



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2011**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman
William Caster
J. Brian Greene
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
Brenda Smythe, Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District
Cheri Lujan, Landowner

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.

Welcome Guests:

ABSENTEES: LeRoy Candelaria

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 8, 2011 with the following amendments: 1) On page 3 change 4th bullet, 26 – 19 to 26 – 29. On page 5 change 4th bullet – NMACD Dues – Action Taken, change *carried* to *didn't carry*. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention. A copy is attached.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of July, 2011 with the accounts payable for July, 2011. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Letter from New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration

The District Manager reviewed a letter in the board packet from Isaac J. Montoya of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration approving the District's interim budget for use pending approval of the final budget.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

Roy Todd stated that funds awarded based on the point system should be released to the districts by the end of the month. (The written report is attached.)

NRCS Field Office Report:

Louis King, District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He said that during the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup, two additional producers, both reenrollments, were included. The Torrance County applicants agreed to establish pollinator habitats. He discussed proper species selection and planting methods to establish pollinator habitat in existing permanent cover. Mr. King requested that the Local Work Group meeting be scheduled immediately following the September board meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to hold the Local Work Group meeting following the September Board meeting. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. (The written report is attached.)

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager highlighted the meetings that she had attended. (The written report is attached.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager read a card from Brenda Smythe thanking the board members for their card and plant.

The District Manager read a thank you note from State Representative Yvette Herrell from Otero County thanking the CPSWCD and the ESWCD for the time and effort given to help with the native grass seed delivery to the Track Fire command post in Ratón.

She read an invitation from the Edgewood SWCD to the annual meeting to be held on Friday, August 26 at the Edgewood SWCD office at 5:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be George Duda whose topic is "Trees Are Killing Our Forest."

Chairman Lovato thanked the District Manager and Brenda Smythe for their response time for delivering 500 pounds of grass seed to the Track Fire command post in Ratón in July.

The District Manager pointed out the letter from the Office of the Governor stating that José Varela López has been reappointed to the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

She distributed the District's certificates of appreciation signed by Governor Martinez, and she noted the "NMACD Summer Newsletter" as well as the "Noticia de las Acequias" and "eNotes" were included in the meeting packets.

A brief discussion took place on the Tagawa Greenhouses Inc. proposal to renew its Discharge Permit as announced in Public Notice 1 of August 9, 2011 from the NM Environment Department.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

No report

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The District Manager reported on 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 and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project–
Water Trust Board:
The District Manager said that she is in the process of signing thinning contracts that have to be completed by March 2012. She is also in the process of preparing readiness items for 2011 funding.
- New Mexico State Forestry Grants:
The District Manager reported that contracts are being completed on the NFL and WUI projects. New NFL funds are available and a work plan has been approved and will be signed next month.
One landowner decided not to fulfill a 160 acre contract, but other landowners have agreed to participate. The District will be contracting with Brent Racher, Resource Solutions who will be bringing in a Navajo crew. The District will be able to deliver 260 thinned acres for the Upper Manzano work plan through NM State Forestry.

The District's thinning project will be completed by the first of September and has yielded 29 cords of wood so far. One of the corners remains to be finished. The District Manager plans to sell the wood to support Kids Kows and More and other District projects. Discussions followed on establishing the price of the wood.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:**
The District Manager said that she is working with Susan Rich to finalize the budget for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed projects.
- **NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative**
The District is waiting to find out if more funds will become available. \$255,000 will be available through NM State Forestry to take care of Salt Cedar in the cut.
- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
The forest has been closed due to the drought, so no work could be done. The District Manager signed a participating agreement with US Forest Service to identify, map, and control noxious.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**
The forest has been reopened and work on the Ojo Peak Restoration and Red Canyon Projects will resume when the District's thinning project is complete.

A planter was built on the District's property in cooperation with the Youth Conservation Corps, a partnership grant with the Mountainair School District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee – Property, Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies:

Capital Outlay Funds

The District Manager reported that a balance remains in the Capital Outlay Funds.

Site Preparation Work

The contractor needs to repair a cement wall on the District's building site. A suggestion has been made to erect a metal building. All of the releases of liens are complete.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA)

The District Manager was advised to send a letter of protest to the GSA because of the small difference between the District's proposal and the successful proposal. Also, no consideration was given to the fact that a new building was proposed compared to a proposal to renovate an existing building. The letter would accomplish two things: the District would be assured that the successful applicant would be held to the terms of the contract, and the GSA would have to report to the District how the contract is being fulfilled. Senator Udall's staff will help compose the letter.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved that a letter of protest be sent to the GSA. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tree Re-Leaf Grant for Mountainair Senior Citizens

A Tree Re-Leaf proposal has been submitted to State Forestry by Torrance County. The Mountainair Beautiful Committee prepared the proposal with help from the District and NM State Forestry. If the project is funded, the District has committed to buying two trees for the Tree Re-Leaf project. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the project and to buy trees for it. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Sustainable Ag Workshop Spring 2012

The District Manager reported that the District and the Edgewood SWCD are proposing to sponsor a Sustainable Ag workshop in conjunction with NRCS in spring 2012 at the Edgewood SWCD building. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the proposal. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

Region II

The Region II meeting will take place on August 31, 2011 starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Shaffer Hotel.

Richard Shovelin read a letter from Eddie Vigil, President of the NMACD dated August 1, 2011 removing him from his position as chairman of Region II. Mr. Shovelin then read his response rejecting this action and the reasons for it. Discussion followed.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

Brenda Smythe stated that there are no longer any RC&D coordinators. The files have been transferred to her office. She also said that Bernie Hoffner from Ciudad resigned leaving only 4 members.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene said that the EBWPC had met the previous day. He reported on a well monitoring project. Data is inconsistent, and there is not enough data yet to make sense of the results. The EBWPC would like the districts to publish an article in their newsletters regarding the project and asking for participation, particularly in the southeast quadrant. Also, there is concern about the Santa Fe land development plan because not enough attention is being paid to water, conservation and agricultural issues in south Santa Fe County. The EBWPC still needs a representative from Santa Fe County.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Jerry Melaragno asked how the driveway issue with the neighbor to the District's building site was resolved as well as the status on fencing the project. Chairman Lovato stated that the District needs to solicit bids on fencing the property. He said that following a meeting with the property owners, it was agreed that the property owners would create a new driveway using their own property. Discussion followed on the District's small property on the other side of the highway and on how it might be used.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Jerry Melaragno attended the Native Plant Society of New Mexico in Santa Fe at the Institute for American Indian Arts two weeks ago.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 2, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair, New Mexico.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.