



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2012**

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Frank Luna, Associate Supervisor
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
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 Alpine Alley, located at 210 N Summit in Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m.

Welcome Guests:

ABSENTEES:

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from April 13, 2012: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 1 under Approval/Disapproval of Minutes, insert at the end of the paragraph: "The District will have to pay between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to the architect and will save approximately \$150,000 on the balance of his contract." Also, delete: "A copy is attached." On page 5 under **Other**, change "Javier" to "Xavier."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2012 with the accounts payable for April, 2012. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The Chairman asked Board members to contact the District Manager with any questions about the report.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist (DC), presented the NRCS Field Office report. He referred Board members to his written report. He said that the highlight of his report was that April Luna was selected for the Soil Conservationist position in Mountainair and will start on June third. He said that she will provide a lot of service to landowners.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager called attention to the email from Xavier Montoya, a part of the NRCS report, regarding the subject New Mexico of the Future as well as a letter on the subject that includes a list of the NM of the Future Team 2012. She described changes that are being considered. She asked Board members to complete a questionnaire on the NRCS field offices of the future. Mr. Candelaria suggested that the Board fill out the questionnaire as a team at the June Board meeting. The District Manager will put the questionnaire on the agenda for the June Board meeting including additional information. She announced that the District book keeper will have surgery and will be working from home during her recovery.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager pointed out the email and letter from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts asking for dues, two discharge water permit applications from the Ground Water Quality Bureau regarding Discharge Permit Applications submitted for review and noted applications from the Estancia Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Willard Dairy.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The District Field Technician will be on vacation starting May 21, so the District Manager will assume his duties for two weeks. Gabe Ramirez and Leslie Kingston will work during the summer on mapping and removing noxious weeds from the Priest Canyon area to past the Tajique area. Grants will fund their positions. A discussion took place on the transportation that the employees will need. The NRCS will coordinate with the District on the use of its vehicle. The Board also discussed where an all terrain vehicle may be stored once it has been purchased.

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.

- **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project– Water Trust Board:**

All funds have been contracted for thinning and monitoring, and three contracts have been completed already. The District has been funded for 2012 in the amount of \$600,000 from the Water Trust Board. The District Manager is preparing readiness items and paperwork to sign to submit to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the 2012 grant. The District Manager reported on the projects where the money will be spent: the amount of acreage, and the work that will be done. She said that the wood from the Lajeunesse thinning project will be sold to Old Wood, Inc. in Las Vegas, NM which manufactures flooring. The sale of this wood will demonstrate that some wood is being used for purposes other than firewood.

- **New Mexico State Forestry Grants – Non Federal Lands (NFL):**

New funding of \$253,000 has been awarded for the Estancia Basin Project. The work plan will be completed by July 1. This grant money can be used as a match for Water Trust Board funds.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:**

The funding in the amount of \$600,000 has been awarded for this project. The proposal was ranked first by the Water Trust Board. The project will be implemented in the fall. The District Manager and Kenneth Lujan are working with Santiago Misquez from NRCS to try to use funding most efficiently.

NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative:

The District Manager and Cody Stropski from SWCA visited the Deer Canyon subdivision to evaluate areas where creating erosion control structures would be feasible. She is working on projects with Deer Canyon individual property owners both on thinning and on erosion control structures. She is also working with the Home Owners Association to plan some thinning projects because of concerns about fire.

- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**

The District has a participation agreement with the Forest Service to identify noxious weeds. Gabe Ramirez and Leslie Kingston will map noxious weed growth. Jerry Melaragno reported on locations of increased growth of Hoary Cress on Hwy 41 and evidence of a lot more thistle. Frank Luna said that thistle is growing in Punta de Agua. Treating these weeds will be a priority next week.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

Karen Lessard will advertise the categorical exclusion notice on the Ojo Peak CFRP mastication project, and Brent Racher will locate his masticator on the project area. Water is standing in riparian areas where staff will be working.

Red Canyon Project:

Work is almost finished on 124 acres. Two District employees have been giving out permits to remove wood, but hours may need to be cut back because of lack of demand. The District Manager answered questions regarding delays in the Corona highway project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Fence Property:

Progress on completing the fence was discussed

Capital Outlay Funds and Building Design:

The District Manager, the Chairman and Dan Williams met with Senator Griego in Mountainair. He suggested that the District Manager meet with him and the New Mexico Department of Finance representatives to secure funds to construct the building shell and to encumber funds that the District already has.

The District Manager circulated the bid tabulation sheet for the building shell. She contacted the District architect to find out whether he has researched the bidders. He said that he had checked out the lowest bidder. The District Manager asked him to check out the next lowest bidder as well. She will be making arrangements for the building committee members to see completed projects of the contractors to assess their capabilities to construct the building shell. A discussion occurred on the building specifications, bids, adequacy of funding, and insuring quality construction.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager said that she has written a draft letter to Senator Griego asking him to meet with the congressional offices on the matter of the GSA protest letter. He wants the Chairman and Dan Williams to attend the meeting with him. The District Manager reported on an email from the District's legal counsel concerning the District's FOIA request. She also reported on the content of a memo expressing the concerns of a GSA building inspector about the condition of the park service building. Problems with the building and how the solicitation process was carried out were discussed.

Solicitation for Lease Space – NRCS:

The District Manager distributed a copy of the building design that was submitted to the NRCS for leased space. The proposal was sent in on time by April 24, but no response has been received. The contracting officer will ask for best and final offers and then a decision will be made. NRCS requirements and interests plus the positive effects of getting the lease were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:**Annual Meeting:**

September 7 is the date of the annual meeting. People to invite, possible presentations, tours of projects, and other ideas for the meeting need to be discussed. The District Manager will provide more concrete information for the next Board meeting.

Approval of Appointed Supervisors:

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the appointments of Richard Shovelin and Dan Williams to the Board. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

Richard Shovelin reported that a good meeting took place on Tuesday, May 8 with 21 people present including NRCS State Conservationist Xavier Montoya who gave a presentation on the future of NRCS. Mr. Shovelin said that 17 districts are members of the coalition in addition to individual memberships. The District Manager reported on a goal setting session following a presentation by Assistant State Conservationist in charge of programs Steve Kadas on what the committee has been doing. The goal setting process highlighted the reasons that the NMCCD was formed. The main goal is to secure more funding for the conservation districts that would go directly to the districts rather than funneled through a state association and then down to the districts with administration fees taken off the top. The group hopes to receive funding from grants that would support an employee. The next meeting will be held in Moriarty on June 21. The Employees Association will hold a training with the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Programs Division the morning of June 21st. The two meetings are completely separate meetings. The Edgewood SWCD office complex is large enough to handle a couple of unrelated meetings at a time.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No meeting took place.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene reported that a meeting took place on May 3. The group is on a sound financial basis with enough funds to pay the coordinator for a year and a half without additional grant money. It is the coordinator's primary task to find more grant money to pay for her position. Getting Directors and Officers Insurance with better coverage at a lower cost is a big issue. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of May.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene mentioned a letter to Santa Fe Commissioner Anaya, especially regarding his instructions to Santa Fe County to start buying water rights in the Estancia Basin. The District Manager will distribute copies to Board members. Mr. Greene explained the Committee's ongoing concern with the Santa Fe land use plan and with possible double dipping by landowners with water rights. A discussion took place on taking water from the Estancia Basin to support growth in Santa Fe County, the advisory role of the EBWPC, the powers of the counties and the state engineer. Frank Luna and LeRoy Candelaria described efforts to combat exportation of water from the Estancia Closed Basin to any area in New Mexico.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Luna suggested that the Board discuss ways of funding a project supervisor for the District's proposed building shell.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Richard Shovelin attended the NRCS futures meeting and will attend a final meeting the week following the Board meeting, The District Manager attended the small wood conference in Flagstaff, AZ. She reported on a presentation by Butch Blazer, Department of Agriculture Under Secretary as well as several other presentations.

Mr. Greene explained what he knew about a Wisconsin company interested in contracting for wood removal in New Mexico with the intention of pelletizing it and sending it to a bio mass company in Wisconsin. A discussion followed.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 1, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Alpine Alley, located at 210 N Summit in Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board -- **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.