



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 3, 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
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD)

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 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from April 5, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes. Dan Williams 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 April with the accounts payable for May, 2013. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

FY 2013 -- Budget

The District Manager presented the FY 2013 budget and answered questions. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the FY 2013 budget. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 15-2013 – Budget

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 15-2013 – Budget. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Brian Greene – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The Board members discussed topics related to several items in Mr. Todd's report:

- The District Manager submitted the election cancellation forms to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC).
- She also submitted the District's mill Levy resolution to the SWCC.
- Vern Kohler will attend a Noxious Weed Management Training on May 14 at the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.
- Brian Greene called attention to the New Mexico Drought Workshop on May 29th in Socorro.
- The District Manager said that the Edgewood SWCD may submit a proposal for the Pulling Together Initiative that will assist in the control of invasive plant species.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Mr. Lujan referred the Board to his written report. He said that he was notified that April Luna will be the acting District Conservationist in Socorro for an additional 120 days after May 10th or until NRCS of the Future is implemented. He will get help from the Area Engineer and the State Archeologist. The District Manager congratulated Kenneth on bringing in an additional \$400,000 to the EQIP program, more than the Mountainair office has ever received.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager called attention to several items in her report. She assigned Gabe Ramirez to provide the Edgewood District with technical assistance, and she praised him for writing five practice plans for the Edgewood District. She said that Lawrence Crane approved his first plan without any changes. She said that this cooperative effort shows the partnership that the districts have worked so hard to achieve. She said that she was proud of the fact that Edgewood was confident in accepting help from the District. The District Manager also said that Vern Kohler will help Kenneth Lujan obtain archeological clearances. This effort will help clear more acres in a timely manner. She commented that these efforts are examples of partnerships between soil and water conservation districts and with NRCS. The Chairman praised Gabe's character and abilities.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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 (NFL):**

The District Manager said that she is in the process of contracting projects for the 2012 Water Trust Board (WTB) grant for the Estancia Basin. She signed 12 contracts with East Torrance land owners on Wednesday. There are four additional contracts still to be signed. She reported on a 200 acre project

on state land that will be contracted directly with the Ciudad SWCD. Slash will be masticated in that area. She also reported on a project that will be carried out in Bartolo Canyon. Additional buffers are being created that will help to protect water in the Manzanos. Non Federal Lands funds will be used as a match. Discussion took place on an emergency management meeting to be held on May 14 in Torreon. Mr. Candelaria will provide more information.

The District Manager reported on the southern Claunch-Pinto state forestry grant. She and Lawrence Crane met with the Deer Canyon Preserve Conservation Committee about creating a stewardship plan. The group also discussed writing a proposal to provide defensible space on the southern end of the Preserve, considered to be a high risk fire area. She is also working with the Corona subdivision, also considered to be a high risk area, on similar plans. The District Manager wants to invite the president of the Deer Canyon Preserve home owners association to a Board meeting. Discussion followed on the history of clearing and fire prevention measures that took place in the area. Jerry Melaragno explained the locations of the Preserve's open spaces that would be affected. The District Manager mentioned that Loma Parda and Priest Canyon are also high risk areas.

Mr. Greene talked about a workshop sponsored by the RC&Ds on best fire management practices that is planned for August 12-13 in Ruidoso. The workshop would be presented in two sections, one for city and county agencies and another section for ranchers, homeowners, realtors, and home owners associations, anyone who would be worried about fire. It will be a statewide meeting.

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

The District Manager reported that the Tres Rios project is complete, and work is finishing up on the Pueblo of Sandia project. Fred Rossbach will meet with the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District to plan for their projects. The District Manager gave a presentation to the Water Trust Board on this project. It is among the top five projects being considered. Funding will be determined at the May 22 meeting. Of the top five projects, the District Manager wrote three of the proposals.

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

Brenda Smythe, District Manager of the Edgewood district submitted a grant application. The District Manager mentioned locations of infestations of Russian Knapweed in the District.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

 - **Ojo Peak Restoration:**

 - The District Manager said that the District is waiting for the archeologist to inspect the area to allow work on the projects. Areas are extremely dry, so work may be suspended throughout the project areas.

 - **Red Canyon Project:**

 - The forest service will be going into hoot owl status, so the District will have to pull its sawyers off the Red Canyon Project. The District will have to move the crew to other projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

 - **Report on Work on the Building Project**

 - The District Manager thanked LeRoy Candelaria for facilitating a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor regarding the Governor's line item veto of the District's capital outlay fund request. The Lt. Governor is interested in the riparian projects along the Rio Grande. He is also interested in the District's building project. He will come to the area to meet with District representatives to review the building site and other District projects. Discussion followed on possible reasons for the veto and for the lack of support from state representatives. There is enough funding to provide facilities for NRCS in the building and to complete outside areas.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appoint appointed supervisors

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to appoint Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin to the Claunch-Pinto Board of Supervisors. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin reported that the telephone conference call for members of the Coalition Board took place two weeks ago. He said that the Board is starting to notify all districts of the work projects that the Coalition is undertaking and that there is approximately \$52,000 in the treasury.

Kim Kostelnik reported on a meeting that she set up with Javier Montoya, NRCS State Conservationist. José Varela López and Aubrey Dunn also attended the meeting. She said that they explained what the Coalition was about and what it expected to accomplish. They explained the intent of the letter regarding the TSP program to Senator Cisneros. The Coalition supports the TSP program, but it doesn't feel that it represents all 47 districts. They also discussed funding for specific districts within the Coalition, and Mr. Montoya suggested some options and opportunities.

A template for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is being created by the Coalition. The Coalition will become a collaborating agency so that the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service will have to inform the soil and water conservation districts about what is being done in the districts' areas, and then the districts will have the opportunity to comment on the projects. Marsha Wright is creating the template for the Coalition. It should be ready for the next meeting at the end of May. A template for a code of ethics is also being developed for use by the districts that will outline what can or cannot be done by board members and employees. Kim asked Board members what she can do to help Claunch-Pinto accomplish its goals. The District Manager suggested that Claunch- Pinto request technical help from the Coalition to develop a five-year plan as well as to create further goals. Kim said that she can help the District develop a land use plan that focuses on issues and what the District wants to accomplish. Mr. Candelaria said that a plan would help the federal government understand what progress districts are making. Mr. Shovelin asked that the Coalition figure out a way to help the smaller districts.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Greene reported on work of South Central. He said that he wanted to make clear a concern that the EBWPC has about advertising the August workshop. The RC&D doesn't want it to appear that the workshop is about enforcing government codes. The focus will be on best management practices.

A meeting of the RC&D was held yesterday. The group was notified that a council west of Adelante has shut down operations. He said that the South Central group is thriving and is being contacted by groups without 501C3 status in order to use the EBWPS's 501C3 status as an umbrella to accomplish community projects. Donors can then contribute money to these projects. Mr. Greene said that there is a potential for other groups to do something similar.

In addition, the group has received a large CFRP grant. Discussion occurred on the source of the funds and on the project that the money will be spent on.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Greene reported on a meeting held two weeks ago. He said that there were two good presentations. One of them was given by Larry Brown, a representative of a private company, GMX that manufactures magnets for use on water lines. The presentation centered on the beneficial effects of use on agricultural irrigation systems and on household water systems. The science of the magnets is not fully understood, but they seem to work. Mr. Greene described how the treatments on irrigation systems are being tested. Mr. Shovelin suggested that the District invite Mr. Brown to make a presentation at the annual meeting.

The other presentation was on the Estancia Basin Groundwater Stabilization Initiative, a study prepared by the Hydro Resolutions Company. The study was included in the Board packet. Mr. Greene reported

on the findings. He said that what is most interesting is that it is not known what is really happening in the Basin. For example, it is not known whether the aquifers are interconnected or where the recharge is going.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The District Manager reported that Carla Cope, a District volunteer, has achieved a sponsorship status for the District for the Mountainair Community Garden.

A brief discussion occurred on the potential use of technology by the District. Discussion was also held on maintaining the landscaping at the Mountainair Senior Center.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 7, 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.