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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 6, 2013**

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

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, 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 8:20 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 and added the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts under number 9, Reports: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from November 1, 2013. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of November with accounts payable for December. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Audit Report:

The District Manager announced that the District's auditor conducted his exit conference with District representatives this morning. After the audit report is approved by the state, Board members will receive a copy.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The District Manager said that Katie Michenbier will be the NMDA's new representative to the Board. The Chairman referred the Board to the written report.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan clarified that he will continue to work in the Mountainair office. He expects the new district conservationist to be stationed in the Fort Sumner office and will be in the Mountainair office one day a week to deal with administrative issues. Mr. Lujan will carry out planning and will prepare contracts.

District Manager's Report:

Richard Shovelin asked what event was attended on November 13. The District Manager responded that the meeting was the East Torrance SWCD annual meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager said that she received a request for comments on two proposals by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Mexican Gray Wolf:

1. Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Maintaining Protections for the Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*) -- by listing this specific subspecies as endangered,
2. Proposed Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf.

Comments are due by December 20. The District Manager will draft comments and send them to Board members for their response.

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,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance:

The District Manager included in the Board packet a program evaluation report submitted to the Legislative Finance Committee --"Water Trust Board: a Review of Planning, Spending, and Outcomes." Claunch-Pinto is mentioned in the report, which includes comments by the NM Environment Department Watershed Protection Section that came from the District's applications for funding from the Water Trust Board. The District Manager worked with SWCA, New Mexico Forestry Service and Highlands University on a letter to Jeff Canney, Program Evaluator for the New Mexico Finance Authority, responding to the draft report. The District's letter was disseminated to members of the Legislative Finance Committee at the meeting of November 21, 2013 in Santa Fe when the report was presented. At the meeting, the District Manager spoke with Mr. Canney on his views. She pointed out a letter included in the report to David Abbey, Director of the Legislative Finance Committee from Brett F. Woods, Deputy Cabinet Secretary that clarifies issues concerning the District's projects. District Manager is not sure what effect the comments in the report will have on future funding.

The District Manager attended a Water Trust Board meeting on December 5 where Mr. Canney presented the report to its members. The comments from the report about Claunch-Pinto did not come up. Discussion followed on discrepancies in the report and other issues.

Grants are progressing, but some work has slowed temporarily due to the weather. Work has been possible on the Cisneros and Lajuenesse projects.

Southern Claunch-Pinto state forestry grants have to be finished by the end of December. A plan is in place to meet the deadline.

The District Manager will attend a Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance meeting on December 18 in Albuquerque to approve contracts.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

No meetings have been held on this project. Each district is working on eradicating its own noxious weeds.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The District Manager reported that an extension was granted due to weather conditions and forest closures. Work has to be finished by September 30.

Red Canyon Project:

The District Manager said that work has to be finished by June 12.

She attended a mandatory CFRP workshop on the previous Tuesday. The head of the projects from the regional office used pictures from the Ojo Peak project and spoke about the erosion structures that were put in. The District Manager is working on new CFRP proposals for which Edgewood will be the proponent. She is also working with Marcos Romero on a proposal for which the District will be the fiscal agent. She discussed potential problems with the project concerning removing wood and fragile soil. She has a plan with the Forest Service to address possible concerns from the Manzano land grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee – District Property, Building Progress

The District Manager reported on the progress on the District's building. The window areas and the entrance for the front door are cut out, and the electrical and duct work are in. The District Manager is keeping very detailed books on expenses for the New Mexico Finance Authority and for Terry Sarazin at NRCS. Mike Valdez is supervising the project and is being paid weekly for 12 to 16 weeks as a District employee. Savings to the District are substantial. The goal is to finish the building by March first or at the latest by April first. Mr. Lujan reminded the Board that David Garcia needs 90 days to carry out the IT installation.

Land Use Plan

The District Manager will invite Kim Kostelnik to the next Board meeting to work on the Land Use Plan. Ms. Kostelnik thinks that two more meetings will be needed to complete a draft of the plan. Then District partners will be invited to review the plan and to comment.

Envirothon Competition

Kenneth Lujan and the District Manager will meet with the high school science teacher and the new agriculture teacher to plan for the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 05-2014 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Estancia Basin Project:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; William Caster – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

Resolution No. 06-2014 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Greater Rio Grande Riparian Restoration Project:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; William Caster – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

52Eighty – Request to Lease Land for a Communications Facility:

The District Manager reported that she was contacted by a company that is interested in placing a communication tower on the District's property. Discussion followed. The Board decided to invite a representative from the company to the January meeting to make a presentation.

Review Mileage and PerDiem Policy:

The District Manager reviewed the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard mileage rate.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the IRS standard mileage rate of 56.5 cents per mile. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin reported that the Coalition had a good meeting in Socorro on November 8. He thanked the District Manager for securing \$75,000 in grant funds for the Coalition. He reported on the issues that were on the meeting agenda, and he said that the web site was approved. Election of Board members and officers was held. Discussion followed on proposals that would affect property owners and land use in Doña Ana and in La Bajada.

The District Manager announced that trainings for district staff members will be held on January 15 in the conference room at the Edgewood office. Mr. Candelaria suggested that trainings could be held for board members of soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) to help them do a better job. The District Manager said that SWCD board members have the same level of responsibilities as county commissioners.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Kim Kostelnik will be invited to the January board meeting. Mr. Lujan will be invited to that meeting in addition to the new NRCS district conservationist.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 10, 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 9:55 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.