



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 2012

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

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
April Luna, Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Frank Luna, Claunch-Pinto Associate Supervisor
Lowrance Romero
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: J. Brian Greene

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda as amended. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2 under New Business, move "Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office" to page 1 following "Approval/Disapproval of Agenda" as item 1a.

APPOINTED SUPERVISOR OATH OF OFFICE

Chairman Lovato administered the oath of office to appointed supervisors Richard Shovelin and Dan Williams.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from June 1, 2012: ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 3 under Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring Project, substitute "of way" for "away" in the last sentence in the paragraph.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

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

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The District Manager noted the following items on the report –

- the beginning of the fiscal year;
- the oath of office for appointed supervisors;
- the required report on contact information for board members;
- the deadlines to submit the point system worksheet, the 4th quarter budget report, the final budget and budget resolution, and the final Water Quality and Conservation grant report due to SWCC;
- the due date for the annual report of activities and annual plan for the past fiscal year;
- the dates for the 19th annual Southwestern Noxious/Invasive Weed Short Course;
- the dates of the Quivira Coalition's 11th Annual Conference.

NRCS Field Office Report:

April Luna, NRCS Soil Conservationist in the Mountainair office, introduced herself to the Board. She briefly reviewed her educational and employment background. She graduated from the University of New Mexico and worked in several capacities related to conservation and agriculture -- she worked for Claunch-Pinto in 2007 and then worked for the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District. In 2010, she worked as a farm bill specialist in the Los Lunas and the Albuquerque NRCS offices. In 2011, she worked in Carlsbad for NRCS. The Chairman commented on the positive relationship between Claunch-Pinto and NRCS and on the hard work of the District Manager. Board members encouraged April to foster and improve this cooperative relationship.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager referred the Board to her written Report. Richard Shovelin asked her to elaborate on the Torrance County Emergency Evacuation Planning Committee meeting that she attended on June 28. Board members talked about the function of the group and the fire that occurred on the McKinley project. The District Manager and the District Field Technician were first to reach the fire. Discussion followed on how the fire started, the responsibilities of contractors to monitor possible smoldering vegetation caused by sparks from machinery, the response or lack of response to the fire, how the fire could have been extinguished before it spread, and the cost of fighting it which resulted from the lack of immediate response. Richard

Shovelin asked the District Manager to prepare a written report on the fire to present to the Torrance County Emergency Evacuation Planning Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager pointed out the announcement for the 57th Annual New Mexico Water Conference on August 28, 2012.

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.

- **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board and State Forestry Grants:**
The District is in the process of drawing down the grant. A modification was approved for the upper Manzano State Forestry grant to continue the projects until November. The District Manager will draw down the NMSF - EBWHRM grant this weekend, including the Bouton project and the Zamora project in Edgewood. These projects are finished and have been inspected and approved.
- **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:**
José Varela López and the District Manager met with Dr. Andy Egan to discuss the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute's monitoring work with the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance.
- **NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative:**
SWCA Environmental Consultants built erosion control structures in the Deer Canyon Preserve, created some brush structures, and seeded the affected areas. The District Manager will submit a final report and request for reimbursement.
- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
Five District employees are working on this project. They have surveyed 800 acres on private and public land. Jerica Lujan from the Edgewood District has been helping to identify land owners in order to get permission to survey their land for weeds. The Chairman reported on an infestation of poison hemlock in the Abó area. He also commented on the good work being done by the District crew headed by Gabe Ramirez.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The contractor is ready to masticate the trees and will be finished by September.

Red Canyon Project:

Frank Luna and the District Manager met with the Merced del Manzano commissioners. The District Manager submitted a comprehensive report on the project. The District maintains an exact duplicate of the paperwork given to the commissioners. The commissioners signed a budget modification and a request to extend the project for a fourth year to complete 85 acres. The project will commence when restrictions due to dry conditions are lifted. There is enough money available on the grant to possibly complete an additional 65 acres

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

The Chairman reported on progress toward completing the fencing project – post holes were dug, posts set and cement poured. He commented on how well the crew worked together and praised the hard work of Jimmy Roybal.

Capital Outlay Funds and Building Design:

The District Manager submitted the contract with W.H. Hall Construction Company for the Chairman to sign. Mr. Hall had the low bid for the District's building shell project.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved approval to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager reported on email correspondence regarding the protest letter. Discussion followed on the appropriate action to take. The District Manager urged Board members to personally contact state and federal politicians asking for help.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to send a letter to the national park service regional director offering temporary buildings on the District's property. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Solicitation for Lease Space – NRCS:

The District Manager said that she provided a floor plan of proposed space for NRCS offices to Terry Sarazin from NRCS.

NEW BUSINESS:**Board Reorganization:**

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to retain the current Board organization by acclamation. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Composting/ recycling:

Lowrance Romero, former code enforcement officer for Mountainair, presented a conceptual plan for recycling and composting organic matter on the District's property. Board members asked him to return with a detailed plan that includes specifications and costs.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting will be held in October. The District Manager is firming up plans for the meeting.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD) Dues for 2012:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to renew the dues for NMCCD in the amount of \$100. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Jerry Melaragno suggested that the coalition offer the option of individual memberships.

REPORTS:**NMCCD:**

Richard Shovelin reported that the coalition received a \$50,000 grant from the Healey Foundation of Taos. The District Manager applied for the grant in cooperation with Preston Stone and José Varela López. The District Manager will keep the books on the funding. She was asked to include a letter in the grant that precludes any spending for political purposes. The coalition will develop a work plan for educating the soil and water conservation districts, enabling them to build their capacity.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Frank Luna praised the Board for its work and singled out the District Manager for her achievements.

OTHER:

The District Manager reported Kim Kostelnik, a former division head for state forestry will volunteer with the District and will help Lawrence Crane with his project to map thinning projects and costs.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Richard Shovelin reported that he attended the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting in Socorro with the District Manager. He said that José Varela López is the new chair.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 3, 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 10:40 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.