA monthly report with the Board. The District Operations Funding was cut 3.3% for the fiscal year 2009 by the NM Legislature. The funding cuts will result in less operational funding through the points system for the Districts. NMDA has been working with Risk Management Division to formalize liability coverage for the SWCDs. The Districts will need to apply to Risk Management for liability coverage. Discussion followed.

FO REPORT:

Louis King's, District Conservationist, reviewed his NRCS monthly report with the Board. Louis discussed some of the new opportunities through EQIP. He explained the District and NRCS would need to have a Local Work Group meeting in the near

future. Louis will have some suggestions for the Local Work Group pertaining to the Forest Stand Improvement section of EQIP. Discussion followed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dee reviewed the District Manager's report with the Board. The District has been awarded six grants totaling \$1.7 million. Written report attached. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

NMACD Newsletter

Letter from Dennis Alexander, State Conservationist concerning the RCA listening session. The listening session will be held on June 15, 2009 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The listening session is to gather information from stakeholders on important natural resource concerns impacting New Mexico and other regions and how best to address these concerns in the future.

The NMACD Summer Conference will be held on June 30-July 1, 2009 at the Ruidoso Convention Center in Ruidoso.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant – The FY2009 Estancia Basin Watershed Project has been approved for funding through the NM Water Trust. We have a new practice plan. The CORE Steering Committee has decided the practice plans will need to be approved prior to contracts being written on projects. This will be an opportunity for NM State Forestry and the Forest Contract Inspector to know what is being expected of the landowner and/or contractor on each project.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project - The Districts are mapping and developing conservation plans for projects in each area. The Committee is looking for more funding. A proposal was prepared for the NRCS CCPI. This proposal was not funded. Dee and Susan Rich, NM State Watershed Office will start working on a proposal for this funding for next year.

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Projects – We have a balance of \$75,000 on this grant. There has been a change in how the remaining funding is to be used. The remaining funding will be used to complete the building design instead of an analysis of the energy savings after the building has been built.

NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative – Dee reported the District now has a contract with NM Environment Department on the Abo Arroyo Watershed Project.

Ojo Peak CFRP - This project is completed and Dee will be submitting the final invoice.

Central NM Cooperative Weed Management Area – Jerry Melaragno reported the Noxious Weed Workshop held in Moriarty was successful. Brenda Smythe, Kelly Archuleta and Tom Perkins did a very good job in planning the workshop.

They had live noxious weeds to have people identify. There was also a GPS training work in conjunction with this workshop.

The Southwestern Noxious Weed Workshop will be held in Farmington the last week of July, 2009. The District has four people who want to attend this workshop. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to pay for four the registrations and travel/per diem to the workshop. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Grants

Dee gave a review of the project work planned for the Ojo Peak Restoration CFRP, Red Canyon CFRP, the two Non-Federal Lands Grants through NM State Forestry, and the Wildland Urban Interface Grant through NM State Forestry.

New Grant Opportunities

There is a Request for Proposal for Wildland Urban Interface Work through NM State Forestry advertised.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lee Gamelsky, the architect for the Natural Resource Conservation Center gave a presentation on the adjusted design of the building. The new design shows a water catchment tank as you walk in the building for demonstration purposes. There are also solar panels on the portal to demonstrate the solar energy portion of the building's electrical needs. The roof will be a metal roofing material with concealed fasteners. One of the highlights of the building will be a glass picture wall using photographs from past eras. It was suggested the District begin to collect pictures to use. The building is designed to be a learning tool for renewable energy and sustainable building products. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the design and move forward with the project. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dee reminded the Board she had copies of the completed cultural resource surveys and the memo documentation from the NM Department of Transportation on the entrance to the property in their board packets. The geothermal tests have been contracted and should be completed within the next month. Dan Williams suggested when the company drills the test hole for the geothermal testing the District should see if the hole can be drilled where it can be used when the geothermal heating is put in the building.

The Board discussed when they would install the new signs that had been purchased for the property. They also discussed what materials and equipment they would need. The signs will be installed on June 19, 2009. Dee will call "One Call" to have the utilities marked.

Joan Bybee had had to leave the meeting before giving her report on the Quivira Coalition Workshop at the Mestaño Draw Ranch in May. Brian Greene gave a short report on the workshop. There were about 55 people who attended the workshop. The workshop was a continuation of the riparian restoration work that was started about three years ago. The District has been a partner with Joan Bybee and the Quivira Coalition on both of these workshops. Joan appreciates the District's partnership on this project. Dee

explained to the Board the same restoration ideas will be used in the Mestaño Project will be used on the Ojo Peak Restoration Project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Juanita Chavez and Joyce Becerra from My Bank gave the Board a presentation on the types of interest bearing account including sweep accounts the bank has to offer. The District would have to keep \$100,000 in the sweep account. It was suggested the District might want to open a money market account. Felipe thanked Juanita and Joyce for giving the Board the presentation. The Board will take the information presentation under consideration at a later date.

The Board reviewed their Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to continue the Cooperative Agreement with NRCS. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the names to be given to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the appointed supervisor positions. Dee will need to submit the names to the Commission by June 15, 2009. The following names will be sent in to the Commission: Position No. 6 – Richard Shovelin; Position No. 7 – Dan Williams and Patsy Fitzgerald.

REPORTS:

- Hub RC&D – William Caster reported their meeting would be on June 10, 2009.
- South Central Mtn. RC&D – The new Coordinator, Rick Diako is now working. The Council is looking at ideas to use the small saw mill in Tularosa; partnering with the Claunch-Pinto SWCD on workshop on sustainable forest product ideas when the District gets its new building; developing bio-fuel; Brian gave the Board more information on the Sustainable Agricultural Research Education (SARE) program.
- EBWPC – The EBWPC has entered into an agreement with Sandia National Laboratory to monitor wells in the Estancia Basin. They would like to monitor wells in the upper portion of the Estancia Basin Watershed. Representatives from Sandia National Laboratory would like to make a presentation to the Board to get help with identifying landowners with wells who might be interested in participating in the monitoring program. Dee suggested Sandia National Laboratory might share monitoring information with SWCA Environmental Consultants. The shared information would be helpful to both monitoring projects.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Brian Greene suggested the Board allow the St. Alice Youth Group place a bin to collect aluminum cans on the property the District has south of Mountainair. LeRoy Candelaria explained the collection center at Torreon collects enough aluminum every year to purchase Christmas gifts for all of the children in Torreon. The Board was in agreement to allow the youth group to place a collection bin on the property.

Brian Greene reported a group has been formed south of Mountainair to deal with the renewable energy as a group. The group's name is the Claunch Renewable Energy Association, LLC. Their members collectively have approximately 85,000 acres.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Le Roy Candelaria gave a short report on the Region II meeting held in Santa Fe. LeRoy was proud of the report Dee gave for Claunch-Pinto SWCD.

Felipe Lovato gave a report on the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting in Socorro in May. He felt there were several people who gave information to the Commission who were very disrespectful to the Commission. Dee reported she attended the Commission meeting in Alamogordo and saw the same disrespect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday July 10, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Mountainair, New Mexico.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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