



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 3, 2012**

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

Absentees: William Caster

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
April Luna, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Frank Luna, Claunch-Pinto Associate Supervisor
Darren Richardson, North West Area Conservationist, NRCS
Katheryn Taylor, District volunteer
Roy Todd, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Mike Valdez

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 8:05 a.m.

Welcome Guests:

ABSENTEES: William Caster

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as amended. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2 under New Business, add Budget Revision Resolution 01-2013.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from July 6, 2012: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

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

The District Manager distributed the final budget and the "Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual," which is the quarterly financial report that she submits to the Department of Finance. She explained how the reports correspond to each other and asked Board members to review the reports and provide feedback and questions.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REPORT on BUILDING CONSTRUCTION – Mike Valdez

Mr. Valdez reported on progress being made on the District's construction project. The project is on target. All compaction tests on earth work have been met, the plumbing has been roughed in and passed inspection, and the electric piping is in but needs to be inspected. The architect has been asked to price both double and triple insulated windows with commercial aluminum frames. Triple panes will create future savings in utilities costs. Mr. Valdez answered questions regarding the windows and electric power to the site.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Mr. Todd referred Board members to his written report. He reported on the eligibility for insurance through risk management. Legislation regarding eligibility is inconsistent with the rules. He then described the devastation created by the Little Bear fire in Ruidoso. He spoke of the silt in Bonita Lake, damage to the Bonita Dam and the watershed, burned out residences and aid to home owners. He mentioned the contribution of Brent Racher in equipment and labor. The communities of Ruidoso and Alamogordo are now concerned about the need for forest thinning.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan referred the Board to his written report and introduced the Area Conservationist, Darren Richardson. Mr. Richardson distributed maps that reflect proposed structural changes for NRCS in New Mexico, which are intended to allow personnel to spend more time in the field. He explained the changes that would affect local operations -- reducing three areas to two areas, combining local field offices into teams and putting one district conservationist in charge of the team, changes in administrative responsibilities, changes in titles, and possible effects on Kenneth Lujan's situation. The draft plan has to be approved by the US Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. The selection of the district conservationist and the location of the office are to be determined. Discussion followed in response to questions.

Mr. Richardson explained that Quickbooks cannot be kept on NRCS computers or computers networked with NRCS computers because of security issues concerning the privacy of personnel records.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager referred supervisors to her written report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager pointed out the correspondence included in the Board packets or distributed at the meeting.

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 Manager, Felipe Lovato and Lawrence Crane met with a District landowner because he burned or buried slash, which is prohibited because these actions pose fire hazards. He will be paid for thinning but not for chipping since he didn't follow the practice plan or the contract. They reviewed what he needs to do if he applies for future funding.

She also reported that Lawrence Crane looked into a complaint by an East Torrance landowner about piles of slash on a neighbor's property near the property line, perhaps creating a fire hazard. Lawrence and the forest inspector determined that the slash was not cut on an EBWHRM project, and the land owner has agreed to remove the slash as he has time and money.

Projects are being finished, and the District has submitted \$256,924 in reimbursements. The State Forestry WUI grant has closed out and one NFL grant has been drawn down by a substantial amount.

The District has not received notification of its award of \$600,000 for the Estancia Basin project and will not receive a notice to proceed until The Water Trust Board meets on August 16th to review a protest from the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Authority. The District Manager is preparing a letter to NM Finance Authority requesting that the Water Trust Board follow its approved procedures for selecting projects for funding.

The District Manager, the Chairman, and Lawrence Crane met with the Department of Transportation and the inmate work crew in Corona. The project will begin right after the bird season because of concerns about the willow fly catcher and the expense of conducting a survey of the birds. The inmate work crew is scheduled to start work right after September 15. Six miles will be clear cut starting at the zero mile marker outside of Corona.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:**
This project has also been awarded \$600,000, but the District has not received a notice to proceed because of the same protest discussed in the EBWHRM report.
- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
A crew with members from Claunch-Pinto, East Torrance and Edgewood has been working on this project. They have conducted a noxious weed survey and have completed approximately 1500 acres on private and federal land. The District Manager reported on lists of landowners provided by East Torrance and Edgewood. These landowners are being contacted for permission to do survey and remove weeds. The cooperation from the Edgewood district has been notable. The crew is in the Torreon area where they are finding musk thistle and Russian knapweed.

Gabe Ramirez will meet with the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute to download GPS coordinates, so a map of this noxious weed project can be made.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The District Manager will meet with a contractor on completing mastication on the project.

Red Canyon Project:

Sawyers are sawing logs on unit three, which the land grant is supposed to remove.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Fence Property:

The Chairman reported that the fencing project is finished. He praised the crew and thanked Supervisors Greene, Candelaria, and Melaragno for their help. No Trespassing signs will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager thanked Frank Luna and Tillie Herrera Brummell for their help regarding the GSA protest. The park service has moved out of their current facility. The District Manager sent an email to Loren Merrill to let her know the District's property has building pads and utilities in place, and the District would be willing to install portable buildings for the park service's use. She composed a letter to the GSA for the three congressional offices to sign at the request of Congressman Heinrich's office. She was told that all three offices had agreed to sign the letter. The District Manager sent an email to Senator Udall's office reporting on information she was hearing about possible options for new space that the park service was considering. Then, she talked with Garrett Gordon, the new contracting officer for GSA, who told her that the District didn't meet GSA criteria because there was no building on the District's property. Mr. Gordon said that if the lease doesn't work out with the current leaser, the GSA will probably have to go out on a new solicitation. The District's attorney is looking into whether there

is a basis for a suit. Discussion followed on speculations concerning what might happen regarding the current lease, potential temporary leases and future possibilities.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to write a letter to Mr. Gordon at the GSA asking for the opportunity to present the District's proposal for a lease without going through another solicitation. In addition, the District should continue to work with the congressional representatives asking for their support. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The suggestion was made to arrange a meeting with Governor Martinez' staff to explain the situation on the lease and to request funding for the current building.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to request a meeting with the governor's staff to explain the District's efforts to obtain a lease from GSA to house the park service facility and to request funding to complete the District's building. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion then followed on whether to contact the media regarding the situation with the lease.

Solicitation for Lease Space – NRCS:

The District Manager said that the best and final offer is due by 4:00 pm on August 13th. She explained what information she needs in order to submit the offer. Discussion followed on security systems requested by NRCS, their costs and other terms of the lease.

Annual Meeting:

The District Manager is working on a plan for the annual meeting. It will be held on the District's property. The District Manager suggested that the property needs to be sprayed for weeds and concrete needs to be poured. She suggested that the Board plan a work day. Money is available for materials but not for labor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program

The District Manager distributed the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for 2014 for the Board's review and for public discussion at the September meeting.

Budget Revision Resolution 01-2013:

The District Manager explained the resolution and transfers involved.

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to approve the resolution. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Brian Greene – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

NMCCD delivered a letter to Xavier Montoya, State Conservationist supporting the NM Field Office of the Future plans.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held the previous day. The Little Bear fire created a lot of interest in thinning from home owners and from the city of Ruidoso. Mr. Greene said that the South Central RC&D is in very good shape financially and is applying for grants. He also described the grants and funding sources. Jornada RC&D asked for some help in reestablishing their board and getting their business back on track.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The group is still looking for monitoring wells along the south east side of the basin. Mr. Greene reported that the wells along the west side of the basin are showing an increase in water. Robert Anaya, the Santa Fe County commissioner, who once gave the impression that he supported exporting water from the Estancia Closed Basin, made a formal statement saying that no member of the Anaya family supports exporting water from the Estancia Closed Basin.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

No report.

OTHER:

The District Manager asked Supervisors to send her information about any travel to meetings attended.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

No report

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 7, 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:** Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.