



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
July 11, 2014**

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

**Absentees:** Dan Williams

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, district manager  
Tayler Anaya  
D'Laynn Bruce, NRCS  
Larry Gomez  
Jim Wanstall, NMDA  
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 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 as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Add under number 4 Reports -- Tayler Anaya: New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp.

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

Minutes of the regular meeting from June 6, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention. On page 1, change April 3 to May 2. On page 2 under Treasurer's Report, first bullet, Change "Taylor" to "Tayler."

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of June with accounts payable for July.

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

#### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager reviewed the quarterly report. She explained the differences in revenues between the budgeted amounts and the amounts received year to date. There will be a single fed audit because more than \$500,000 was received from federal grants. The cost of the audit is figured into the budget. She then explained expenditure amounts exceeding the budget in personnel services, office expenses, building expenses, and contractual services (legal expenses). She said that NRCS is pleased with the building and due to the extras that the district has provided, NRCS won't require a monthly report on conditions at the facility.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Youth Ranch Management Camp, Tayler Anaya:**

Miss Anaya thanked the board for sponsoring her at the camp. She said that she learned an incredible amount and enjoyed her experiences very much. She described the presentations and learning activities that she participated in on each day of the camp: beef day, marketing day, wildlife day, and range day. On the last day, each team was judged on its ranch plan which the members had to develop in the evenings after the day's activities. She talked about elements of the plan that her team had to work with. Her team placed third. Tayler was presented with a runner-up Top Hand award. She said that she would love to attend the camp again if she had the chance.

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

Mr. Wanstall went over several items in his report. He reminded the board that the point system worksheet is due on July 15, 2014. He explained how the point system works and what its purpose is.

He highlighted the Soil and Water Conservation Commission's Water Quality and Conservation Grant and said that it is a good source of funding for small projects without many strings attached or paperwork needed.

Mr. Wanstall discussed the EPA proposed rule for the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. He explained the definition and said that it may not have the negative impacts that were predicted, but he urged SWCDs to be involved in the NEPA process. Ryan Ward (NMDA Natural Resource Policy Analyst at (575) 646-2670) can answer questions about details of the issue.

He pointed out that River Stewardship Program proposals are due on July 31, 2014. The district manager said that the district will submit a proposal to do additional work in Ox Canyon.

Mr. Wanstall covered several issues not included in his report:

- The jumping mouse will be listed as an endangered species. A meeting was held in Cuba with permittees and representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Forestry Service concerning fencing of possible habitats of the jumping mouse.
- The NMDA will hold two-day workshops at the end of September or beginning of October to help districts improve their land use plans. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.
- The Forest Service is redoing its forest management plan and has been holding meetings across the state to solicit input. The district manager attended the meetings in this area. She said that few ranchers or permittees have attended. This lack of participation has been pointed out to the Forest Service and an alternative schedule has been suggested that may be more convenient. Also, the district manager and the Edgewood district manager are working on a radio program for FM radio station 88.7 that will hopefully air in August. The program will focus on the Forest Service plan and will provide an opportunity for people to call in with their

questions. The idea for the program was suggested by Art Swenka to try to get more participation from ranchers and others who may be affected by the plan. Comments can still be submitted until July 15 and can be submitted on-line. Mr. Wanstall emphasized that there will be more opportunities to engage in the review process, including asking for cooperating agency status.

**NRCS Field Office Report:**

D'Layne Bruce commented on her written report. She reviewed the MOU between the district and NRCS, in particular the civil rights statement on compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She discussed the Anti-Harassment Policy, the Civil Rights Policy Statements by the USDA and NRCS, and she displayed the "And Justice for All" poster. She asked for a form from the district that reports on the race and gender composition of the board. Discussion occurred on the fact that there are no women on the board, and it was emphasized that there is no active intent to discriminate. Ms. Bruce said that CSP 2010-1 and CSP 2010-2 contracts are coming up for renewal and that producers have received a letter explaining how to renew contracts.

**District Manager's Report:**

The written report is included in the board packets. The district manager distributed the "Worksheet for Distribution of Funds to SWCDs" that she submits to NMDA reporting on the points earned for district activities. Discussion followed on various categories and what can be done to earn points for them.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The district manager pointed out a USDA article on the Tom Stefani Distinguished International Service Award received by Darren Richardson, formerly the district's area conservationist. The award recognizes brave accomplishments in the face of danger. The district manager will send him a congratulatory email on behalf of the board.

**UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

The district manager's report includes information on grants, 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 (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA):**

The district manager attended a WTB meeting on June 9. The EBWHRM and the GRGWA have each been funded for \$600,000 for 2014. She attended a GRGWA meeting at the Santo Domingo Pueblo on June 12 and toured riparian projects. The district received \$350,000 from the Pueblo and \$85,000 from the Sandia Pueblo to match WTB funds. State forestry has published its request for WUI proposals, so the district manager will submit WUI proposals for southern Claunch-Pinto and for Estancia Basin projects. Nineteen proposals have been submitted for the GRGWA including one for Abó.

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

No report.

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

**Ojo Peak Restoration:**

Five acres remain to be thinned. The crew will continue work on the project on Monday. John Cisneros is helping a landowner with a project. The district will be reimbursed for Mr. Cisneros' time by the land owner.

**Red Canyon Project:**

The Red Canyon project is complete. The district manager will write the report on it when most of the wood has been removed. State Forestry will work on a thinning project in the Manzano State Park, and that wood will go to the land grant, too. The deadline to remove the wood has been extended to December.

In late May, the district manager met with State Forestry and the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Between the EBWHRM and the GRGWA, there are two teams of cooperating partners consisting of approximately 25 members. The district manager submitted a pre-proposal on behalf of the EBWHRM and the GRGWA for five million dollars over five years. She and Ian Fox figured out last week that there is a match of about 10 million dollars for the five million dollars in the EBWHRM and GRGWA areas. The proposal will be submitted under the state. Work on the projects will be completed through the NRCS EQIP program. The proposal will compete with two proposals from NMACD. The district will also have contracts on the Romero Wood LLC CFRP.

Next year, Kaisa Jones, who attended a grantsmanship workshop this year, will be working with Cody Stropki and Aaron Kaufman on a proposal seeking funds from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to support conservation demonstration projects on the district's property.

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

Liz Fleming was awarded the contract for janitorial services at the district's building. She will work at the building three days a week. She brings some of her own equipment and uses cleaning supplies provided by the district. She cleaned NRCS' chairs, exceeding their expectations.

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

The district manager received clarification on the meaning of "shaping" in Chavez SWCD's resolution. The word refers to penning animals. She followed up by sending in the requested letters.

**Report on the BLM – CO2 Pipeline:**

The district manager submitted a report to BLM on proposed routes for the pipeline. She has received no response from the BLM on her report.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:**

Richard Shovelin was administered the oath of office.

**Board Reorganization:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to table the board reorganization until the August meeting. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Budget Revision, Resolution No. 01 -- 15:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to adopt the resolution. William Castro 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; Felipe Lovato – yea.

**Quarterly DFA Report, Resolution No. 02 – 15:**

Brian Greene moved to adopt the resolution. William Castro 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; Felipe Lovato – yea.

**REPORTS:**

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

The NMCCD has scheduled a retreat for its board members on July 17 at 9:00 a.m. in Mountainair.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Brian Greene reported that no meeting was held in June, but a meeting is scheduled in July.

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

Brian Greene reported that funds were received from Santa Fe County and the group is still trying to fill vacancies.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

Mr. Melaragno asked whether a report on the chipper was ready. The district manager said that she will prepare a written report. She talked about repairs, rentals, and rates. She suggested that a raise in daily rates may be appropriate. Mr. Melaragno asked that the chipper be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The district manager will distribute a draft of the land use plan for the next meeting. Kim Kostelnik is supposed to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Shovelin asked for the status of his request for a report. The district manager is working on the report.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday August 1, 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 10:05 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.