



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 5, 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
Steve Kadas, 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 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. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from August 1, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August with accounts payable for September. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the auditor will work in the district office after September 15.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Written reports for August and September are included in the board packets.

NRCS Field Office Report:

D'Layne Bruce commented on her written report. Ms. Bruce said that the Mountainair Field Office is finishing up obligating six CSP contracts. Eight EQIP contracts total \$568,730, which is more than double the initial allocation. CSP 2010-1 and CSP 2010-2 contracts are coming up for renewal, and September 12 is the deadline to submit paperwork. Ms. Bruce is planning on a monitoring workshop at the district's building on October 21 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The district manager will send out notices. The end of the fiscal year is approaching, and planning for 2015 EQIP is beginning with the Local Workgroup meeting that follows immediately after this board meeting.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager added to her written report which is included in the board packets. She said that she and Lawrence Crane met with the Deer Canyon conservation committee on August 11. The homeowners' board has signed the necessary paperwork with State Forestry to prepare a stewardship plan for the Preserve. State Forestry can help pay for developing the plan, which will cost about \$12,000. A pilot project for a firebreak on 7.5 acres on the south end of phase 2 that borders state land has also been approved to demonstrate to homeowners the number of trees that will have to be removed. The district also wants to establish a fire break bordering state land to the north of Corona. The board conference call on August 25 to approve a re-leaf grant with State Forestry for Corona was discussed. The district manager will provide minutes from that meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets. The district manager read a letter from land owner Jim Bouton, who requested funding to continue with mastication on additional acres of his property that burned in the Trego fire. The district manager explained the background for the request and previous work done on the property. She will respond to the request, indicating that perhaps future funding might be available for a project.

The district manager reported that the district has received \$14,003.77 in point system funding. She expects to receive an additional \$737.04 in the spring.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies. The district manager commented on her 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):

The district manager attended a meeting of the EBWHRM Project in Edgewood on August 5. Projects are progressing: Edgewood SWCD has completed three projects and Claunch-Pinto has completed two.

The chairman and the district manager attended a GRGWA meeting on August 15. Attendees agreed to advertise a request for proposals on 12 projects within the East Rio Arriba, Santa Fe Pojoaque, Ciudad, Valencia, and Lava soil and water conservation districts. The estimated costs total \$619,000.

On August 19, the district manager traveled to Edgewood to pay a landowner for a project.

The district manager turned in two Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) proposals, one for EBWHRM and one for Claunch-Pinto

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

The meeting planned for September 25 to elect new officers has been moved to the third week in October. Mr. Candelaria mentioned his efforts to get cooperation with the Department of Transportation for controlling weeds along roadways.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

The district manager reported on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). She met with Ian Fox, CFRP coordinator for the Forest Service, on September 4 to identify a match three times the amount of the request of five million dollars made in the RCP pre-proposal. They were able to identify \$13 million in matching funds for projects that are being carried out in the Cibola National Forest. She described the projects. She said that Ian Fox is a bright star in the Forest Service and that he is a forward thinker. He is the timber manager, forester for the Cibola and the CFRP coordinator. The district manager explained why the Isleta project got national recognition – it was the first cross jurisdictional EIS project in New Mexico. She mentioned several efforts that will explain what is taking place in New Mexico to further conservation efforts. She described projects and grant proposals that have enabled success in bringing in funding for additional work in various areas. She said that the Isleta project is particularly important in limiting danger from fire to lives and property both on the tribal lands and the East Mountains. She stressed the importance of showing that successful projects have resulted from partnerships with many cooperating entities.

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The district manager will take the final drawdown this month. Thinning is complete, but some limbing remains to be done. The district is still issuing load tags.

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager is working with Romero Firewood, LLC and the Forest Service to sign a contract.

Forest Service Partnership Agreement:

The district manager submitted a change in the scope of work for the fence project to the forest supervisor's office and she is waiting for approval. After approval is granted, a meeting will be held with the permittee to go over the work to insure that all participants are on the same page.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

Thinning work will begin on September 15, and then the Manzano land grant heirs can pick up cords of wood beginning on either September 19th or 20th. The district is renting a chipper to the State Park at \$650 per week. The district manager reported that a news release by the New Mexico State Park appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal* about the thinning project. Subsequently she received 10 calls regarding permits for the wood. State Park personnel will pile the wood in one-cord stacks, and people with permits can pick it up on Fridays and Saturdays beginning on September 19th and 20th. Individuals are limited to one cord each. The permits will be issued at the district's office for \$20.00 each. The State Park manager will be present on site to check permits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting:

The district manager reported on the plan for the annual meeting. Karen Smith, Kaisa Jones and two volunteers are helping her. She hopes to provide a tour of various projects and monitoring plots. A speaker in the afternoon is being considered. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the building, and then attendees can tour the building. Displays are also being created to highlight NRCS and district projects.

Building:

The district manager is working with Mike Valdez on an overall plan for the work that needs to be done, including a light for the front area and security cameras. She hopes to have the plan ready for the next meeting.

Pablo Romero will service the heating and cooling system every six months.

Report on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Lawsuit with Chavez SWCD:

The district manager said that Aubrey Dunn told her a week ago that he thought that the suit would go to court within the week, but she hasn't heard anything further.

Report on BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

A public meeting concerning the CO2 Pipeline will be held on the evening of September 10 in Mountainair.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Secretary-Treasurer:

The chairman announced that Jerry Melaragno has agreed to be nominated for the position of secretary - treasurer. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to nominate Mr. Melaragno for the position of secretary- treasurer. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 03-2015:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 03-2015, Bank Signatory Authority. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Brian Greene – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Dan Williams - yea. Vote was unanimous.

Workshop – Air Incinerator:

Brian Greene reported that Rich Graeber, a fire specialist from Colorado whose company represents the company that builds the air curtain incinerators visited him last month to find out how an incinerator would be used in this area. Mr. Greene hopes that a demonstration workshop can be planned for October. He said that he would like for NRCS personnel or anyone else who might use an incinerator to attend. Discussion followed on the capabilities of an incinerator and how much it costs.

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to authorize \$250 to support a workshop. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Cibola Nationa Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment, Public Meetings as follows:Wilderness Inventory Collaborative Workshop – September 16, 2014 – Dr. Saul Community Building:

The district manager stressed the importance of attending the meeting. She said that she has been disappointed in the amount of participation by ranchers. She said that decisions can come out of these public meetings that will affect the national forest for the next 20 years.

Land Use Planning Workshop – October 22 – 23, 2014, Albuquerque, fee \$200 plus individual fees:

The district manager said that Kim Kostelnik has been working with districts on their plans. The district manager will disseminate a draft of the district's plan to board members. The district's plan will be discussed at the November board meeting. She announced the Land Use Planning Workshop and asked that board members let her know whether they wished to attend.

New website Design

The district manager said that she is working with Alan and Kathleen Clute on a new and updated district website, which has become obsolete. She discussed the costs and the benefits of updating the site. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to authorize funds to update the district's website. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

David King and José Varela López will work with Kim Kostelnik and the district manager on filling the position of executive director by September 19. The district manager, with several others, represented NMCCD at Ag Day in Las Cruces. Five hundred bags containing information on conservation were distributed. The district manager had booths at the Sunflower Festival and at the county fair.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene said that discussions on demonstrations of the air curtain incinerator took place.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Larry Gomez applauded the district manager for her passion for conservation and dedication to the district. He stated that the district was fortunate to have her working for the district and for the community.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday October 15, 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 9:45 a.m. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.