



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
June 6, 2014**

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

**Absentees:** Richard Shovelin

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, district manager  
Kenneth Lujan, area 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 the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome Attendees:**

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

The Chairman reminded board members to be conscientious about reading emails from the district manager and about reviewing the board packets prior to board meetings.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the agenda. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from May 2, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/ DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:**

Minutes of the special meeting from May 22, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes. Brian Greene 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 May with accounts payable for June.

Discussions occurred on the following:

- The chairman said that Tayler Anaya thanked the board for paying her registration to the New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp on June 8 – 13 at the Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico. The district manager said that Miss Anaya will give a report at the July board meeting.
- An insurance payment of \$3250 was received in compensation for the damaged light at the district's property, which cost \$4000 to repair.
- Full payment for FY2014 was made on the building loan.
- The district manager explained several of the district's loans.

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

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager said that the district's audit contract has been signed and approved by the state auditor's office. She explained that the board selected Dan Austin for the audit because his proposal was several thousand dollars below the other proposals received. She explained the conditions under which an auditor can be retained more than once. The district manager covered several other items. She will give a report on the chipper rentals at the July meeting. She explained that the annual insurance cost on the 2002 pickup is \$974, and it is \$1146 on the 2004 pickup. The trailer is covered under these amounts. All drivers are covered by one million dollars in liability insurance that includes uninsured motorists & non-owned vehicles. The district manager's vehicle is covered by this insurance in order to protect the district in case she has an accident while on district business. In addition, she herself carries full coverage on her vehicle. She has received a quote of \$2080 to insure the building for \$500,000 and \$50,000 for the contents of the district's office. The quote is under the amount of \$5000 that is included in the budget.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Mr. Melaragno asked whether the district is interested in submitting a proposal for the River Stewardship Program. The district manager said that she will submit a proposal for the Abó.

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

Mr. Lujan reported that they are in the process of finishing up contracts for EQIP and CSP. The contracts have been delayed by the late passage of the farm bill. He also said that the office has not yet received an allocation for 2014. There are 22 EQIP applications for 2014. Due to an expectation of a certain allocation, the office is working on the top 12 projects. He also said that part of Torrance County is designated as being under extreme drought conditions, so some producers may be able to apply for additional EQIP funding. Six applications for CSP funding have been received and are on the short list, so they will probably be contracted. Mr. Lujan praised the quality of the NRCS space in the district's building, and he described the content of the reports that he will have to submit monthly on conditions at the building. Discussion followed on contractors who can be called in case of problems.

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

The written report is included in the board packets. The district manager commented on some items discussed at a meeting she attended with the forest service, NRCS and New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) on May 29. She described requirements that permittees had to follow in developing their annual plans in cooperation with the forest service. She reported on the reaction of NMACD to the participating agreement that the district has with the forest service. She explained what

work can be done if the forest service requests it. She has contacted Ian Fox to find out whether she should submit a Regional Conservation Partnership Program proposal. She described a New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts umbrella proposal that covers the whole state. She also talked about an email that she sent to Frank Maurer on his request, on the behalf of the Deer Canyon conservation committee, for possible options to reduce hazardous fuel from the die-offs of pinions on the Deer Canyon Preserve. She reported that a former employee filed for unemployment benefits, but his claim was denied. On May 26, the district manager issued load tickets all day, and she also worked with volunteer Carla Cope on organizing paperwork.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The district manager read a public notice stating: the “Town of Mountainair Wastewater Treatment Plant, Chester Riley, Mayor, proposes to renew its discharge permit for the discharge of up to 50,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to a treatment and disposal system. Potential contaminants from this type of discharge include nitrogen compounds.”

#### **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. She made some additional comments regarding the written report, which is included in the minutes. In response to a concern raised about the amount the district pays per acre for thinning, she called attention to the average cost per acre of \$718.06 for 439.9 total acres thinned from the 36 projects funded in 2012 by the WTB. In addition, she was told by Kenneth Lujan that payments for projects on forest stand improvements range from \$206 to \$1523.36 per acre, depending on the project. Mr. Lujan added that on comparable projects, NRCS probably pays more per acre than Claunch-Pinto does.

The district manager said that she hasn't received word on the state forestry proposals, but state forestry is not receiving as much money since Kim Kostelnik retired. She said that Ms. Kostelnik was very good at bringing funding into the state for state forestry.

The 2012 WTB funding has been drawn down to zero, and the district manager has started contracting for 2013 funds. She will attend a meeting on June 9 to find out whether proposals for 2014 funding for the EBWHM were successful.

The district manager will attend a meeting on June 12 at the Santo Domingo Pueblo and will tour projects there.

She explained what equipment has been bought for NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute using Water Trust Board grant funds allocated to the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. This purchase was approved by the Senior Program Administration from New Mexico Finance Authority prior to purchasing the equipment or submitting reimbursement requests. The equipment purchased by NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance monitoring will be used as follows: 1) Installation of shallow wells for monitoring groundwater response to treatments; 2) equipment to gather data to be used to develop quantitative information for tracking the impacts and effectiveness of treatments; 3) equipment to ftp access to raw data and reports and host a map interface for data exploration and download; 4) software to supplement ground observation and measurements for full characterization of treatment sites; 5) ability to archive recently collected color infrared aerial photography of treatment sites to be able to assess the impacts and effectiveness of treatments as well as for identifying areas needing treatment. All equipment purchased by the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project is labeled as belonging to the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance and will be returned to the project when the work is finished.

A lot of the information gathered by the equipment is available on the [allaboutwatersheds.org](http://allaboutwatersheds.org) web site. The information indicates improvement in riparian areas. The third party monitoring with attendant publications helps groups like the Sierra Club and Wild Earth Guardians to understand the benefits of thinning.

The district manager said that the forest is in stage two restrictions. She wrote a letter to Daniel Herrera, president of the Manzano land grant, notifying him that wood haulers could only cut between 6:00 and 10:00 a.m., and they have to load and get their wood out to the main forest road by noon. It is necessary for district employees to stand fire watch for two hours after that.

In addition, the forest service has added \$31,369 to the participating agreement to purchase eight miles of fencing material and to pay a work crew to fence allotments in July.

**Written report:**

**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 29, 2014, the district manager met with the partners on the Isleta Project to get progress reports on the project. The Pueblo of Isleta Natural Resource Department and the US Forest Service reported hazardous fuel reduction work has been completed on a 29 acre portion of the project on the public land. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Los Lunas Office reported they have their paperwork ready for signature with the Pueblo of Isleta as soon as they receive notice the funding is available. This work will be on the west side of the Manzano Mountains. This portion of the watershed flows into the Rio Grande Watershed. The NRCS- Estancia Field Office is working with the Chilili Land Grant to get the paperwork started for the project on the land grant. The land grant will need to have approval from their heirs before the paperwork can proceed. We will use Estancia Basin WTB funding to match some of the work on land grant and pueblo lands where the water flows back into the Estancia Basin.

On May 6, the district manager attended an EBWHRM core steering committee meeting. This meeting was cancelled because of a lack of a quorum.

She prepared reimbursement paperwork for landowners to sign.

She signed contracts and practice plans with seven East Torrance SWCD landowners.

The district manager attended a WTB meeting in Santa Fe on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The EBWHRM proposal was ranked number one in the watershed portion of the WTB funding list.

No word has been received on the state forestry proposals. Work on projects funded by the non federal lands grant through state forestry is being finished so that reimbursements can be submitted.

Regarding the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, the GRGWA proposal is ranked number four in the watershed portion of the WTB funding list.

The Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring projects for the 2012 funding were as follows:

**Number of Projects: 36**

**Total Acres Thinned: 439.9 acres**

**Average Cost per Acre: \$718.06**

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

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

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):****Ojo Peak Restoration:**

400 willows were planted in Ox Canyon.

**Red Canyon Project:**

Land grand heirs continue to remove wood from the project area; the last thinning portion of project is almost completed.

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

The district manager reported on several items about the district's building. The annual lease agreement went up from \$42,696 to \$43,000 for years one through five. Also, the district manager will open the building every day at 7:00 a.m. On snow days Vern Kohler will come in early for snow removal. NRCS will move into the building on June 12. Volunteers and district employees have been helping NRCS prepare to move. The district manager has been working with the Public Works Labor Relation Division of the Department Works Forest Solutions on paperwork required for the building.

**Janitorial Bid Request:**

The janitorial bid request has been posted in Mountainair. The bids are due on June 16. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved that the building committee review the bids and select a janitorial service. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**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.

**Report on the BLM – CO2 Pipeline:**

The district manager submitted a report to BLM on proposed routes for the pipeline. This confidential report is in the board member's packets and cannot be discussed with anyone.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, Resolution No. 12 -- 2014:**

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

**Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment :**

Public meetings on the Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment will be held at the Mountainair Senior Center on June 12 and June 23 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Lovato, Mr. Melaragno and the district manager attended previous meetings.

**REPORTS:**

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

The NMCCD will meet in Taos on June 24 at Trudy Healy's home. One of the reasons for the meeting is to present a gift to Ms. Healy and her husband. A three to four hour board retreat will be held on June 19, 20 or 21 in Mountainair at the district's building.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Brian Greene reported that a meeting was held two weeks ago on routine business. The president of the state RC&Ds resigned to take a job out of state, and the second vice president will serve as the state president until the next election.

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

Brian Greene reported that a meeting of the EBWPC will be held in June.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The district manager hopes to prepare the Land Use Plan for board members to review before the next meeting so that Kim Kostelnik can return to facilitate a discussion on it.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday July 11, 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.