



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 4, 2015**

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

Absentees: Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
George Long, New Mexico State Forestry
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Larry Gomez
Cody Stropki
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. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin 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 November 6, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. 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 November, 2015 with accounts payable for December. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report for October and pay the accounts payable for November. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report. His report provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture. He pointed out the reimbursement on the Romero project of \$12,851.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the district's auditor was in the office on November 19 and 20. He will meet with Felipe Lovato and Jerry Melaragno to go over his findings before December 15. The district manager said that he hasn't found any significant issues.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets.

Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan's written report is included in board members' packets. He said that guidelines for activities in the 2016 CSP program will be quite different. He expects more information in about two weeks.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. She reported on two additional items. She attended the Tribal Council of the Pueblo of Isleta where she complimented the work of the thinning crew. The Tribal Council voted to write a letter of support for the RCPP proposal and offered their archaeologist to work on cultural clearances for the RCPP. This work as well as expenses for travel to Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande meetings will provide an in-kind match for the RCPP. The Pueblo has received funding for thinning and other watershed work, which will provide an additional match.

The district manager also announced the annual meeting of the Estancia Basin Resource Association to be held on January 9 at 2:00 p.m. in Moriarty at the Civic Center.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packet. The district manager pointed out important regional meetings sponsored by New Mexico First and New Mexico State University County Extension Service on resilience in New Mexico's food and agriculture system. The closest meeting will be held in Albuquerque on January 13. Board members should tell her if they want to go so that she can register them for the meeting.

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 board members' 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):

No report.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

One or two CFRP proposals will be submitted. The district manager reported that the land grant never finished removing the wood from the Red Canyon project, so district personnel have been bringing the wood to St. Vincent de Paul. The district manager is trying to remove all the wood so that it won't be burned up in a prescribed burn. The chairman said that he was personally thanked for the wood that was donated to St. Vincent de Paul and he is passing the thanks on to the board..

Romero Wood, LLC:

Pablo Romero has also been taking wood to the St. Vincent de Paul wood yard.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

No report.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the district manager completed a report to the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Albuquerque for the RCP grant for the north central New Mexico watershed restoration project. The report is a comprehensive report on all of the grants. She summarized the contents of the report.

The district manager suggested at an Edgewood SWCD meeting that Josh Archuleta encourage the Chavez family to submit a request for funding for their fencing project through the RCP when there are additional funds available.

She also reported that there are two RCP projects (an acequia project in Manzano and a project in Priest Canyon) associated with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) within the CPSWCD. The district manager talked about a meeting she had with State Representative Barela on issues concerning the acequia project.

Mr. Long said that he has scheduled a meeting at the district office regarding the Priest Canyon project on December 14.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that the State Forestry inmate crew will complete only 10 acres of thinning. The district can sell the wood from this project. Slash will be chipped and wood readied for sale from the thinning.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The chairman reported that a 40 X 50 building will be constructed without bathrooms for the time being. The cost of the parts for the building was less than expected. A discussion occurred on whether rough in plumbing should be done before the slab is poured. The district manager explained possible sources of funding for the rough in plumbing. Reimbursements have to be submitted and approved in order to assure funding. She will work on submitting reimbursements during the month of December.

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

The district manager said that another two-day meeting will be held during the following week. She explained the purpose of the meeting. She participated in a conference call in Santa Fe on the previous Wednesday. She learned that a two-day workshop will be held in March. Mr. Long commented that the workshops will focus on how the partners can better work together and on what the roles of the partners are.

Annual Meeting Plans, 75th anniversary of CPSWCD – September 2016:

The chairman asked the board members for ideas for the 2016 annual meeting.

Mr. Melaragno said that he has started a review of the district's records. He noted the first meeting in Gran Quivira held on December 8, 1941. He also described equipment that the board wanted to buy, namely "fresnos" which the board wanted to rent to community members for one dollar a day. He mentioned the long time service of five past board members, only two of whom served longer than Brian Greene, E.R. Bagley (48 years) and J.W Anglin (36 or 37 years). He suggested that the board recognize Brian Greene's service on the board. The district manager has already been looking for a token of the board's appreciation.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager is still working on this program.

NEWBUSINESS:**Review Mileage Rates:**

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to accept the mileage rates for 2016. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous

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

Mr. Shovelin said the coalition board will meet on December 17 in Taos. The district manager said Jose Varela López had contacted Trudy Healy so that the board can present her with a print in appreciation of her support of NMCCD. The district manager met with Representative McQueen to answer his questions as to why there are two soil and water conservation associations. She explained the problems that the soil and water conservations districts had with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts.

South Central Mountain RC&D and the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The chairman announced the district's representatives to both the South Central Mountain RC&D and the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee will be appointed next month.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**OTHER:**

The district manager said that more than double the usual participants attended the cattle growers association meeting.

George Long described a meeting that he had with a representative of the New Mexico Mesa (Math, Engineering, Science and Achievement) organization. This organization focuses on getting internships for high school and college students in the engineering field. He explained the importance of getting students involved in interfaces with wild lands, out of the urban environment into the rural environment, so that they can understand what is involved in the various problems that can come up in the field. He wants to work on getting students to learn about what happens in the environment that the Forest Service is involved with. How can the math and science be applied to problems in the landscape to achieve objectives when the variables are so unstable? He asked the board to consider opportunities that can be provided to the students in situations over which the board has authority. The chairman said that younger people need to be encouraged to get involved with organizations like the Claunch-Pinto board.

Mr. Lujan said that he had recommendations concerning RCPP, one of which is to look at more than brush management and forest stand improvement. The rules of EQIP have to be followed. He made recommendations about how funds should be distributed to the NRCS offices. The district manager related problems involved concerning communication and issues with what requirements had to be met. She said that funding needs to be distributed evenly across the board to soil and water conservation districts. Mr. Lujan and the district manager summarized problems with the RCPP program and how to address them. This past year was a big learning experience. The district manager described efforts that were made to involve participants projects in the RCPP.

The district manager praised Mr. Lujan for taking a team of high school students from the Estancia Future Farmers of America to Denver to a national competition. She said that he has been working with the students on a weekly basis to prepare them for the competition.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Mr. Candelaria said that he attended several meetings. One of them was the Socorro County Commission meeting regarding an ordinance to release grey wolves in Socorro county. He said that he opposed the ordinance because most of his constituents, farmers and ranchers, opposed the rule because losing even one or two cows affects their livelihood for the year. He also attended a meeting on November 21 at the Spanish Cultural Center in Albuquerque of the Congreso de la Acequia. He learned about the efforts of a group that tries to involved youth in organic farming. He also talked about speaking at this meeting on the attempts to keep the water in the Estancia Basin.

The district manager reported she and Cody Stropki attended to Water Trust Board meeting where she gave two three-minute presentations on the Estancia Basin project and on the Greater Rio Grande project. There were questions concerning the Estancia Basin monitoring project.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 8, 2016 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.