



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 1, 2014**

Supervisors Present: LeRoy Candelaria
William Caster
J. Brian Greene
Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: Jerry Melaragno

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, district manager
D'Laynn Bruce, NRCS
Larry Gomez
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:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from July 11, 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 1 under Approval/Disapproval of Minutes, delete: "Vote was unanimous." Add "Motion carried with one abstention." On page 2 under Treasurer's Report, Delete: "Vote was unanimous." Add "Motion carried with one abstention." On page 5 under South Central Mountain RC&D, change "July" to "June" and "August" to "July."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of July with accounts payable for August. The district manager explained payments to SWCA for monitoring activities. She talked about positive results that are being set out in papers and reports on the data that is being collected. In 2005, the

decision was made to have a third party agency perform the monitoring to insure that the data and reports are impartial. She described the studies that are carried out in the monitoring project.

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

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager submitted the fourth quarterly report and the final budget to the state, and she is waiting for final approval. The district is conducting business under the approval of the interim budget. The auditor will work in the district office after September 15.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

No report.

NRCS Field Office Report:

D'Layne Bruce commented on her written report. She said that Local Work Group meetings need to be held before the end of September. The district holds its meeting in conjunction with a board meeting. The district manager will send out the invitations. Ms. Bruce said that the Mountainair Field Office is obligated to five new CSP contracts and three EQIP contracts. Allocations were lower this year, but perhaps more funding may become available, in which case two more contracts could be signed. She reminded board members that CSP 2010-1 and CSP 2010-2 contracts are coming up for renewal and that September 11 is the deadline to submit forms. Producers have received a reminder letter. She would like to conduct a range workshop for producers that would demonstrate monitoring techniques and NRCS requirements for monitoring. She hopes that the board can sponsor the workshop and hold it in the district's building in October. A discussion occurred on monitoring methods and measurable results for reporting.

District Manager's Report:

The written report is included in the board packets.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The district manager's written report includes information on grants, meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies. The district manager commented on the 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 July 8, the district manager attended an EBWHRM meeting in Edgewood. She also signed three WTB contracts. She will attend a meeting of the EBWHRM on Wednesday, August 6 in Estancia.

The district manager attended a hearing of the Water Natural Resource and New Mexico Finance Authority Legislative Oversight Committee in Albuquerque. Matters concerning the Water Trust Board (WTB) constituted the agenda. She attended a WTB meeting in Santa Fe on July 23. The WTB is contemplating changing its rules.

The district manager is preparing two State Forestry proposals, one for the EBWHRM and one for southern Claunch-Pinto.

US Forest Service has added \$31,000 to the participating agreement with the district to buy fencing material and to repair as much as possible of a fence line between the Torreon and Tajiue allotments. She described the repairs that needed to be made. Only \$11,000 of the total is available for labor. The Forest Service wants to buy a cattle guard to place between the Torreon allotment and the neighboring allotment.

The SWCDs belonging to the GRGWA have submitted 20 project proposals. The district manager will attend a meeting of the GRGWA in Santa Fe on August 15.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

A meeting is planned for September 25 to elect new officers.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Ojo Peak Restoration:

Three to four more acres remain to be completed.

Red Canyon Project:

The project is complete.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

The district manager met with Marcus Romero of Romero Wood LLC to review the terms of the contract agreement for his CFRP. Claunch-Pinto is the fiscal agent.

The district manager wrote a proposal for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). She hasn't heard yet whether the proposal was successful. She reported on an email request from a representative of NRCS asking for a copy of the letter concerning a match of \$700,000 from the Forest Guild for the project. She went over a second email suggesting that requirements had to be met before the pre-proposal could be ranked and forwarded to Washington D.C. The letter wasn't required for submitting the pre-proposal. Richard Shovelin suggested that if the district isn't allowed to submit a full proposal, the district manager should be authorized to lodge a protest.

Abó Canyon Report:

The district manager reported that the plantings of willow whips and grass seeds were washed away, but sedges and riparian plants are appearing. This vegetation instead of salt cedar is appearing. However, actions need to be taken to slow water flows from the upper parts of the water shed. Unfortunately, there are no funds to work on a project. She also talked about the issues that need to be addressed regarding cooperation with landowners. The district manager said that the railroad wants to help eradicate salt cedar, improve wildlife and invigorate re-vegetation projects, but she doesn't want to spend the funds if the vegetation will continue to be washed away. The watershed is the second largest sedimentation to the Rio Grande in the state and needs to be dealt with.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee – District Property, Building Progress:

Janitorial Service:

The district manager said that a board member was asked whether Liz Fleming, who provides janitorial services at the district's building, is related to her. She stated categorically that she and Ms. Fleming are not related and that she would never encourage a relative to apply for a job with the district.

Electric Bill:

The district manager explained that when she received the current electric bill for the building in the amount of \$60.05, she called Mike Valdez about the unusually small amount. He advised her to check with the electric co-op on the accuracy of the bill. She took the bill to the co-op, and it was determined that the multiplier was incorrect -- two had been entered instead of twenty. The amount of the bill was actually \$449.40 for the month. When the multiplier was corrected, the district was found to owe an additional \$613.75 on past bills dating from January.

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to pay the electric bills. William Caster seconded the motion, Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

No report.

Report on the BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

No report.

Report on Chipper Rental:

The district manager distributed a comparison between chipper rental companies of costs to rent a chipper. She said that no profits have come in from renting the district's chippers, and in order to make a complete report on expenses, she will have to review past records month by month and reimbursement by reimbursement to determine how much of expenses have been offset by grants. The chippers will continue to need expensive repairs because the chippers are built to be used on paved surfaces, but the district's chippers are used on much rougher terrain. She also said that in cases where a land owner is at fault for damage, the land owner pays for the repairs. Rental charges may have to be increased after this contracting phase is complete. Discussion occurred on the security of the chippers. Mr. Caster suggested that the chippers should be locked up.

Report on Light at Entrance to Property:

The district manager reported that the electric co-op will not install a security light at the gate, and she explained reasons for its refusal. A discussion occurred on options, costs and aesthetics of putting in a security light. Mr. Shovelin asked for a report for the next meeting on the estimated costs of installing a light.

NEW BUSINESS:**Agreement with New Mexico State Parks – Manzano State Park:**

The district manager met with two state park officials regarding a three-phase project. The first phase involves an eighteen-acre thinning project at the Manzano State Park. The wood from the project will be given to Claunch-Pinto. The district will sell permits for the wood at \$20 - \$25 a cord. Permits will be sold in the district office. Buyers will take the permits to a park ranger who will oversee picking up the wood. The hope is to sell most of the permits to land grant heirs at Manzano, Torreon, Tajique and perhaps Chillili. Wood cannot be given to the land grants because they are not sub-divisions of government. Some wood could be given to St. Vincent de Paul and the VFW. The proceeds can be used in the second phase for a water catchment system at the group shelter at the state park to help alleviate various water problems. Park officials will see to the installation of the system. If this project is successful, the district may be involved in two subsequent projects. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Caster moved to proceed with the project. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:

Dan Williams was administered the oath of office.

Board Reorganization:

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to reconstitute the board offices as they stand. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Vote carried. Vote was unanimous.

Annual Meeting Plans:

The district manager reported that the annual meeting is planned for October 15. Tentative plans are to provide a tour in the morning of NRCS work, district thinning sites, and two monitoring sites. SWCA representatives will explain the monitoring activities. Then the work at Ox Canyon and Red Canyon will be visited. A barbecue lunch will be prepared by Wayne Jones. Karen Smith can be brought in on a small contract to perform several functions. Possible speakers include several local lawmakers. In the afternoon, a tour of the building will take place and presentation boards displaying the work of the district and NRCS will be prepared. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to change the board meeting date from Oct. 3 to Oct. 15. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

Board members of the NMCCD, with the exception of Mr. Shovelin, attended a retreat at the district's building on July 17. The district manager informed Mr. Melaragno and Mr. Candelaria that they were the district board's alternatives to the meetings when Mr. Shovelin is unavailable. Kim Kostelnik is drawing up a job description for an executive director so that an interim director can be hired. David King and José Varela López will work with Ms. Kostelnik and the district manager on filling the position. An administrative assistant position is also planned. An additional \$75,000 was received from the Healy Foundation, and these funds will be used to pay for the positions. After the positions are defined, a meeting will be held with the Healys to explain the plans. A board meeting will be held in Taos to present a painting to the Healys in appreciation of their support.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

At the last meeting of the South Central Mountain RC&D, Brian Greene said that he suggested that the incinerating machine that he described in a previous meeting be brought to his ranch for a demonstration. He hopes that the Claunch-Pinto, Carrizozo, and East Torrance districts can sponsor the demonstration. The district manager suggested that the Edgewood district be included in the plans. Mr. Greene recommended that the district consider the machine as an alternative method of disposing of slash. Mr. Williams supported a demonstration.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**OTHER:**

The district manager will work on the land use plan.

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

The next regular meeting will be held Friday September 5, 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 10:15 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.