



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2014**

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
Linda Filippi, Human Impact Partners
D'Laynn Bruce, 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:** Brian Greene moved to approve the agenda. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from April 3, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

- On page one, add "3" following "**April**" in the heading.
- On page three, under **EBWHRM Project – WTB and State Forestry Grants (NFL) and GRGWA**, change the first sentence to read: "The state forestry grant (NFL) is a federal match for the WTB funding." In the sixth line, add –s to "proposal." In the sentence beginning: "It is one of 13 projects," capitalize the "p" in "president."
- On page 4 in the first line, change "C" and "W" in "Coyote Willows" to lower case. Delete "more" in the second line. In the last line, replace "other entities" with "Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of April with accounts payable for May.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Also discussed were pending construction expenses for the district's building, cost reimbursements owed to the district by a contractor, theft of wire from security lights on the property, security measures, and costs charged by the electrician. The district manager will get a report from Mike Valdez explaining why the electrician charged \$15,000 more than his original proposal.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district auditor, Dan Austin, will be in the district office in September. His signed contract has been submitted to the state auditor.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The district manager asked the supervisors who wanted to attend the Supervisor Certification Training on May 15th at the Belen Whitfield Wildlife Conservation area. The district manager will put a notice in the newspaper stating that no district business will be discussed by supervisors who attend. She mentioned the draft of the revision of the forest plan resource assessment released by the Cibola National Forest. The executive summary of key findings is included in the board packet. The complete plan can be found on the Cibola web site. She also pointed out item 4, "EPA Proposed Rule for the Definition of "Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act." Comments on the proposal are due on or before July 21, 2014. The district manager will disseminate more information about the proposed rule.

NRCS Field Office Report:

D'Laynn Bruce, Team 5 District Conservationist, submitted a written report. She said that NRCS is still accepting applications for EQIP and CSP. Applications that have been submitted are being ranked. CSP rankings are due by May 30, 2014. The EQIP allocation has not been announced.

District Manager's Report:

The written report is included in the board packets. The district manager updated board members on district field technician, Vern Kohler's health issue. She reported on equipment repairs and costs. In addition, she explained the Rio Grande Water Fund that the Nature Conservancy and the New Mexico Forest Industry are working on. There is an effort to set up a fund so that contracts can be ongoing instead of from year to year.

A discussion occurred on the purchase of software by the New Mexico Forest Institute with funds from the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. The district manager will provide information on the ownership and use of the software.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager noted the special correspondence included in board members' packets – a certified letter from Torrance County announcing its intent to consider an ordinance relating to the issuance of New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds "to finance the acquisition, construction, and equipping of a wind electric generating facility. . . ."

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The district manager submitted a written report on grants, meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies. The report is included below.

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

On April 1, the district manager attended an EBWHRM core steering committee meeting in Moriarity. On April 2, the district manager submitted two WTB proposals. On April 23, the district manager gave a presentation in Santa Fe to the WTB on her proposal for funding.

Water Trust Board 2012 funds for the EBWHRM project were closed out on April 22nd. Four hundred and thirty-nine and nine tenths acres were thinned at an average of \$799 per acre paid to land owners, for which the district was reimbursed. The monitoring that SWCA does is in addition to the thinning. Now the district manager is preparing to write contracts for the 2013 WTB funds.

Two proposals were submitted for Non-Federal Lands funds for the EBWHRM project, but the district manager hasn't received word on whether the proposals were funded. The district manager also applied for funding for the southern Claunch-Pinto area, but she hasn't received any information on the outcome of the applications. The purpose of the projects is to help replenish the aquifers, create a healthier watershed, and reduce destruction from fires.

Regarding the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, all 2012 funds have been drawn down except for \$10,860. The Santo Domingo Pueblo was paid for a project, Restoration Solutions was paid for a project on private land in the Valencia SWCD, Conservation Services was paid for three projects in the Valencia SWCD, and Boss Reclamation was paid for a project on the Isleta Pueblo. SWCD proposals for projects are due on May 28 for 2013 WTB funding.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

The Edgewood SWCD submitted a proposal to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for funding to eradicate noxious weeds.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Ojo Peak Restoration:

A Ramah thinning crew has completed 110 acres.

Red Canyon Project:

Eight acres remain to be thinned. This project is winding down and has to be finished by May. On both projects, load tickets are being distributed. The district manager is working with the Manzano land grant commissioners to get the land grant heirs to remove their wood from 40 acres during one weekend. The district manager will be present to distribute load tags.

The Romero CFRP and the Edgewood SWCD CFRPs were both recommended for funding by the CFRP technical advisory committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee – District Property, Building Progress

The district manager reported on records, supplies and furniture that have been moved to the district's building. She reported on furniture and filing cabinets that she has looked at. Furniture from the Chavez SWCD may be available. Discussion followed on a cabinet made by a local rancher, Ernest Thompson. Filing cabinets and desks are essential. Equipment used in the field will be inventoried and stored by the forest service. Trees to be planted and the process for selecting a janitorial service were also discussed.

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 she hasn't received a response to her questions on wording in the resolution from the Chavez SWCD.

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

Linda Filippi made two announcements: one, that the Moriarty Chamber of Commerce has become a partner of record, and two, that the Human Impact Partners will conduct a meeting on June 9 to obtain community input on the HIA. The details will be forthcoming.

Mr. Greene suggested that the district should remain neutral on the issue because people on both sides will come to the board for support. Ms. Filippi said that HIAs, as they are used across the country, will provide communities with more information on their issues. She reviewed assessments that are being funded by the Kellogg Foundation. The importance of being a partner of record was discussed. Mr. Candelaria said that a large number of partners demonstrates a group is serious about supporting improved healthcare services in its community and helps bring more money into the area for health. Ms. Filippi said that becoming a partner will indicate that the district supports bringing more information about health into the county. She explained that she is speaking for the local HIA steering committee and not for any other group. Mr. Melaragno said that he looked at the Human Impact website and read an HIA report on a completed project concerning transporting waste to Albuquerque. He said that he was very impressed with the completeness and informative assessment provided in the HIA report to help decision makers. Discussion followed on possible bias in HIA reports. Ms. Filippi said that pre-judgments shouldn't be brought into an assessment. Mr. Candelaria praised Pat Lincoln, a member of the HIA Steering Committee, for her efforts to support an assessment.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to become a Partner of Record on a Health Impact Assessment. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposed.

FY2015 Budget

The district manager explained that the budget committee needs to meet to consider the budget, and then a special meeting of the board to approve the budget needs to take place before the FY 2015 budget is submitted by the June 1 deadline. The budget committee will meet on May 14 at 9:00 a.m. The special meeting will take place on May 22 at 9:00 a.m. In addition to the budget, the scope of work for the janitorial position has to be approved so that it can be advertised.

Report on the BLM – CO2 Pipeline

The report on the BLM – CO2 Pipeline will be considered in executive session at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan:

The district manager explained that the priorities from last year's plan need to be discussed in a public meeting, and then the priorities for the next five years beginning in 2016 will also need to be discussed and then approved in the regular meeting. The district was awarded \$50,000 to fund priorities for 2015. The public meeting will be advertised in local newspapers.

Appointed Supervisors:

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to reappoint Richard Shovelin to position No. 6 on the board and Dan Williams to position No. 7. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment :

Public meetings on the Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment will be held at the Torreon Community Center on May 13 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., the Mountainair Senior Center on May 15 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and at the Los Vecinos Community Center on May 22 from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m.

Open Meetings Resolution No. 09-2014

Discussion followed on wording stated in the resolution in paragraph 2 under **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** "Unless otherwise specified, regular meetings shall be held each month on Friday."

The suggestion was made to change the wording to read: "Unless otherwise specified, regular meetings shall be held the first Friday of the month."

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to adopt the resolution with the above change to the wording. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote as follows: Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The NMCCD board meeting was held on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the district's new building. Approximately 20 people attended. They were given a tour of the building. Senate bill 112, which was later vetoed by the governor, was discussed. José Varela López gave a report on the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Reports from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Department of Agriculture were also given. The NMCCD website, the 1 million dollar dam rehab project funding, the Rio Grande Water Fund, and the Doña Ana mil levy, which was voted down, were discussed. The district manager said that Kim Kostelnik is providing technical support to eight districts on their land use plans. A discussion of the district's land use plan will take place at the Claunch-Pinto board's next meeting. After the board approves a draft, a public meeting will be held to obtain public input on the plan. The next meeting of the NMCCD will take place in Taos in June.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene said that he wanted to report on two items. One of them concerned a wild land fire meeting in Taos last month where an "air curtain" was demonstrated. The device burns waste material efficiently without any pollutants. Representatives from South Central attended the meeting and were very impressed with the demonstration. South Central Mountain wants to bring a demonstration of the device to one of its meetings. He talked about the advantages to using the device and the need for it. A web site called www.airburners.com includes descriptions and pictures of the device. He suggested that the device might be included on the district's capital improvement plan. Mr. Williams said that he would do some research on it.

The other issue discussed was the large amount of trash wood in Lincoln County. A list is being compiled of people who could use this wood in various ways. Information on the availability of wood could then be disseminated to people on the list. Mr. Greene suggested that the district might develop a similar list of people in the district whose names could be added to the list being compiled in South Central.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene reported that a meeting of the EBWPC was held last month. Angela Bordegaray from the Interstate Streams Commission and Dominique Cartron, who is contracting with Interstate Streams to work on regional and state water plans, gave a briefing to the EBWPC on requirements for the regional water plans. Mr. Greene said that the state engineer was concerned that insufficient public input was gathered for some regional water plans. The state engineer wants to insure that all affected people have the opportunity to give input to the development of the plans, which have to be completed within the next two years. A state water plan is supposed to be generated based on the regional plans. Estancia Basin's plan is already complete and is in good shape. Very few changes are expected to be made except in re-formatting the report. He also reported that issues with the Water Trust Board have been resolved. The next meeting will be in June.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**OTHER:**

The district manager said that the Cibola National Forest is going into stage 1 fire restrictions on Monday.

The chairman announced that board packets will no longer be delivered to board members due to the impact on employees' time and the use of fuel.

Mr. Melaragno asked for a report on the range management workshop in Corona. Mr. Williams said that it was a very good and congenial meeting with broad representation by forest service personnel. Approximately 60 people, including a good showing of ranchers, attended. Range Management Task Force from New Mexico State gave a good presentation on how the information for basing decisions is gathered scientifically. Next Monday, field staff will begin carrying out surveys, hopefully alongside ranchers, to determine the grazing capacity of allotments.

Chairman Lovato agreed that the meeting was very cordial and he was impressed with the leadership of the forest service and with the collaboration of the parties involved at the meeting.

The district manager described the process of gathering and analyzing the data collected.

Mr. Williams said that he hopes that the district can move out of the Gustins building by June 1st. The district manager explained what still needs to be done in order to move into the new building.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Kim Kostelnik will facilitate a discussion of the Land Use Plan.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday June 6, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55, Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.