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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING November 7, 2014

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Robin Beatty
Larry Gómez
Frank Luna
Katheryn Taylor, district volunteer
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 8:05 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from October 15, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On the top of page 3, change the last word in line one from "Forest" to "Forestry." On page 3 under **Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks**, add: "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.”

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of October with accounts payable for November. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. As the board treasurer, Jerry Melaragno presented an unofficial summary of the treasurer's report. He explained how detailed expenses and income in the treasurer's report are organized into broad categories in order to call attention to a bigger picture of the district's monthly expenses and revenue. The report is introduced by the district's mission statement.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager distributed the district's quarterly report, which should correspond with the district's quarterly report to the Department of Finance. She explained line items and invited board members to read the report and let her know whether there are questions. In addition, she said that the district's auditor worked in the office yesterday and will return on Tuesday of the following week.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall commented on several items in his written report.

- One of the things that has come up repeatedly over the last year is the desire expressed by several districts to build buildings. He asked the district manager to participate in a potential half-day training in Albuquerque to discuss the process of constructing a building.
- A time line for the election process is being developed and will be distributed when it is official.
- The land use planning workshops that NMDA hosted in cooperation with NMCCD and NMACD were a great success. Mr. Wanstall met with the Employees Association on the second day of the NMACD annual meeting in Clovis. Members of the association will take the lead on organizing quarterly follow-up meetings to go over different sections of land use plans. The first meeting will probably be held during the legislative session a day before the Soil and Water Conservation Day.
- NMDA has received comments on the EPA rule for the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. Mr. Wanstall will disseminate the comments after they have been reviewed.
- The New Mexico Vegetation Management Association Conference will be held November 12 – 13 in Albuquerque.
- The comment period for the Cibola National Forest Plan Revision has been extended, and Mr. Wanstall encouraged the board to submit comments.
- Mr. Wanstall discussed new rules for chief procurement officers (CPOs). Training classes will be held for CPOs, who must complete the curriculum, take and pass a test and be certified by the state by July 2015. Efforts are being made to change certain aspects of the curriculum and the test to make them more appropriate for CPOs employed by soil and water conservation districts.

NRCS Field Office Report:

No Report

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written report is included in the board packets. She pointed out a map that was used in discussions with Butch Blazer. The map shows all the projects the district is involved in and the

work being done by the Manzanito Manzano Restoration Partnership. Mr. Blazer was so impressed with the work that he asked the public relations officer of the Cibola National Forest to produce a documentary highlighting the projects. The work being done by the Cibola National Forest and its partners represents the most work being carried out in the Southwest. The district will participate in the documentary. Its purpose is to demonstrate the scope of the partnership to other forest entities and also to the public.

Mr. Shovelin asked about Mr. Lovato's meeting with the Department of Transportation where rules on signs on the highway were discussed. Mr. Lovato described the discussion and new prohibitions.

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 written report is included in the board packets.

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 met with the GRGWA Technical Committee and Fred Rossbach to review and score the contract proposals for the Greater Rio Grande projects on October 3, 2014.

The district manager worked on EBWHRM meeting preparations and attended the EBWHRM meeting at the Edgewood SWCD office on October 7, 2014. The committee discussed photo monitoring of completed projects.

The district manager met with Ian Fox, Cibola National Forest, staff from Edgewood SWCD, NRCS, natural resource staff from Isleta Pueblo to prepare a white paper on the Isleta Project for distribution during the discussion with USDA Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and Environment, Butch Blazer. The Isleta Project encompasses areas in both the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects.

The district manager and the CPSWCD board chairman attended the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance meeting on October 9, 2014. The district manager participated in a tour of the Isleta Project after the meeting.

The district manager attended the Water Trust Board meeting on October 16, 2014. She met with Adam Johnson to discuss an asset management plan which is a requirement for the FY2015 WTB proposals.

The district manager participated in a group discussion of the Isleta Project with staff from the Cibola National Forest, Isleta Pueblo, Edgewood SWCD, NM State Forestry, and Natural Resource Conservation Service with USDA Deputy Undersecretary of Natural Resources and Environment, Butch Blazer. Mr. Blazer was very interested in how this project came about and asked the Forest Service to prepare a documentary on the project.

The district manager prepared eleven reimbursements for the Water Trust Board grants; three reimbursements for the State Forestry grant.

The district manager met with an Edgewood SWCD landowner to pay him for his project.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

No report.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Ojo Peak Restoration:

The district is still giving load tags for the wood.

Romero Wood, LLC:

District personnel have met with Pablo Romero concerning the 23 acres the district is responsible for thinning. The project is mapped and should be ready to start in the next couple of weeks.

Forest Service Partnership Agreement:

No report.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

Work is progressing on the thinning project. The district issued wood permits every weekend in October. The New Mexico State Parks will extend the scope of its project another 30 acres. The wood will be donated to Claunch-Pinto, which the district will sell. If land grant heirs refrain from taking the wood at some point, then permits will be issued to the public. The district manager explained the permitting process.

A question was raised at the October board meeting concerning the wood sales from the project and the agreement with Manzano State Park. The district manager checked previous meeting minutes to find out what the board agreed to. She sent excerpts from the August 1 and September 5, 2014 minutes to board members to clarify the question raised in October regarding wood sales.

Excerpt from the August 1, 2014 district board minutes:

“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.”

Excerpt from the September 5, 2014 district board minutes:

“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.”

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager pointed out the scope of the planned Regional Conservation Partnership Program project areas on a map. The full RCPP project proposal was submitted on October 2, 2014, and the district should get official notification on the proposal sometime next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Building – Capital Outlay:**

Last month the district manager submitted a report to the board on estimated costs of capital improvements to the property. The report is included in the October minutes on page 3. Projected costs range between \$41,900 to \$46,900. A discussion on possible projects followed.

Projects are to include the following:

- lighting at the gate
- lighting for the sign at the gate
- gravel for the driveway
- signage
- a water catchment system
- a ventilator

The district manager said that the funds may possibly be spent on equipment and furniture. She will ask for confirmation. It is important to expend the money in a timely manner on proposed projects.

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

No report.

Report on BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

The district manager said that the Environmental Impact Report was supposed to be issued by the Bureau of Land Management by the end of October but should be available soon.

Report on Workshop – Air Incinerator:

Brian Greene reported that the workshop was held on October 14. Eighteen people attended. Mr. Greene described the device and the ease of use. He talked about the capacity, the efficiency of the burn and the lack of residue produced. He explained the costs of using the incinerator if hauled from Colorado and compared it to potential costs if operated locally. He disseminated handouts on the incinerator.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:

The district manager wants the district to become a cooperating agency and will put the request on the agenda for the December board meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to authorize the district manager to write a letter on behalf of the board to request cooperating agency status with the Forest Service. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Candelaria reported that the land use plan was very important when requesting funds and partnerships. He recommended that the land grants develop land use plans themselves. He said that it was a great workshop. The district manager said that Kim Kostelnik will incorporate information that she learned at the workshops into plans that she has worked on. Soon Ms. Kostelnik will work on the district's plan with the district manager. She is working with 12 districts on their plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Open Meetings Resolution No. 04-2015

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

Approval of 2015 Meeting Dates:

The district manager went over the dates of meetings and explained those affected by holidays.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the meeting dates. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Addendum to Janitorial Contract:

The district manager requested that the board extend the janitorial contract from 90 days to a year.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to extend the contract to a year. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization:

Robin Beatty presented a proposal to form a Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization. She reviewed her ten-year experience as the assistant treasurer and treasurer of a friends group for a wildlife refuge organization. She said that the purpose of a Claunch-Pinto friends group is to support the district's mission. She mentioned some ways that a friend's group can support the district: raise money to provide for some of the district's needs, sponsor workshops on a variety of conservation issues and projects, recruit volunteers, possibly provide scholarships to local students and enhance communication between the district and the community on district issues and projects. A discussion followed on advantages and possible disadvantages of a friends group. Mr. Candelaria said that a friends group could help reach out to more members of the public. Mr. Luna said that the district needs to have control over future projects, and Mr. Gómez said that a friends group could provide an opportunity for better communication with individuals and groups on both sides of issues. Mr. Wanstall said that one advantage to members of a friends group could be various kinds of training opportunities. Mr. Shovelin requested that Ms. Beatty bring back a draft charter for the board's review. Ms. Beatty said that she could bring back an outline to the next meeting. Mr. Wanstall said that he could help with some bullet points.

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to pursue a favorable discussion of a Friends of Claunch-Pinto Organization. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager distributed a report that was given to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at their meeting in Clovis on the previous Wednesday which she attended with Carole Glade, who was introduced to the commission as the new interim executive director of the NMCCD. The district manager reviewed Ms. Glade's education and professional experience. At the meeting, the district manager was asked to describe the Highway 42 project by Gabe Estrada, commissioner from District 4 that represents the area where the Tierra y Montes SWCD is. He is trying to get some work started with the highway around Cimarron.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Greene said that the September meeting was cancelled. The annual meeting was held on October 23, 2014. There are two prospective candidates to fill two board vacancies.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Greene said that a proposed regional water pipeline approved by the state between Willard and Moriarty was discussed at the meeting of the EBWPC on October 16. There are supposed to be taps from it for Estancia, Willard and Mountainair. The intent of the pipeline is to start pumping water, which has a high salinity value, from the eastern part of the basin, to a prospective desalination plant to convert the water, currently unusable, into potable water. Mr. Candelaria said that it is important to demonstrate that the water in the basin is being used, or other entities may try to get the water for themselves. He described beneficial uses for the water for local communities. The district manager will bring a map to the next board meeting that shows the extent of water in the Estancia Basin. Mr. Candelaria stressed the importance of keeping water in the basin. The district manager praised Mr. Candelaria's efforts to support the water pipeline.

Mr. Greene said that monitoring equipment is being replaced by up to date equipment
Mr. Candelaria added that rules will soon be applied to certify septic systems in the county.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 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:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.