



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2014**

Supervisors Present: LeRoy Candelaria
William Caster
Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Larry Gómez
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Jim Wanstall, NMDA

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:** Jerry Melaragno 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 September 5, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes. Jerry Melaragno 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 August with accounts payable for September. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Approval of the Budget:

Action Taken: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the budget. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The written report for October is included in the board packets. Jim Wanstall added to the NMDA report.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan explained that D'Llaynn Bruce, District Conservationist - Team 7 had accepted a new position out of the Portales Service Center. The District Manager was asked to write a letter to D'Llaynn expressing the district's gratitude for her work. He also explained the approaching Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) deadlines.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager added to her written report which is included in the board packets.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets.

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 September 2. Projects are progressing: Edgewood SWCD has completed four projects and Claunch-Pinto has completed two. A partial reimbursement was submitted on an East Torrance SWCD project.

The district manager and a district volunteer attended the Water Trust Board Workshop in Roswell, NM on September 10, 2014.

The district manager submitted two WTB pre-proposals, one for EBWHRM and one for GRGWA.

The district manager attended the WTB meeting on September 24. She has an appointment with Adam Johnson, NMFA concerning the asset management criteria for watersheds on October 16.

The district manager sent requested information to an East Torrance SWCD cooperator and to the East Torrance SWCD.

The district manager attended contractor site visits for the GRGWA request for proposals in the Valencia, East Rio Arriba, Santa Fe – Pojoaque SWCDs and the Pueblo of Sandia.

The district manager received four contractor proposals for the Greater Rio Grande Alliance request for proposals.

The district manager prepared 10 reimbursements requested for the WTB grants and the State Forestry Grant.

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.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The district received the final drawdown on this grant. All sawyer work has been completed. The district is still issuing load tags for the wood.

Romero Wood, LLC:

The contract between Romero Wood, LLC and the Forest Service has been signed.

Forest Service Partnership Agreement:

The Forest Service pulled back the funding on the fence project for the Torreon Allotment because its year-end budget had to be balanced.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

Thinning work began on September 15. Work has been slow because of the weather. As of September 30th, no wood permits have been given out. A question was raised concerning the wood sales from the project and the agreement with Manzano State Park. The district manager will check previous meeting minutes to find out what the board agreed to.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program proposal was submitted on October 2, 2014. The District will know if the proposal is funded after November 15, 2014.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Building – Capital Outlay:

The District Manager and Mike Valdez had met to discuss the Capital improvements to the property.

The District Manager gave the following report on proposed projects with approximate costs:

Lighting at the Gate - approximate cost - \$2,700/light; \$2,700/power

Lighting for Sign at Gate - approximate cost - \$2,000

Gravel - approximate cost - \$10-15,000

Signage - approximate cost - \$1,500

Steps to Upper Level (includes hand rails - construction has to be completed to scale and grade) - approximate cost - \$10,000

Rain Spouts - approximate cost - \$400

Ventilator - approximate cost - \$4,000

Handicap Ramp - approximate cost - \$8,600

Total Costs for Proposed Projects: \$41,900 - \$46,900

The Board discussed the report and further discussion will take place at the Board meeting in November.

Report on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Lawsuit with Chavez SWCD: No Report

Report on BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

The district manager reported the draft Environmental Impact Statement should be completed by the end of October.

Report on Workshop – Air Incinerator: No Report

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment:

The district manager showed the Board a Forest Service map concerning the proposed wilderness inventory areas. She asked the Board for direction for the comments that need to be submitted.

Land Use Planning Workshop – October 22 – 23, 2014 – Albuquerque:

The district manager reported she had registered LeRoy Candelaria, Larry Gómez, Kaisa Jones and herself for the Land Use Planning Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter to Bank Concerning Giving Bank Information to District Manager:

MyBank has asked for a letter from the board that gives bank personnel permission to answer any questions that the district manager may have regarding the district's accounts and that also authorizes the district manager to answer the bank's requests for information.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to send a letter to MyBank which authorizes the district manager to provide information to the bank upon request and which also gives permission to the bank to answer questions that the district manager may have. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Supervisor Jerry Melaragno's absences:

Jerry Melaragno had planned a trip on the same date as this board meeting, which would have been the third board meeting in a row he had missed. His trip was cancelled so he was in attendance at the meeting. The Soil and Water Conservation District act says if supervisor misses three board meetings in a row, the remaining supervisors **may** declare the position vacant by a majority vote.

Request from Mesteño Draw Ranch:

The district manager presented a proposal that was submitted to Joan Bybee to provide construction services to repair damages which occurred during recent flooding to the plug & pond, the zuni bowl, and one-rock dams. Ms. Bybee requested district funds to help pay for the repairs.

Discussion followed on her request and whether funds were available. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to recommend that Ms. Bybee submit her request for funding to NRCS. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager reported that Kim Kostelnik is working with eleven SWCDs on land use plans. NMCCD will be paying Ms. Kostelnik to help during the land use planning workshops. NMCCD is also sponsoring the coffee breaks during each of the workshops. NMCCD plans to contract with an Interim Executive Director within the next couple of weeks.

South Central Mountain RC&D: No Report

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC): No Report

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 7, 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 SWCD Board the following action was taken: **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.