



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 9 2015**

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

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Cassie Caster
Carole Glade, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
Larry Gomez, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service
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 8:20 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 as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Remove from the agenda: "District Manager's Salary" under number 3, Other Financial Matters.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from December 7, 2014 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On the top of page 5 under Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC), change "last month" to "in October." Also on page 5 at the bottom of the page in the sentence beginning "Mr. Lovato," add "of the State Department of Transportation" after "Javier Martinez" and add "state" before "highways." Mr. Shovelin asked about his request reported in the minutes for a resolution to be placed on the January agenda regarding the Cibola National Forest Plan

Revision and Potential Wilderness. The district manager explained why a resolution wasn't included as an agenda item.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of December with accounts payable for January. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. As the board secretary -- treasurer, Jerry Melaragno presented an unofficial summary of the treasurer's report, drawing attention to the summary of the district's expenses and revenue. He explained differences between his report and the treasurer's report.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. Discussion took place on number 3: Brent Van Dyke seeks 1st Vice Presidency with The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). The question was raised as to whether public funds could be contributed for the sponsorship requested. Item number six was also discussed: Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) Registration. The district manager will register for the CPO certification program. Kim Kostelnik stressed the importance of district attendance at the Southwest Quay SWCD NEPA Commenting Workshop. The district manager will attend with Kaisa Jones. The district manager mentioned that information on the supervisor election is in the board packets under new business. She submitted all required information on time. The election will take place at two locations, at the district building and at the village building in Corona.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan presented the NRCS report. In December, the end of the calendar year, he has to make modifications to contracts that are not in compliance or not on schedule or if necessary write up non-compliance reports. All Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments were made to producers who wanted to be paid in 2014. Payments to producers who wanted to be paid in 2015 are in progress. He said that team 5 has the most CSP contracts in the state and the most renewal contracts. CSP funds for 2015 have been cut by 25%, but New Mexico should not be affected because of the amount of funding allocated to the state. Mr. Lujan reported on a client gateway for producers and explained how it can be used. All existing contracts have to be entered into this data management system. Mr. Lujan has been appointed the acting district conservationist for the next 60 days or until someone is hired. He explained what is involved in entering information in the client gateway system for the team. Fund accounts have been created for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The amount of allocations is not yet known. Deadline for EQIP applications is January 16 for 2015. All unfunded applications from last year have been deferred to 2015. The Mountainair office has 27 applications. The process for receiving funds is not yet known. All questions concerning CSP or EQIP should be referred to Mr. Lujan.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board member's packets.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets. The district manager disseminated a water supply forecast for New Mexico that reflects conditions as of January 1, 2015 and "assumes near to below normal precipitation through the rest of the winter and into the spring." She reported that a television weather report said that New Mexico is still experiencing drought conditions. She also reported on a Water Trust Board "Notice of Public Hearings to Consider Proposed Amendments to the Regulations

for Review and Eligibility of Proposed Water Projects.” She will review the proposed amendments and will submit comments from the district if needed.

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.

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 prepared three reimbursements for the Water Trust Board grants and one reimbursement for the State Forestry grant.

The district has been notified by the Water Trust Board that the GRGWA and the EBWHRM pre-proposals have been approved, and we can now start the phase II proposal. Phase II has to be submitted by April 13, 2015. Necessary approval forms have been submitted to the Office of the State Engineer.

At a meeting of the EBWHM “core

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

She prepared three contracts for approved contractors for the GRGWA projects.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

No report.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Ojo Peak Restoration:

US Forest Service closed the forest on Monday, January 5, 2015.

Romero Wood, LLC:

Pablo and Marcus Romero have 20 acres completed on their portion of the grant.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

No report.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

Approximately 27 acres have been thinned. 4 acres of slash has been chipped. The district issues wood permits every weekend.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The full proposal was submitted on October 2, 2014. NRCS has extended the project review deadline to January 15th before making an official announcement concerning the projects that will be approved for funding. The district manager and José Varela López, Santa Fe - Pojoaque SWCD met with Cliff Sánchez, ASTC/Programs for NRCS and Steve Kadas, North Area Conservationist, concerning the RCPP. Mr. Sánchez gave an overview of the technical fees NRCS will be using for the project. We also discussed submitting a second year proposal and what the criteria might be for that second year proposal. Mr. Sánchez retired on December 31, 2014. Steve Kadas attended the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring “CORE” Steering Committee meeting on January 6, 2015 At the January 6 meeting of the EBWHRM, it was decided to hold a joint meeting of the EBWRM and the GRGWA concerning the RCPP on January 29 at the Edgewood district office. NRCS will be represented at the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Building – Capital Outlay:

Contract with Mike Valdez: At the last board meeting, the district manager suggested that someone should be hired to be on call in case repairs or upkeep to the building are needed. She met with Mike Valdez who agreed to be available. If the board agrees to hire Mr. Valdez, he will also seek bids for the projects to be done with capital outlay funds, or he will do the work himself. Costs were discussed and how they will be offset. The district manager described a shop building that could be built with additional capital outlay funds and how much it might cost. Discussion occurred on how much funding should be requested and on putting up a Conex storage building in addition to a shop. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to write two separate contracts, a renewable one-year professional service contract for repairs and upkeep on the building and a separate contract to carry out the projects to be paid for with capital outlay funds. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. The district manager explained the process and timeline for carrying out the district's capital outlay projects. Mr. Shovelin asked for an update on snow removal. The district manager said that the janitor's son cleared all the recent snow from sidewalks. He will be paid for this work.

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

The district manager read a letter from the Chavez SWCD to Karen Budd-Falen stating that her services would no longer be needed in regard to the lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussion followed on what problems may have occurred.

Report on BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

The district manager said she has a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIS) and has a conference call with BLM representatives on January 21.

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

The district manager reminded the board that she sent a letter to the BLM requesting cooperating agency status in November and has received no response. The comment period on additional wilderness lands in the inventory has been extended.

Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization:

The district manager has not yet met with Robin Beatty because of the holidays, but a meeting is planned.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 05 – 2015 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Estancia Basin Project:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved approval of Resolution No. 05 – 2015. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

Resolution No. 06 – 2015 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Greater Rio Grande Riparian Restoration Project.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved approval of Resolution No. 05 – 2015. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager said that polling places for supervisor elections include the board room in the district's building and the Village Hall in Corona if needed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the polling places. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

Carole Glade, the new interim executive director of NMCCD was introduced. Ms. Glade talked about her background in rural Ohio and in project management. She is learning about the issues of the members of the NMCCD. She disseminated a draft brochure, which she produced. The purpose is to provide knowledge to the districts and to help with land use plans. She thanked board members for their service to the community.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene said that a meeting took place December 18 in Ruidoso. The urban forester alerted him to a prescribed burn association in New Mexico. Kim Kostelnik commented on the association. Mr. Greene suggested that the board invite the urban forester to a board meeting in February or March to provide information on prescribed burns.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The EBWPC held a meeting on December 18. Mr. Greene was unable to attend due to illness.

Arizona Water Settlement:

Dan Williams attended a well attended meeting in Albuquerque. The group is on hold because a suit is in progress because of an alleged violation of the open meetings act. The issue concerns damming the Gila River, the last wild river in New Mexico. Kim Kostelnik spoke of other potential suits about diverting the Gila River. The intention of the diversion is to provide water to southwest New Mexico.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**OTHER:**Land Use Plan – Kim Kostelnik

Ms. Kostelnik introduced the plan. She said that the copy which she disseminated was a first go around on the plan. The document is to contain the district's policies regarding land use. Board members will decide what should be in the plan. They will read, discuss, and decide on the direction of the plan. The theme of the plan will reflect the ranching/ agriculture base of the district. Ms. Kostelnik covered information in sub-categories of the four main sections of the plan: 1.1.0 the Introduction, 1.2.0 the Primary Planning Guidance, 1.3.0 the Purpose, Custom and Culture, and Goals, and 1.4.0 the Primary Planning Guidance and Directives. She stressed the fact that the district is a government agency and not the general public. This document is intended to educate state and federal government on the role of the district as a government entity. She emphasized that the plan belongs to the district and will reflect what board members want in it. She is providing a framework to work from. The next meeting on the land use plan will be a working session. Mr. Melaragno suggested scheduling a separate meeting for this purpose. The completed plan will be published with four county clerks and in records and archives so that there will be no doubt that the document is legal. The district manager asked how long board members need to review the plan. Ms. Kostelnik requested that the working meeting be held during the beginning of March -- Wednesday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. is set for the meeting date and time. Mr. Melaragno suggested that Kaisa Jones attend the meeting since she attended the workshop on land use plans.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Soil and Water Conservation Day – February 12, 2015

Ag Fest – February 17, 2015

Appointment of Election Superintendent

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 6, 2015 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 10:30 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.