



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 7, 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from May 3, 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, change "**CORRESPONDANCE**" to "**CORRESPONDENCE.**" On page 3, change "Parta" to "Parda" in the first paragraph.

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

The District Manager presented the treasurer's report for the month of May with the accounts payable for June, 2013. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

None.

## REPORTS:

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

The Chairman referred Board members to Mr. Todd's written report.

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

Mr. Lujan supplemented his written report. He attended the NRCS area meeting in Albuquerque during the previous week. At the meeting, he heard a presentation by Xavier Montoya, NRCS State Conservationist. Mr. Montoya said that his main concern was how the NRCS offices work with the soil and water conservation districts. Mr. Montoya encouraged NRCS local offices to cooperate with the districts. Mr. Lujan mentioned that the District Manager had submitted a news release regarding the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to newspapers and radio stations on behalf of NRCS during the past week. Mr. Montoya also discussed the importance of CSP to the state of New Mexico. Mr. Lujan encouraged Board members to help him reach out to interested land owners. Lastly, he said that next week, state office personnel will carry out a program review of office records. Mr. Lujan said that the records are in order and ready for review. The District Manager is preparing desk space for the review of the records.

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

The Chairman referred the Board to the written report. Mr. Candelaria suggested that the report should include more information regarding the loan of the District's chipper to the county on May 13. He thanked the District Manager for lending a District chipper to the county to help the county complete a tree trimming project on county road right of ways. Mr. Melaragno suggested that the entry on May 31 should be clarified by saying that the chipping completed for Madeline Gutwein was on juniper/ pinion slash rather than salt cedar. The District Manager suggested that the Board consider the possibility of cost sharing with land owners on water catchment systems. Discussion followed on the size of the containers and other criteria that the District would have to develop for such a program. The District Manager described the content and activities of contractor's training held on May 30. The District has conducted these trainings for the six past years.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager invited Board members to read newsletters from the Colfax and Northeastern districts. She announced a pollinator's workshop for people interested in bee keeping. She also mentioned a grantsmanship workshop to which she will send Kaisa Jones, District book keeper.

## 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 reported on the Highway 42 project. She described Forest Service restrictions on a large archeological site there and the effects of the restrictions on the work being done by a District crew. She also talked about a complaint from the Forest Service about a downed fence and what she did to rectify the situation.

The Board discussed future projects to trim trees in other highway right of ways, Cedarvale, for example, to enhance highway safety. The District Manager has signed most of the thinning contracts involved in the Edgewood District. The 2012 Water Trust Board and State Forestry projects are under way, and for the southern Claunch-Pinto grant, there are five more applications for thinning. The District Manager is working with Jack Lockridge, the president of the Deer Canyon home owners association and Jerry Melaragno to create a large defensible space which may help to protect some property owners in the remote southern part of the development. She is also working with State Forestry and Deer Canyon to develop a stewardship plan for the Preserve to assess needs and set priorities projects

that need to be done for the Preserve. She mentioned thinning projects in the Chupadera area. A lot is being done in the Corona area and on the mountain. Mr. Candelaria said that he wanted to get a representative from the power company to attend one of the Board meetings to discuss what might be done regarding right of ways around power poles because of fires that have been started by downed power lines. The Water Trust Board met to meet on May 22, but approval of grant proposals has been delayed by restrictions imposed by the Governor concerning audits and financial information to DFA. At the meeting on June 12, the WTB should approve the proposals that they intend to fund. Mr. Candelaria said that he heard from the Lieutenant Governor who said he will visit the District's projects and building in July.

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

The application process is complete on the Sandia project. The District Manager reported that on Friday the 14th, she will look at projects in the Valencia SWCD.

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

The herbicide continuing education training was sponsored by this group. Brenda Smythe, District Manager of the Edgewood district submitted a grant application to the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

- **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. The District will have to submit a request to get a 404 permit because the area is considered a water way of America. Cody Stropki was in the area and said that there is running water in the arroyo. Perhaps work can continue in August on the riparian restoration project. Discussion followed on how willows need to be planted.

  - **Red Canyon Project:**

  - This project is shut down due to fire danger.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

#### **Report on Work on the Building Project**

The District Manager said that Mike Valdez will take the building plans to Terry Sarazan at NRCS on Monday. Hopefully, Mr. Sarazan will give Mr. Valdez a notice to proceed with an RFP to get proposals from contractors.

The District Manager said that the crew from Navajo Alamo was robbed at the Red Canyon camp ground the previous week, and the Forest Service asked that the crew not camp there. The four young men will be camping on the District's property. The District Manager had Norman Gonzalez place a portable toilet there. Mr. Gonzalez said when he delivered it that the District will need alarms and cameras when the building is finished.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The District Manager said that a copy of a land use plan developed for the Doña Ana district was in the Board members' packets to take home and read. Kim Kostelnik will attend the July Board meeting to work on a land use plan for the district. Mr. Candelaria said that having a land use plan will make the District eligible to apply for certain grants.

## **REPORTS:**

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

The District Manager reported Kim Kostelnik has been meeting with various member districts to find out what their needs are. She is currently working with the federal government on one of the Pecos fires.

The District Manager went to Santa Fe with Kim Kostelnik to meet with the Director of the State Board of Finance and with Darleena Chapman from NM Finance Authority to discuss leases and contracts so Kim can work on a white paper on procedures and laws that districts need to comply with. Marsha Wright is working on a code of ethics which will serve as a template for member districts to follow.

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

No report.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Mr. Greene said that he attended a meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> as well as a state-wide meeting in Tucumcari about two weeks ago where a decision was made to try to hire an executive director who would help struggling councils. Most of the meeting involved discussions of the councils' activities.

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

Mr. Greene said that the next meeting will be held in June.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 12, 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.