



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

December 7, 2012

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

Absentees: Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
April Luna, Soil Conservationist, 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 Attendees:

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. He asked them to take a moment to reflect in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from November 2, 2012: **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster 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 November with the accounts payable for November, 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 announced that the District's auditor was in the District office working on his annual audit.

She said that the District technician parked the Kabota and attachment across the street for Board members to look at.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The District Manager pointed out the timeline included in the NMDA report for supervisor elections. The process begins in January. The Board will review the timeline at the next Board meeting. She reminded the Board that the open meetings act resolution was adopted in November. She pointed out the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck listed in number 5 of the report. She stated that the second quarterly budget report is due to Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) on January 20.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan referred Board members to his written report. He said that New Mexico of the Future will be implemented after the first of the year and that Rachel Armstrong has been offered the position of District Conservationist, but he doesn't know whether she has accepted. The District Conservationist will be stationed at the Fort Sumner office. He doesn't know who will attend Board meetings in the future. The District Manager pointed out New Mexico of the Future Facts that are included in the Board packet.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager referred the Board to her written report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager pointed out items that were included in the Board packet.

She mentioned that she sent a Thanksgiving greeting to Darren Richardson in Afghanistan. She received a picture of him with his training group that she will circulate.

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 (NFL):**

The District Manager announced that the Board will have to hold a special meeting on December 21 to pass two resolutions allowing the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer to sign all the paperwork associated with the Water Trust Board grants. She said that projects funded by New Mexico State Forestry are finished, including the project on the McKinley property. Final paperwork on the projects has been submitted. She is working with State Forestry on a new work plan for the Estancia Basin. She reported that the Highway 42 project didn't pass inspection because the inmate work crew left stumps that were too high, and chips weren't spread out. She expects the work crew to return to the area to correct the problems.

Fourteen practice plans have been prepared from which contracts will be issued.

The District Manager met with Melinda McKinley to plan for additional work. State Forestry would like to see a 300 foot fire break between the Federal land and the McKinley ranch. This will help protect the springs and water flowing into Manzano Lake and the Manzano community water system.

She is working on written reports now required by State Forestry and the Water Trust Board. Two are included in the Board packet.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Cedar Project:**
The Technical Committee met and selected a contractor to complete work on the project. The committee hasn't met to approve its report.
- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
A report is being finished for New Mexico State Forestry on the Central New Mexico weed grant that is through the Edgewood S&WCD. Gabe Ramirez is working on that project. The report should be finished by the end of the month.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The District Manager met with Brent Racher and Boss Reclamation regarding mastication on the project. Cody Stropki from SWCA will meet with Terry Hudson from US Forest Service to plan for about 100 acres of mastication. When mastication is complete, riparian restoration can take place.

Red Canyon Project:

Forty to forty-five acres on the last unit of the project have been completed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

The District Manager explained that it has come to her attention that the State Board of Finance has to approve the lease with NRCS. She sent a copy of the lease to them, and she has been involved in answering 15 to 20 questions which were sent to her. She explained what the questions were and how she answered them. She will work with Terry Sarazan from NRCS on an addendum to the lease regarding approval by the State Board of Finance. She said that District representatives will have to attend a State Board of Finance meeting on December 18.

The request for a loan from the New Mexico Finance Authority was approved by the first loan committee on Thursday. The loan request will go to the second sub-loan committee, and then it will go to a full Finance Authority Board meeting on December 14, which Board members need to attend. The District will know by December 14 whether the loan is approved, subject to State Board of Finance approval of the lease. The Capital Outlay Bureau has also submitted questions regarding costs for the building, which the District Manager answered. However, when she visited the Bureau, she found out that the representative hadn't received the answers from NMDA, so she emailed the answers to the Capital Outlay Bureau. The District Manager reported that she has been in contact with Congressman Heinrich's staff members who have received a response to their letter to GSA, but they have further questions which they will submit to the GSA.

Mike Valdez – Payment for Services

The Districted Manager reminded Board members that in June, they selected Mr. Valdez to oversee the construction of the District's building but did not approve a specific amount in compensation. A discussion took place on the amount of time he spent, the mileage he accumulated, and the problems to the District that he averted. Mr. Valdez was acknowledged for his contribution, which was difficult to put a price on. A suggestion was made to discuss compensation up front with Mr. Valdez for oversight of future phases of construction. **ACTION**

TAKEN: William Caster moved to compensate Mr. Valdez for his services in the amount of \$2000 plus mileage. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Progress on Protest to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager learned at a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting that the Luna family, has reached an agreement with the NM Environmental Department on mitigating problems with their building She will have to ask for the information about the agreement under the Freedom of Information Act.

Annual Meeting:

The District Manager reported there was a good turnout – 98 people signed in and 89 meals were served. Mr. Candelaria said that he was told that the program was interesting, especially the presentation on the emergency helicopter service. Kenneth Lujan said that Steve Kadas commented to him that he was impressed by the number of land owners who attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

The District Manager explained the resolution on the agenda.

Resolution No. 09 – 2013 – Approval for Lease with NRCS

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

Approval of New Mileage Rates:

Beginning on January 1, 2013, the IRS standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be:

55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven,
23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, and
14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the IRS standard mileage rates. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

NRCS –Estancia Basin Ground Water Stabilization Project:

Kenneth Lujan gave an overview of the project to stabilize the decline in the Estancia Basin groundwater level. He said that the project will cost \$10,000 to hire HydroResolutions to collect the necessary well monitoring data. This consulting company will be hired to determine the volume (ac. Ft/ gallons) of depletion of the aquifer annually. The Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee will pay \$5,000. They want the East Torrance, Edgewood, and Claunch-Pinto SWCDs to pay a third each of the remaining \$5,000. A discussion followed of water depletion in the area. The District Manager spoke of the beneficial effects of thinning. Monitoring indicates that there is more moisture in the soil in the thinned areas. Mr. Greene asked for suggestions about who might participate in monitoring wells in the southeast part of the basin.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve \$1,666.67 as the District's share for a study to determine the volume of depletion of the Estancia Basin aquifer. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The District Manager explained that Kim Kostelnik has met with NRCS about the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program because of serious wildfire threats in the summer. The Coalition and NRCS will be working together on workshops concerning the EWP. She told about efforts that are

being made by the Coalition. Ms. Kostelnik is meeting with individual districts to help them build capacity.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report. Mr. Caster believes that the Hub RC&D is now inactive.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene announced that a meeting will take place the following Thursday.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene reported that the big concern of the EBWPC has to do with provisions in the Santa Fe Sustainable Land Code. He said that they don't strictly pertain to water issues and that water issues are scattered throughout the document and are not set apart, so interested parties have to read the entire document to find them.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Candelaria said that another wind farm is being considered. Mr. Williams spoke of a possible route of the Sun Zia route.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

A special meeting will be held on Friday, December 21 at 8:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 121 West Broadway, Suite 108, Mountainair, NM.

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 4, 2013 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 9:30 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.