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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
September 9, 2013**

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

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Diedre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
April Luna, NRCS
Katie Mechenbier, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
Katheryn Taylor, District Volunteer

CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) public 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.

INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan FY 2015 – 2019. A number of additions were made to the existing capital inventory including chain saws, sprayers, related equipment and the hoop house.

The District Manager went over the project summary for 2014 – 2018, and the Board agreed to drop well monitoring equipment in 2018.

Board members evaluated the suggested project summary for 2015 – 2019. Mr. Melaragno suggested that additional expenses may be incurred which need to be added. Mr. Williams said that a security system needed to be considered. Discussion followed. Additional structures were considered for the District's property, and replacement equipment were added for consideration.

Following discussion, revised priorities were agreed to the plan.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Lovato adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 9, 2013

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

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Sherrill Bradford, land owner
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
April Luna, NRCS
Katie Mechenbier, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
Katheryn Taylor, District Volunteer
Alan Warren, U.S.Forest Service

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 10:00 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. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from August 2, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 4 under Envirothon Competition, insert "to" following "wants" in the first line.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the treasurer's report for the month of August with the accounts payable for September, 2013. **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 Budget Approval Letter:

The District Manager read a letter from Isaac J. Montoya, Budget Finance Analyst for the Department of Finance and Administration approving the District's final budget for fiscal year 1013 -2014.

Final Approval of FY2013-2014 Budget

The District Manager reviewed the revenues and expenditures of the final budget for FY 2013-2014.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the final budget for FY2013-2014. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Katie Mechenbier highlighted the announcement in the report that the Valencia SWCD will host an NMDA SWCD Operations Training on September 26th. Discussion took place on the article attached to the NMDA report on the agreement reached on wolves that was reached by environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Mr. Lujan referred Board members to his written report. He welcomed April Luna back to the Mountainair NRCS office

District Manager's Report:

The Chairman referred the Board to the written report. The District Manager added that NRCS will display new technology at the state fair and that April Luna will be trained on it soon.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No additions were made to the correspondence that was included in the Board packets.

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,) Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, and the Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

- The District Manager said that she will be working on proposals over the weekend that are due the following Friday to the Water Trust Board and that all funds for the Estancia Basin from the Water Trust Board have been contracted . The District is well on its way to completely contracting all of the southern Claunch –Pinto funds. Most of this work is done by land owners who work directly with contractors. Some land owners do the work themselves. The District Manager is preparing paper work for 2013 to submit to the New Mexico Finance Authority after which she can prepare the legal documents that have to be signed for the GRGWA and Estancia Basin projects. Wild Land Urban Interface proposals were submitted and ranked among the top six. These proposals are being polished for submittal on a national level. Some projects have been discussed with the Forest Service and with private landowners in Corona and in the Deer Canyon Preserve.
- The District Manager has published requests for proposals for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance projects that are due next week. The District Manager will be doing site visits at Alcalde in the East Rio Arriba SWCD and in the Valencia SWCD area. Work will take place in the middle Rio Grande Conservancy district area and on private land. The District Manager has been working with several people since early July on a \$5 million proposal for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. Work was halted due to the numbers of rattle snakes in the project area in the Abó. Work will continue when the snakes begin to hibernate.
- Regarding the Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area, NM State Forestry has advertised a noxious weed grant, so the District Manager will work with the Edgewood SWCD on a proposal for those funds.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**Ojo Peak Restoration:**

- On the Collaborative Forest Restoration grants, Zuni bowls will be built for the Ojo Peak project starting in a week. Volunteers who want to work on the project should contact the District Manager. Aaron Kaufman and Cody Stropki will provide expertise in building the rock and wood structures.

Red Canyon Project:

- The District is working with the Forest Service on employing their seasonal employees year round. They will be working on the Red Canyon Project. Another 30 acres of wood will be cut for the land grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Future Directions Committee – District Property, Building Progress**

The District Manager said that the RFP for the building project will be advertised this week. According to the District's attorney, the District is not allowed to limit the RFP to local contractors. The District Manager will disseminate the scoring system for selecting the contractor to Board members. NRCS will look at the list of contractors who respond to the RFP because proof is needed to insure that the contract was advertised. NRCS has given written approval for the building plans, so the building has to be finished by July 2014.

Land Use Plan

The District Manager has typed a draft land use plan for Kim Kostelnik to review. She said that issues dealing with wolves and jaguars need to be addressed in the plan so that the District can qualify for cooperating agency status with federal entities and therefore have a voice when decisions are made. Another meeting will take place between Board members and Ms. Kostelnik.

Envirothon Competition

When the state fair is over, science teacher, Lynnelle Chavez, at Mountainair High School will start working with students so we can have an Envirothon team to compete at next year's Envirothon competition.

NEW BUSINESS:**Resolution No. 03 – Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program:**

The District Manager read the resolution. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the resolution. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Felipe Lovato -- yea.

Approval of Written Comments to Water Trust Board:

The District Manager distributed a letter sent to the Water Trust Board expressing concerns with several proposed amendments to the Water Trust Board Project Management Policies that might potentially impact future requests for funding assistance for various watershed projects in New Mexico. The District Manager said that the policy changes had come from the state engineer's office through a policy committee of the Water Trust Board. She explained that the changes could result in reduced funding for small communities and soil and water conservation districts. Reduced funding would affect the District's staff members, who are supported by Water Trust Board grants. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the letter. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Draft – Resolution Opposing the Blanket Removal of Livestock from the Mountainair District of the Cibola National Forest.

The District Manager disseminated a draft resolution submitted to the Board by Sherrill D. Bradford for discussion. The resolution affects 19 active grazing allotments in the Mountainair Ranger District. The resolution requests that the Mountainair Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service reconsider and withdraw the removal order and work with allotment owners and state entities to develop drought management plans specific to each allotment. The resolution further requests that copies of the resolution be sent to the NM Congressional Delegation, the NM Secretary of Agriculture, and the Regional Forester. Discussion centered on concerns with wording in the resolution, with what the removal order states, and with wording of the contracts with allotment owners. Copies of the removal order and a contract with allotment owners were requested. It was also suggested that a representative of the Forest Service be invited to make a presentation to explain the rationale behind the removal

order with scientific information that supports the decision to remove the cattle from the allotments.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to table the resolution pending receipt of documents requested. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin reported that the NMCCD board had a good meeting with Jeff Witte, the Director/ Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Questions and suggestions to facilitate better communication between the NMCCD and the Department of Agriculture were discussed. For example, NMCCD was not informed of available funds from New Mexico Game and Fish until it was too late to apply. The District Manager added that Ag Day and funding were also discussed. She said that NMCCD had a very nice booth at Ag Day, but the location was separate from where NMCCD, NRCS and the Department of Agriculture booths were located. At the end of October or the beginning of November, a meeting will be held in Taos at Trudy Healy's house. The Healy Foundation has provided \$125,000 in funding to NMCCD to further its goals. Mr. Shovelin credited the District Manager for applying for and getting the funding for NMCCD.

The annual meeting will be held in mid November in Socorro.

Kim Kostelnik will be meeting with Roosevelt and Border SWCDs on their land use plans.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The District Manager attended the Wildland Urban Code Conference in Ruidoso and brought back valuable information. She will be working with Corona and Deer Canyon Preserve to help them become fire wise communities.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

Ad Hoc Committee to Review the District Act:

The District Manager reported that she was appointed to the ad hoc committee by Commissioner José Varela López and attended a meeting the previous Wednesday. She represents Region 2 and Kim Kostelnik represents the NMCCD. The group reviewed portions of the act and will meet again at the end of October to continue the review. They are also looking at other state statues that affect districts, for example the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 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:** Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.