



**FINAL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

January 8, 2010

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

Absentees: None

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist
Karen Smith, Administrative Assistant
Roy Todd, NMDA

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 Street in Mountainair, NM at 8:30 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES: None

APPROVAL/AGENDA:

Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as presented. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The following correction was made to the minutes: Top of Page 2 Approval/Disapproval of Minutes: added the following: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dee explained there was a copy of the newsletter in each board packet. The Board members were asked to review the newsletter and submit edits and comments by January 13th.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2009 with the accounts payable for January, 2010. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Dee gave an update on the IRS Audit. There was a copy of the findings in each Board member packet for their review. The meetings with I.R.S. representative Mr. Ching went very well. Fines were reduced to \$1300 by submitting requested missing forms. The I.R.S. states either a cell phone policy needs to be in place or a percentage of the cell phone bill should be added to the District Manager's income as a fringe benefit. Dee suggested that it will be more efficient to have Alice review the charges monthly. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the proposed suggestions. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dan Austin, the District's auditor, has started the FY2009 audit. He was in the office the last of December and has been in the office January 5-8, 2010. He plans to have the audit completed by the first week in February, 2010.

NMDA REPORT:

Roy Todd, the NMDA Field Specialist's reviewed his monthly report with the Board. A copy of the written report is attached.

FO REPORT:

Louis King, District Conservationist, reviewed his written NRCS report with the Board. A copy of the written report is attached.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dierdre Tarr, District Manager, reviewed the District Manager's report with the Board. A copy of the written report is attached.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Letter from Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee asking the Board to pass a resolution supporting the update to the Estancia Basin Region Water Plan.

Letter from Eddie Vigil, President of NMACD, in response to the District’s letters concerning unresolved questions the District had concerning NMACD.

Note from Ramona Brooks

Note from Kay Lindsey

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

None

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The Board reviewed a written report on the following grant projects. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

Watershed Health Grant Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project (GRGWA)

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Projects

NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

Central NM Cooperative Weed Management Area (CNMCWMA)

CFRP Grants

Non Federal Land Grant

Non Federal Land Grant – Arturo Archuleta Project

Wildland Urban Interface Grant

New Proposal

New Grant Opportunities

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee

The District did manage to keep their Capital Outlay despite the severe budget problems that the State New Mexico has. Since the District lost their EMNRD funding, the site preparation contract with Padilla Industries was amended. Work should begin at the site within the next week. Dee reported she will submit an application for additional Capital Outlay. The Board discussed the fuel wood that would be coming off the worksite as the trees are removed during the site

preparation. Several ideas were discussed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to work with the Manzano Land Grant and the Knights of Columbus to give the fuel wood to needy families in the area. LeRoy Seconded. Motion carried. Dee will be submitting a proposal to Congressman Heinrich's office for a Congressional Appropriation. A proposal has already been submitted to US Senator Udall's office and another proposal will be submitted to US Senator Bingaman's office for Phase Two Building – The Information and Education Center. Dee mentioned the excellent working relationship we currently have with all three Congressional offices. This relationship is much better than in years past. The building project committee composed of LeRoy Candelaria, Richard Shovelin and Frank Luna had no report.

SWCD Mil Levy Authority

Dee reported letters were sent to State Representative Rhonda King and State Senator Pete Campos via fax, email, and through the USPS asking them to request an official ruling from NM Taxation and Revenue concerning the District's mil levy authority when a county enters into an IRB contract with businesses. A copy of the letter was sent to every Senator and Representative that represents a portion of our District. Dee has followed up with Representative King and was told the Representative has contacted Taxation and Revenue. Representative King will let the District know as soon as she hears from NM Taxation and Revenue. The Board decided they would continue to move forward as per their lawyer's instructions. Dee will, also, check with the District's lawyer to make sure she has requested a copy of the IRB from Torrance County. Marsha Wright, NMDA, is also requesting the same information for the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission (NMSWCC). The NMSWCC has also sent a letter to the Attorney General asking for an Attorney General's opinion on this issue. A response from the Attorney General will take some time. This was the reason why Representative King wanted to get the ruling from NM Taxation and Revenue Commissioner Dusty Hunt mentioned during the NMSWCC meeting that this has probably been a problem in other areas. The NMSWCC feels this action will be setting a precedent for the State.

The Torrance County Assessor has contacted the District in reference to the SWCD mil levy being assessed on property if the property owner has a 100% veteran's exemption. She asked if the District had a resolution in place concerning this matter. Dee could not locate a resolution. The Torrance County Assessor will be continuing to follow up on this matter and may make a presentation at a future District meeting. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Louis King, NRCS passed out a draft Acknowledgement of Section 1619 Compliance Agreement between the NRCS and Claunch-Pinto SWCD for the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign. This agreement is to allow the District access to NRCS files that contain sensitive personal information of cooperators with the District agreeing their

employees must adhere to the same disclosure rules as apply to NRCS employees. The agreement needs to be in place by Friday February 5, 2010. Discussion followed.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan moved to table this discussion and action until the next meeting. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee reported the letters to each of the four County Clerks concerning the Supervisor elections were sent prior to the end of December, 2009. Dee has set up the Mountainair polling place for the Dr. Saul Community Building. Dan Williams is working on the polling location for Corona. The Board discussed potential people to contact about acting as the Election Superintendent. Dee will talk to Susan Brazil about being the Election Superintendent. Roy Todd explained to the Board the Rio Arriba County Clerk had sent a letter to the East Rio Arriba SWCD explaining he would not provide the SWCD with the necessary election information and the SWCDs were in violation of State law with their election. NM Department of Agriculture and the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission have asked for a ruling from the NM Secretary of State concerning the Supervisor elections.

Brian Greene suggested we table any discussion on the CSP Handbooks for now

Dee reported the NMACD Legislative Day is Sunday, January 31st. If the weather prevails, Dee will take the District's display and handouts to this event. Dee asked Board members to attend if they could.

The Kids, Kows and More event will be held at the Moriarity Civic Center on April 29, 2010. This event is sponsored by the Torrance County Extension Office. This all day event is a great Agriculture education event that is enjoyed by all of the kids who attend. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has worked with the Corona and Mountainair Public Schools for this event. We have provided lunch for all of the students that have attended.

REPORTS:

- Hub RC&D – William Caster reported on the Hub RC&D meeting. A full Council Meeting will be held at the Edgewood SWCD office on January 13, 2010.
- South Central Mtn. RC&D – Rick Delaco, RC&D coordinator is sending a monthly progress report to each District that belongs to the South Central Mtn. RC&D. Brian Greene confirmed with Dee that Claunch-Pinto SWCD is getting these reports. Also, four members from South Central Mountain will be attending the West Region Meeting in Missoula, Montana February 1st through the 4th. Weather prevailing, Brian will be back for the February board meeting. Dee and Rick have been asked to provide a presentation on using various grants to work on watershed projects at the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Annual Workshop that will be held January 20th through the 22nd. RC&D report for the month of December, 2009 was included in the Board packets for the Supervisors to review.

- EBWPC – A copy of the “draft” minutes from the EBWPC meeting were included in the Board packets for the Board’s review.

PRESENTATION:

None

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday, February 5, 2010 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:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Minutes approved on February 12, 2010.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC.-TREA