



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
April 3, 2014**

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

**Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Linda Filippi, Human Impact Partners  
Larry Gomez  
Deborah Jones  
Nancy Roux  
Karen Smith  
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. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from March 7, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the special meeting, conference call from March 21, 2014 were reviewed. **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 March with accounts payable for April. A discussion followed in response to Mr. Caster's question on whether final expenses have been paid on the district's building. The district manager said that the expenses have cost about \$3000 more than the \$350,000 loan and will be paid from the general fund. She and Mike Valdez will prepare a request for final reimbursements to the New Mexico Finance Authority. A temporary occupancy certificate has been issued and a request for a final inspection has been made. The NRCS contracting officer has to inspect the building, and then NRCS will move into the building between May 10 and June 15. The district will begin gradually moving its records and other material over the next few weeks. NRCS will be using its furniture in the new location, so the district will have to buy new furniture. The district manager looked at surplus furniture in Albuquerque and will return to find out what is available. She will also look at refurbished furniture. The district has been awarded \$50,000 in capital outlay funds which the district manager wants to save for the purpose of building a shop. The funds may be reauthorized and can also be used for this purpose. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager distributed a spreadsheet detailing the expenses paid on the building during March.

The district auditor, Dan Austin, will be in the district office in September. He reminded the district manager that his contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **REPORTS:**

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

The district manager pointed out the Supervisor Certification Training to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Belen Whitfield Wildlife Conservation area. No district business will be discussed by supervisors who attend. The district manager will attend a training on Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe.

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

D'Laynn Bruce, Team 5 District Conservationist, submitted a written report. She attended a field visit to the Chilili Land Grant as part of the Isleta Project. NRCS programs for FY2014 are on hold waiting for guidance on how to implement the new Farm Bill. Both programs are accepting new applications. The EQIP allocation has not been announced. EQIP practices continue to be implemented and check-outs are being completed.

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

The written report is included in the board packets.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The district manager noted the special correspondence included in board members' packets. An email from Rebecca Anthony was included. In the email she explained the function of the Human Impact Partners (HIP), how a Health Impact Assessment is defined by the National Research Council, and what the assessment is intended to do and what the benefits to decision-makers are. The Human Impact Partners has agreed to be the lead in conducting a Health Impact Assessment on the proposed CO2 pipeline project which may cross part of Torrance County and the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District.

The district manager said that Kinder-Morgan representatives decided not to attend the April 3 board meeting because they wanted to wait until the BLM has decided on a recommendation for the primary route.

The district manager distributed driving directions from the Mountainair Ranger District to the Bonito Allotment Range Monitoring Workshop organized by the forest service and NMSU Task Force to be held on April 4, 2014. Mr. Greene thought that the community forester who works for South Central Mountain RC&D will attend the training. Mr. Melaragno asked that a report on the workshop be put on the agenda for the May meeting.

#### **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. Mr. Caster suggested that the district manager submit a written report on the grants.

#### **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance:**

The state forestry grants (NFL) are a federal match for the WTB state funding. Projects are paid 80% from state forestry grants and 20% from the WTB grants.

The district manager reported that contracts for 2012 WTB funding have to be drawn down by the April 23 deadline. The Edgewood SWCD has four projects, Claunch-Pinto has three, and East Torrance has two projects.

In the last two weeks the district manager has submitted six grant proposals: Two NFL funding proposals through NM State Forestry – one for the southern Claunch-Pinto area including Corona, Deer Canyon, and the Chupaderas and one for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project. State forestry has requested proposals for the 6.1 million dollars awarded in capital outlay money to work on hazardous fuel reduction on public land. Two proposals were submitted for these funds. The projects had to be on forest service land or adjacent to other projects.

On April 2, the district manager took part in a tour of the Forest Service area adjacent to the Chilili land grant referred to as the doghead. The US Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service have received a total of \$1.5M for a landscape restoration project across the Isleta Pueblo, US Forest Service and the Chilili Land Grant. The big project near Chilili is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring steering committee. It is one of 13 projects across the United States which is part of the President's climate change initiative. A Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) proposal has been submitted for this area.

When she returned from the tour, she finished two WTB proposals, one for the Greater Rio Grande Alliance and one for the Estancia Basin. If all the proposals are funded, approximately 2.25 million dollars will come to the district for on-the-ground work, including \$350,000 for the Collaborative Forest Restoration grant.

The Greater Rio Grande Alliance met at the end of March and took a tour of the Albuquerque Open Space project. The district manager said that the project opened up the trails which are now beautiful. Projects at the Sandia Pueblo and the Santo Domingo Pueblo should be finished by April 15. The next meeting of the Alliance will be on May 28 at the Santa Domingo Pueblo to tour projects completed there.

The district manager received an email from the chair of the Rio Arriba SWCD expressing appreciation for the projects completed in that district.

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

No report.

#### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

##### **Ojo Peak Restoration:**

Riparian work will soon be completed in Ox Canyon. The crew will return there to plant coyote willows. Fifty to seventy-five feet of erosion structures will be built in addition to those completed already. A crew from Ramah Navajo has been thinning a 153 acre parcel.

### **Red Canyon Project:**

This project is winding down and has to be finished by June 1<sup>st</sup>. A little over 200 acres of wood will go to land grant heirs. In an agreement with the forest service, final reports will be delayed to December to allow time to remove the wood from the area. The forest may be closed throughout the summer due to the drought. Various forest service restrictions constrain crews from when they can work and the care they have to take when they are thinning.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Future Directions Committee – District Property, Building Progress**

The district manager said that she was pleased with the quality of work done on the building, the conservative sum of expenses that were held close to the total loan amount and the timely completion of the building. The chairman mentioned that Mike Valdez has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Discussion followed on the credit due to Mr. Valdez for what has been added to the building that improves the quality and helps to protect and conserve it. The district manager thanked board members for their support when difficulties arose with the loan.

The district manager is planning on an open house in September or October. She has asked Under Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture on the forestry side, Butch Blazer to speak at the event. Mr. Blazer is from New Mexico and was the former New Mexico State Forester.

#### **Land Use Plan**

The district manager said that Kim Kostelnik is working on generic language for land use plans that will cover differing situations for soil and water conservation districts.

#### **Report on the US Fish and Wildlife Lawsuit with Chavez SWCD**

The district manager reported that the Chavez SWCD has withdrawn its first lawsuit due to some errors and is in the process of submitting a second. She reviewed the basis of the suit.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Resolution No. 08 – 2014: Adhering to NEPA Standards for District Participation in Reintroduction Efforts of Endangered Predators**

Questions were raised regarding the language of the resolution, and board members asked the district manager to get clarification, but it was decided to proceed with a vote on the resolution.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to adopt the resolution with the suggested changes and contingent on the meaning of “shaping.” William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: William Castro – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

#### **Request to be a Partner of Record on a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – Linda Filippi**

Ms. Filippi mentioned her email to the district manager explaining what a health impact assessment is. She said that she came to the board meeting to talk about the HIA that will be conducted in the months ahead on the proposed Kinder Morgan CO2 pipeline. She distributed an organizational chart showing the relationships among several New Mexico organizations that are working with the national Human Impact Partners (HIP). The HIP, working with the New Mexico Health Equity Partnership, will be the lead organization in conducting the Health Impact Assessment of the proposed Kinder Morgan CO2 pipeline. Ms. Filippi as a community member is a local representative on the Local HIA Steering Committee. She discussed possible components of the HIA, which is in the early stages of development. She mentioned that Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County has agreed to be partners of record with the Health Impact Assessment. She explained how the results of the HIA can be used in decision making along with Environmental Impact Studies. Discussion followed on the HIP, the three HIAs that will be conducted in New Mexico, funded by the Kellogg Foundation, how the district would be involved as a partner of record and the integrity of the research conducted in an HIA. **ACTION**

**TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to table action on the request asking the district to be a partner of record on the HIA until the May board meeting. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Grant Writing Workshop (May 12 – 14) – Kaisa Jones**

The district manager wants to send Kaisa Jones to a grant writing workshop. The cost is \$895 for the course plus some per diem. She will then be able to help with proposal writing for the district.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to send Kaisa Jones to the grant writing workshop. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous

**Appoint FY 2015 Budget Committee:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to appoint Richard Shovelin, Jerry Melaragno, and William Caster to the 2015 Budget Committee. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**REPORTS:**

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

The NMCCD board meeting will be held on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the district's new building. Mr. Shovelin attended the Water Trust Board meeting in Santa Fe to hear discussion on Senate Bill 112, but there was no discussion since it was not on the agenda. Subsequently, the governor vetoed the bill.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Brian Greene said that projects were discussed.

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

Brian Greene reported that the EBWPC meets every other month, so it will meet in April.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The chairman acknowledged Mr. Gomez for attending the meeting and invited him to return. He has been asked to consider becoming an associate supervisor.

The next board meeting will be held in the district's new building.

Mr. Shovelin asked questions regarding the Mileage and Per Diem Act. The district manager agreed to check the statute to confirm the wording. A discussion occurred on the board meeting days because cattlemen have conflicts on Fridays. The issue will be on the May agenda.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Kim Kostelnik will facilitate a discussion of the Land Use Plan. The Infrastructure Capital Outlay Plan will be discussed. The budget committee will make a report. An open meetings resolution will be considered to change the permanent location of board meetings to the district's new building.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday May 2, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Claunch- Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District Education Building in Mountainair, NM.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.