



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 1, 2012**

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

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
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 8:15 a.m.

Welcome Guests:

ABSENTEES: LeRoy Candelaria

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2 under Next Meeting Scheduled: delete "The Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair." Add "Alpine Alley, located at 210 N. Summit in Mountainair, NM."

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from May 11, 2012: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was

unanimous. On page 5 under Reports, in the third line from the end of the paragraph, substitute "June" for "April."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

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

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The District Manager explained anticipated revenues and expenditures in the interim budget and answered questions.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Roy Todd announced that the office has had three retirements and can replace only one of them. The staff is working on a plan to redistribute the workload. He mentioned that the point system worksheet is due to NMDA on July 15. He also noted that the mil levy resolutions and appointed supervisor applications to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) should be submitted electronically. Mr. Todd reported on a trip to the big island of Hawaii to attend a National Cattlewomen's Regional Convention during which he toured several cattle ranches. He spoke of interesting cattle ranching practices that differ from ranching in New Mexico.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist (DC), presented the NRCS Field Office report. He referred Board members to his written report and offered to answer questions.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager announced that the District book keeper was having surgery and explained the steps they were taking to complete her duties during her recovery period. She referred supervisors to her written report and offered to answer questions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager pointed out the article "Four districts, one mission" in *Forestry Notes* published by the National Association of Conservation Districts, The article describes the efforts of the Claunch-Pinto, Ciudad, Edgewood and East Torrance districts, members of the EBWHRM, to coordinate forest thinning projects with landowners thereby contributing to forest health and reduction of wildfire risk in the region.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The District Manager said that the student employees will work four ten-hour days Monday through Thursday mapping and removing noxious weeds. This grant funded work involves time spent both in the field and in the office. The District Field Technician will work four ten-hour days Tuesday through Friday during the summer. The District Manager will supervise all employees ten hours a day, Monday through Friday.

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 and State Forestry Grants:**

The State Forestry funds provide a match for the Water Trust Board Funds. All projects funded with 2011 money have to be finished by June 30. Acreage has been added to both the Quintana and McKinley projects and good progress is being made on both properties. Completion of these projects will expend the 2011 State Forestry funds. The District Manager reported on projects being completed by the Edgewood, Ciudad, and East Torrance Districts. The Edgewood District received approximately \$60,000 from the State Land office to work on the Poker Draw project. This money provides a good match for Water Trust Board funding. The Ciudad district also received funding for projects on state land. The District Manager will convene a meeting next week to start work on the highway right of way project.

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

New funding of \$255,000 has been awarded for the Estancia Basin Project. The District Manager is working with Lawrence Crane on the work plan which will be submitted after July 1. State Forestry has announced a new request for proposals. The District will probably apply.

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

The District Manager will attend a meeting of the Alliance next Friday near Cedar Crest. Following the meeting, members will visit South Mountain to observe how the water flows down into the Rio Grande. A lot of thinning is taking place in this area, and clear cut safe zones for fire fighter have been approved by State Forestry and the Bernallio County Fire Department. The District Manager mentioned her efforts to help the Deer Canyon Home Owners Association establish a number of safe zones in the subdivision. She also hopes to get more thinning projects going there. New funding from the Water Trust Board in the amount of \$600,000 has been awarded to the District. The District Manager and Kenneth Lujan are working with Santiago Misquez from NRCS and with Cal Baca from New Mexico Game and Fish to bring in some additional funding to match the Water Trust Board award.

NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative:

These funds need to be spent by the end of June. Kenneth Lujan and Cody Stropski from SWCA Environmental Consultants visited the Deer Canyon subdivision to look at areas where erosion control structures will be built. Jerry Melaragno identified an area that needs to be reseeded. Additional areas need to be identified for erosion control projects. A demonstration workshop can be offered to teach land owners how to build rock structures.

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

District student employees are working on this project. The Edgewood District manages the funding, so the District Manager will bill Edgewood for work being done. A report including GIS files will be sent to the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute which will create final maps. There is a serious infestation of Russian Knapweed at Saladito Springs. Hopefully, the Forest Service will permit spraying there.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

District Ranger Karen Lessard is supposed to notify the District Manager when she has advertised the categorical exclusion notice on the Ojo Peak CFRP mastication project.

Red Canyon Project:

Work is finished on 124 acres. The crew on the project has been sent to work on the McKinley property to get the project finished on time. The District Manager prepared a budget modification and a request to extend the project for a fourth year to complete 84 acres. There is enough money available on the grant to possibly complete a total of 150 acres if the budget is approved by Ian Fox, the CFRP Coordinator for the Cibola National Forest.

On May 24, 2012, the District Manager went out to assess the fire on public land that was visible from the McKinley property. She reported on the fire and how it got started. This five-acre fire cost approximately \$200,000 to extinguish.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Future Directions Committee – Property, Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies:****Fence Property:**

The plan for completing the fence on the District's property was discussed

Capital Outlay Funds and Building Design:

Dan Williams reported on his research into references and previous work of the contractors who submitted the two lowest bids on the District's building shell. A discussion occurred on qualifications of the two lowest bidders. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the lowest bid. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion followed on hiring a project manager to oversee the construction of the building and what his duties would consist of. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to select Mike Valdez as the project manager pending acceptance of the low bid by the contractor. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager presented the letter to State Senator Phil Griego asking him to meet with the New Mexico congressional offices, Chairman Felipe Lovato and Supervisor Dan Williams to discuss the SWCD's protest of the GSA award for SFO No. 9NM2109 for the National Park Service lease in Mountainair, NM.

Solicitation for Lease Space – NRCS:

The District Manager said that she talked to Terry Sarazin from NRCS about mistakes on the figures presented in the last lease proposal. After her conversation with Terry she corrected the mistakes and has new figures for Building Committee to review. She has arranged a conference call for June 7 with Mr. Sarazin in preparation for the best and final offer to NRCS.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting:

September 7 is the date of the annual meeting. The District Manager is firming up plans for the meeting.

Budget Resolution No. 09-2012:

The District Manager read the resolution. Discussion followed.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to adopt Budget Resolution No. 09-2012. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea. The District Manager thanked the budget committee for their careful attention to the proposed budget.

Approval of Interim Budget:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the interim budget. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

East Torrance SWCD Resolution:

The District Manager presented the resolution for information. The resolution will go through the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD). Discussion followed. No action was taken.

Discussion on NRCS – NM of the Future Questionnaire:

The District Manager distributed the questionnaire and gave a report on the NM of the Future meeting, May 15 – 17. She gave examples of possible changes that were discussed: reducing number of areas from three to two, establishing super district conservationists, creating clusters of offices, combining offices, reducing numbers of employees and increasing responsibilities of remaining personnel. Mr. Lujan said that the state offices were receiving direction from the national office to streamline operations and get personnel into the field more often. Mr. Greene said that based on his state and national experience, New Mexico is unique among the states in the excellent relationships between the soil and water conservation districts and NRCS. Mr. Lujan suggested that reducing and streamlining paperwork would create the most efficient change. Discussion followed on whether improvements were actually needed. Agreement was reached that the District and the NRCS office already have a good working relationship, collaborate to improve efficiencies, share resources, and that NRCS does play an active role in the development of the District's annual plan. The only improvement that is needed is to reduce and streamline the burden of paperwork that is imposed on NRCS.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The District Manger said that the next NMCCD Board meeting will be held in Moriarty on June 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

Mr. Caster reported that no meeting took place.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene reported that a meeting took place on May 31. Lincoln County raised the annual appropriation to \$40,000. The funding is not restricted to certain projects. Most of the meeting involved listening to an insurance agent's presentation on coverage and costs for directors and officers insurance

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene said all candidates for office in the area covered by the EBWPC were invited to the last meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the candidates to the committee's history, purpose, issues, and activities. Twenty to twenty-five people attended.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

The District Manager said that she will attend a New Mexico First meeting on fire and water on June 5 and 6.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 6, 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:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.