



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 5, 2010**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman
Jerry Melaragno
LeRoy Candelaria
Dan Williams
J. Brian Greene

Absentees: Richard Shovelin
William Caster

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Darren Richardson, Area Conservationist for the Northwest Area,
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Louis King, District Conservationist, NRCS
Kenneth Lujan, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Ryan Schwebach, Chairman, East Torrance Soil & Water
Conservation District (ETSWCD)
Cherie Lujan, District Manager, ETSWCD
Brenda Smythe, District Manager, Edgewood Soil & Water
Conservation District (ESWCD)
Lawrence R. Crane, Special Projects Forester, Bernalillo District,
New Mexico State Forestry
Gary C. Fulfer
Katheryn Taylor, District Volunteer

CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) 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 8:10 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES:

Richard Shovelin, William Caster

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda as presented. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to raise the Restoration and Monitoring Advisory Committee – East Torrance SWCD Incentive -- to the top of the agenda. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EAST TORRANCE SWCD INCENTIVE:

Lawrence Crane, Special Projects Forester, Bernalillo District, began discussion on the ETSWCD practice of making incentive payments to landowners who complete their projects on time. Mr. Crane reviewed the concerns and consequences of giving incentives that he stated in his letter of November 4, 2010 to the Claunch-Pinto District Manager in reference to the Joint Powers Agreement No. 10-521-2301-0248 Project Work Plan No. 10-06-817. The letter says that giving incentives is outside the scope and intent of the funding. It also says that the Estancia Basin Watershed Core Steering Committee (EBWCSC) is responsible for establishing procedures for all three soil and water conservation districts and that the East Torrance District did not share the incentive program guidelines/ procedures with the Steering Committee. Further, the letter says that incentive payments have been voted down previously by the EBWCSC. The letter concludes that incentive payments cannot be allowed to continue when associated with funds from this agreement.

As a consequence of the incentive program, reimbursements to the Claunch-Pinto District will be reduced by the incentive amounts paid by East Torrance. The Claunch-Pinto District Manager distributed a spreadsheet listing landowners who were paid from grant funds and who received incentive payments. The spreadsheet illustrates the amounts that the CPSWCD is liable for in reduced reimbursements.

Discussion continued on repayments of incentives by the Claunch-Pinto District and on the effects of the incentive program on possible future funding. Claunch-Pinto Board Supervisor Jerry Melaragno stated that he believes the philosophy underlying the grant funding is that landowners receiving financial assistance with their conservation projects are expected to bear a meaningful portion of the cost. Thus landowners are required to pay a technical fee so that they are invested in their project and its long-term impact. He was concerned that an incentive program undermines the intent of this requirement and the philosophy of the grant process. He also expressed his concern that the incentive program might affect future funding. The ETSWCD Chairman said that his Board would discuss both the issue of continuing the incentive program and the issue of the funding liability of Claunch-Pinto for reimbursement to the State for the incentive payments to landowners at its Nov. 10, 2010 meeting.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The following corrections were made to the minutes: page 2 New Mexico Department of Agriculture Report -- changed "wood" to "woody;" page 2 NRCS Field Office Report -- changed "EQUIP" to "EQIP;" page 3 Correspondence – deleted "an extension;" page 3

District Personnel Policy – changed Leroy Candelaria to Dan Williams. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. J. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of October, 2010 with the accounts payable for October, 2010. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. A copy is attached.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Report:

The District Manager pointed out paragraph number one in the NMDA report. This paragraph explains that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission voted to change the SWCD elections to odd-numbered years. This change means that the terms of J. Brian Greene and Jerry Melaragno will be extended by one year. She also said that paragraph number five indicates that guidelines, forms and other information about funding opportunities for controlling invasive species are available on the Department of Defense website. Discussion followed. A copy of the written report is attached.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Louis King presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He introduced Darren Richardson, the new Area Conservationist for the Northwest Area. He also said that the deadline to submit applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been extended to January 7, 2011. A copy of the written report is attached.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager displayed the award for Outstanding District of the Year that she accepted on behalf of the District on October 27th at the Annual Conference of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. She also pointed out the article "Managing resources for healthy watersheds and trees" written by Dixie Boyle for The Independent. A copy of the written report is attached.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager pointed out the importance of the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact sent by Nancy Rose, Forest Supervisor, because of the invasion of noxious weeds after fires in the area. She pointed out the invitation to attend the East Torrance SWCD Annual meeting to be held November 10, 2010 in Estancia.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

Personnel Committee:

District Personnel Policy:

The revision of District's Personnel Policy is in progress.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The District Manager reported on the grants listed below, meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies for 2011.

- Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project – Water Trust Board:
Thinning began on the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration, and Monitoring Project site on Monday, November 1.
- State Forestry Grants:
 - Non Federal Land (NFL) Proposal
 - Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) Proposal
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:
Chemical is being applied on Salt Cedar sprouts in Abó Arroyo.

The District is hosting the November Alliance meeting at Alpine Alley at 11:00 a.m. following the Board meeting.

- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
 - Ojo Peak Restoration
 - Red Canyon Project

New Proposals:

- Government Service Fund – DFA
- NM State Forestry – Wildland Urban Interface
- 2011 Proposals to NM Water Trust Board:
The District Manager submitted a new proposal for this project.
- FY2011 Appropriations Request to U.S. Senators Bingaman and Udall

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Future Directions Committee –**

Property:

The District has paid for a sewer hookup at the building site.

Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies

GSA Solicitation Package:

The solicitation package should be published in the next two weeks.

Site Preparation work

Report from committee to work on building project

SWCD Mil Levy Authority:

The District Manager reported that according to State Representative Rhonda King, the opinion from the Attorney General saying that the matter of whether a county government has the authority to enter into agreements which affect the taxing authority and that reduce income without the consent of the local public bodies is undergoing review. She will follow up with State Representative King. She also said that the Lincoln County Assessor has assured her that the District will be at the table in any negotiations regarding Mil Levy issues.

District Computer System:

The District Manager reported that two proposals have been submitted and that three others are expected. She said that the Board should be able to make a decision at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selection of Name to be submitted for possible selection to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to submit two names -- Brian Greene and José Varela López -- for possible selection to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Purchase of Additional Property from Sy Sisneros – How to finance:

The District Manager has not yet received information from Mr. Sisneros on the terms of a purchase agreement and on his asking price.

REPORTS:

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

Brenda Smythe, Chair of the Hub RC&D, reported that 45 people attended the annual meeting.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene reported he participated in a conference call regarding the annual plan and he did not attend the annual meeting. He stated that the South Central Mountain RC&D is discussing ways to increase the membership. He is the chair of a committee on the feasibility of using biodiesel resources.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene reported that no funding supports the work of the EBWPC, so implementing ideas is difficult.

National Association of Conservation Districts: (NASCA) Meeting:

No report.

New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference – October 26 – 28, 2010

The 2010 conference agenda and supporting materials were included for information in the November Board packet. Felipe Lovato, Richard Shovelin, Leroy Candelaria and the District Manager attended the conference. She reported on several items from the conference.

- Richard Shovelin worked diligently to encourage passage of the resolutions being considered.
- The resolution to lower membership fees did not pass.
- Judy Bock has been chosen as the next president of the Employees Association.
- Kenny Salazar has been appointed by the NMACD Board to fill the Board's vice president position
- Richard Shovelin has taken over from Kenny Salazar as chairman of Region 2.
- Region 2 is to host the NMACD conference in 2011.

The District Manager handed out copies of pending legislation distributed at the conference. She and Richard Shovelin will attend legislative committee meetings to follow the progress of the bills.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Lawrence Crane, Special Projects Forester, Bernalillo District, expressed support for the Claunch-Pinto SWCD.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Plan

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 3, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Mountainair, New Mexico.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.