



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
March 1, 2013**

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (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.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from March 1, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2, under **Reports: New Mexico Department of Agriculture**, in the 4th line, after "second bill" add "HB 70." Also on page 2 under **NRCS Field Office Report**, in the last line of the paragraph, replace "Security" with "Stewardship."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the treasurer's report for the month of February with the accounts payable for March, 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 said that copies of the approved District audit were included in Board members' packets. She is working on the New Mexico Workforce Solutions audit, due March 20, concerning the District's payroll, contracts, 1099 and W-2 forms.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

None.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Mr. Lujan pointed out information in his written report. He said that April Luna has been temporarily assigned to Socorro for 60 days as acting District Conservationist. He also said that NRCS of the Future has not yet been approved in Washington D.C.

Mr. Greene asked Mr. Lujan about cuts to NRCS. He said that New Mexico has been cut by \$800,000, but Conservation Stewardship Programs (CSP) existing contracts and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts weren't affected.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager referred Board members to her written report included in the Board packet.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager referred Board members to a flyer announcing activities at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center outside of Tijeras. On March 3, a Spring Ecology Hike will take place. The New Mexico State Forestry Division is encouraging participation in Arbor Day events on March 8.

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 said that the Core Steering Committee will meet the following Tuesday. All contracts are in place for the Estancia Basin grant. Water Trust Board contracts and contracts as well as the work plan for state forestry are also in place. Twenty thinning contracts will be issued and should be ready to be signed next week.

Work to be done by the inmate crew on the Highway 42 project still needs to be finished. Mr. Williams said that he has received a lot of favorable comments about the project, and now Corona is looking for grant funds to pick up all the trash that was exposed by thinning the trees. Similar thinning projects for Highways 55 and 60 are being planned.

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

The District Manager said that she has a landowner agreement with Sandia Pueblo A contract is out for signatures with Boss Reclamation. The company will carry out projects on the Sandia Pueblo.. She is trying to get good prices for hand work in East Rio Arriba. She will attend a meeting on March 14 in Albuquerque at the Open Space Workshop Center. Ciudad SWCD wants to work with the inmate work crew on the project, but the crew has to finish the Highway 42 project first. The open space project can't begin until after September 15 because of the willow flycatcher's nesting season that extends from April 15 to September 15. A contract has been signed with Horizon Environmental from Durango, Colorado for the Tres Rios Rancho project in the Santa Fe-Pojoaque district.

- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
Vern Kohler and Gabe Ramirez will work on eradicating musk thistle found on several acres of forest land above Torreon, probably beginning the week of March 15.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The District Manager said that GPS coordinates will be retaken in the area. Some downed trees will be removed. There is running water there. Erosion control methods such as rock dams and Zuni bowls will be constructed.

Red Canyon Project:

Enough funds are available to add 320 acres to the project. The District Manager will meet with Terry Hudson, Karen Lessard, and Ian Fox to make sure that the project is being carried out to Mr. Fox's satisfaction. Hopefully additional money may be added to the participating agreement with the forest service that will keep the sawyers working.

Today a grant proposal will be submitted to the New Mexico Association of Counties to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is five years old. Mr. Caster said that thinning needs to be done on south Highway 55 because of elk in the area. Mr. Lovato said that there are also Barbary sheep. Mr. Candelaria put the District Manager in touch with the District 5 engineer, and GPS coordinates will be submitted to him. She said that Lawrence Crane is working on a plan for Highway 337 from Tijeras.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Loan Request to NM Finance Authority and Approval by State Board of Finance

The District Manager said the loan will close on March 6.

Report on Work on the Building Project

The District Manager said that the District asked for \$200,000 in capital outlay funds to finish the existing building. The District Manager, Chairman Lovato and Mr. Candelaria went to Santa Fe on February 6th to talk to our Senator and Representatives. The District Manager and Mr. Candelaria will go to Santa Fe on Saturday, March 2nd to visit with Senator Griego and our Representatives about the District's capital outlay request. Board members are encouraged to contact Senator Griego, and representatives Easley and Salazar.

Progress on Protest to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager is waiting for a response from the National Park Service and the GSA to her letters that ask for information under the Freedom of Information Act. She is working on a letter to the New Mexico Environment Department asking for information concerning the clean-up of hazardous waste.

Supervisor Elections

The District Manager went over the details of the supervisor election process. Positions 3 and 4, Mr. Greene's and Mr. Melaragno's positions are up for election. The due date for the declaration of candidacy is on March 19, 2013. The date for the declaration of candidacy for write-in candidates is

March 26. The declarations must be delivered in person to the District office. Gayle Jones will be the election superintendent. She is the village clerk in Bosque Farms and teaches classes on holding elections.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 14-2013 – Establishing the mill levy rate within the District.

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

Budget Committee Appointments:

Richard Shovelin, William Caster, and Jerry Melaragno volunteered to serve on the committee.

Trailer for the Kobota

The District Manager described prices and features of trailers that were researched and answered questions. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept lowest bid from Spring Enterprises and purchase the trailer. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin said that the Coalition was successful in killing HB 19, which would have made selling water rights easier. The bill was written for one rancher but would have affected all of New Mexico. He said that Senator Griego dropped the companion bill in the Senate. The District Manager reported on letters sent from the Coalition regarding HB 19 as well as the Open Meetings Act that would require SWCDs to make meeting agendas available 72 hours in advance, and the senate bill that funds TSP through New Mexico State University. She explained the Coalition's concerns with requirements and wording contained in the bill. She said she is watching the progress of HB 364 concerning changes to the Water Trust Board and SB 204 concerning tax credits to biomass businesses.

Agfest:

Mr. Candelaria and the District Manager attended. Mr. Candelaria said that Agfest was interesting and he thought that people got a lot out of it. The District Manager was told that the Coalition booth was the best booth at Agfest. There was also a booth at the Soil and Water Conservation day. Mr. Lovato and Mr. Candelaria attended.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Greene explained the background of the RC&Ds and what happened when funding was pulled from them. The intention of the government was that the RC&Ds would become self-sufficient, but the councils became dependent on the funding. When the funding was withdrawn, only three remaining councils of eight are active in New Mexico. He said that the South Central Mountain RC&D is still viable and is thriving. Quite a bit of funding is coming in for projects. He described a \$500,000 grant for the Billy the Kid Scenic Highways Project. The South Central Mountain RC & D will take over the management of the grant.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

A meeting was held the previous Thursday. The Board wrote a resolution that was submitted to three counties. After Bernalillo county passed the resolution, two bills were generated, SB 479 and SB 480. Mr. Greene explained the substance of the bills and their progress.

Mr. Candelaria said that the Water Planning Committee needs to suggest a new Torrance County Representative to this Committee because Mr. Ness had resigned.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Mr. Melaragno asked Board members to look at information regarding the senior Olympics program. He called attention to the list of events that are going on. He asked Board members to disseminate the information.

OTHER:

The District Manager complimented Mr. Melaragno on his presentation on white flowers found on the Deer Canyon Preserve. She and Kaisa Jones attended from the District. Mr. Caster reported that thousands of birds are returning to the area.

The District Manager announced that the second of the District's gardening workshops will be held on Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. The topic of the workshop is garden insects. She reported that 12 or 13 people attended the hoop house workshop. Twenty participants attended the workshop on composting in the desert. The District Manager thanked District volunteer, Carla Cope for organizing the workshops.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 5, 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

X

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

X

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.