



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

October 5, 2012

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

**Absentees:** J. Brian Greene

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)  
April Luna, Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Frank Luna  
Katheryn Taylor, District volunteer  
Roy Todd, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

### 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from September 7, 2012: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes of the public meeting. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Minutes of the regular meeting were discussed. Changes to the passage on page three regarding Mr. Williams' motion were suggested. The District Manager asked that the minutes be tabled so that they could be accurately amended and presented for approval at the November Board meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to table the minutes from September 7, 2012 regular meeting. 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 September with the accounts payable for September, 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:**

### **DFA Approval of FY 2013**

The District Manager read a letter from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) which approved the budget for FY2013.

### **Approval of FY2013 Budget**

The District Manager explained that following approval of the budget by the DFA, the Board had to reapprove the budget.

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the FY2013 budget. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **Mileage and Per Diem Rates**

A discussion took place on the state regulations regarding mileage and per diem rates and when it was appropriate to get Board approval to pay more than the standard rates. A consensus was reached to abide by the existing regulations and procedures.

## **REPORT ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION – Mike Valdez**

The District Manager reported for Mr. Valdez on progress being made on the District's construction project. Most of the Hardie Board siding is on the building. The roof will be completed after the Hardie Board is spray painted. Mr. Hall, the contractor, thinks that he will be ready for a walk through in about two weeks. At that point, a decision will be made on items to be included on the punch list. Contractor Padilla worked on the sewer cleanouts last weekend. Discussion took place on how much he should be paid to repair the broken cleanout, on his failure to meet specs when he installed the cleanout, and on the paperwork that should be provided to document the repairs.

Mr. Williams described the poor quality of the concrete work inside the building. The specs required that the floor should be smooth enough so that no floor covering would be necessary. The floor is so rough that now it will have to be ground down and resurfaced, and some type of floor covering will be required. The worst work is in the bathroom area.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):**

Mr. Todd referred Board members to his written report and offered to answer questions. Then he gave an update on the status of changes to his division due to budget cuts. He mentioned title changes to positions, loss of positions, replacements and the status of some current staff members and their responsibilities. He said that a meeting will be held the following week and explained what information will be shared. He said that it is still unclear how territories will change, who will be assigned to them and what their responsibilities will be.

Incorrect information concerning the Water Trust Board request for proposals was published and caused confusion, according to the District Manager. She stressed the importance of publishing correct dates provided by the agencies who set them.

### **NRCS Field Office Report:**

Kenneth Lujan referred Board members to his written report. He announced that Darren Richardson, Kenneth's supervisor, is returning to Afghanistan and that Steve Kadas will replace him, starting on

October 9th. He said that Mr. Richardson thanked the Board for the gift that the District Manager gave him on its behalf. He told Kenneth that the Board was top notch, that it was a strong Board and that it was as good as any in the state. He also said that members were doing the right things for the right reasons. The District Manager displayed the gift that she gave to Mr. Richardson. She took Mr. Richardson and Mr. Kadas to lunch and thanked Mr. Richardson, on behalf of the Board, for his support. Kenneth will provide Darren's email address.

Kenneth said that concerns among producers were being expressed about some activities required by Conservation Stewardship program and about perceived inconsistencies in requirements that Kenneth and April were asking for. He said that the requirements haven't changed, but some of the documentation has changed. He said that if concerns are mentioned to any Board members, individuals should be referred to either Kenneth or April, who will explain what is needed.

Kenneth talked about two possible people who may become the new super district conservationist and said that the office will be in Fort Sumner.

#### **District Manager's Report:**

The District Manager referred the Board to her report. The Chairman told members to call her with any questions.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The District Manager pointed out the information from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts about their 66<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held October 29 – 31 in Las Cruces and announced several other meeting dates. She also said that the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting was being held this Friday night, October 5 at 6:00, East Torrance's annual meeting will be held on November 14, and Claunch-Pinto's meeting is set for November 16. She announced that the Sandia Pueblo is holding a water catchment workshop in October. She has invited Timothy Smith from the Sandia Pueblo to give a short talk on the same topic at the annual meeting. Next year Claunch-Pinto and Edgewood districts will co-sponsor a workshop.

Mr. Shovelin asked the District Manager to tell the Board about the hoop house workshop. She said that it will be held on Wednesday, October 10, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the District's property. Flyers announcing the workshop are posted all over town. Jerry Melaragno described a previous workshop that he attended and commented on questions raised by Board members, for example, access to power. This will be the last workshop that Del Jimenez from New Mexico State University's experimental farm at Alcalde will conduct.

#### **PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

#### **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:**

Water Trust Board projects are finishing on time. Ten of the District's projects are complete in the southern Claunch-Pinto District. Another 15 contracts will be written. There is a lot of interest in thinning in Deer Canyon. The District Manager is writing removing dead trees killed by the bark beetle into the contracts. All of the 2011 projects have to be finished by October 31, and the Edgewood projects are also on track to be finished by the deadline. Two big projects are being finished by Isaac Luna.

Mr. Williams reported on the road clearing project in Corona. Work was started last week. It is moving right along. There were some problems with the Lincoln County chipper, but hopefully the problems have been figured out. About a mile of the project has been finished where the terrain is very steep, and the brush and trees are heavy. Once the thirty man prison labor crew got started, they accomplished a lot of work in short order. The foreman is working very well with the county. Yesterday, only about 50 feet were completed because a new crew started and was being trained to do the work properly. The foreman reported on how many deer carcasses and bones that the crew has found. There have been a lot of positive comments from local residents who say how wonderful it will be when the road clearing is complete.

Mr. Williams mentioned that people from the area have rightfully taken wood from the project, but he had to run off a Belen contractor who was illegally retrieving wood.

He said that the Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel are assisting with the project by using the DOT's loader to move the chipper.

The District Manager said that State Forestry wants to work with the Department of Transportation on a road clearing project on south 14 to Claunch-Pinto's line. She said that the District has been awarded 2012 funding by the 2012 Water Trust Board for the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects. She also reported that a correspondent from the Mountain View Telegraph contacted her about grant awards to the District. She will meet with him next week.

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

The District Manager has advertised for requests for proposals for contractors for the Greater Rio Grande projects that have been approved. Site visits will be held on October 16 and 17. These projects are for East Rio Arriba SWCD, Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD, and the Sandia Pueblo. The inmate work crews will be used for projects in Albuquerque, the Valencia SWCD and the Socorro SWCD.

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

Mapping the areas where weeds were found was done this summer, but the work cannot be finished until the District has a computer with mapping capabilities. Kenneth Lujan said that he would pick up computers in Albuquerque during the following week. If the computers aren't available, the District Manager will send Gabe Ramirez to Las Vegas to work with Joe Zebrowski on finishing the maps by the annual meeting.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

- **Ojo Peak Restoration:**

- The District Manager met twice last month with Rick Evans of Boss Reclamation. The District Manager reported on what needs to be done to remove hazard trees so that riparian restoration work can take place in the spring.

- The District Manager met with Karen Lessard, District Ranger, who didn't like the prescriptions for the project. She, the District Manager and Brent Racher will meet again to rewrite the prescriptions. Boss Reclamation will bring in heavy equipment to do the work so that hand crews can then carry out riparian restoration. The District Manager sent in a request for a one year extension on the project, which has been approved.

- **Red Canyon Project:**

- The NEPA has been advertised and should be final in approximately 55 days. Two sawyers are working on taking the trees down on Unit 3. They will do some limbing on units one and two. Wood is being removed from the area. The District Manager expressed concern about removing

wood while sawyers are cutting down trees. Discussion followed on people who are illegally removing wood and cutting down trees.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

#### **Progress on Protest to General Services Administration (GSA):**

There is no progress on the protest. Aubrey Dunn, Chaves SWCD stopped in at the District office, and the District Manager showed him the property and discussed issues with the building project. He offered to ask the Chaves SWCD to lend money to the District to install the windows on the building, but Mr. Valdez advised her to get the contractor to finish his work on the project without putting the windows in.

The District Manager heard that the lease on a temporary space for the park service had fallen through. She confirmed the rumor with Mr. Garrett with the GSA. She told him about the building shell in case they decided to continue to look for temporary space.

#### **Solicitation for Lease Space -- NRCS**

The District Manager has not heard anything final on the solicitation for lease space. She has submitted a loan application to the New Mexico Finance Authority in order to start the process of getting a loan because of time restraints that will occur if the lease is finally approved. They won't entertain a loan request until there is a signed contract for a lease. Zach Dillenback from the NM Finance Authority suggested that the District Manager find out if the District is eligible for a loan guarantee from Rural Development. She emailed the representative at the Los Lunas office to ask for information. She then went over the process and timeline for getting the loan. If the lease is approved, she will ask the District's counsel if it is legal to hire local contractors without going out with an RFP.

#### **Annual Meeting:**

Timothy Smith from the Sandia Pueblo will make presentation on rainwater harvesting for wildlife, livestock, farming and private homeowners.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Resolution No. 03 – 2012 – Authorizing and Approving Submissin of a Competed Application For Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adopt the resolution. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Mr. Shovelin reported that the NMCCD has received a grant from the Healy Foundation in the amount of \$50,000. The NMCCD annual meeting is scheduled for November 13.

#### **Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):**

No report.

#### **South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

Meeting minutes are included in the Board packet.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

No report.

**OTHER:**

Jerry Melaragno announced that the fifth annual walk for the dogs to raise money to finish the Mountainair dog shelter will be held on Saturday, October 20 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Deer Canyon Preserve.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

No report

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 2, 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 10:30 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.