



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2015**

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
Larry Gomez, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Frank Luna, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Katheryn Taylor, district volunteer
Jim Wanstall, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

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:** 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 January 9, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes as read. Jerry Melaragno 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 January with accounts payable for February. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention. The possibility was discussed of

taking the chippers to a Vermeer mechanic in Macintosh, which would save time and money and would be safer, too. The district manager explained costs associated with the Mountainair gymkhana, an outreach effort. She noted the cost of producing and mailing the newsletter and possible savings that could be effected by emailing some editions and by spending less money on printing. She explained the lease amounts from NRCS. The expense of the monitoring projects and the importance of attracting regional attention because of positive results of monitoring was discussed. 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:

A copy of the audit is included in the board packets. No issues were reported in the audit.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Wanstall commented on several items. He pointed out dates in the election cycle beginning in March. He then referred to the discussion reported in the minutes of the last board meeting that took place on the item 3 in his January report entitled: "Brent Van Dyke seeks 1st Vice Presidency with The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)." In January the question was raised as to whether public funds could be contributed for the sponsorship requested. Mr. Wanstall said that since sponsorships supporting the New Mexico Expo booth directly support the mission of the soil and water conservation districts, public funds can be spent for this purpose. He also explained that no bias exists for or against either the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) or the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD). Next he mentioned item number 4 "Chief Procurement Officer Registration." He talked about attempts to change the certification requirements, but he said that there is no quick fix. Regarding number five, "NMDA Hosting Supervisor Election Training," he said that board members can attend. The district manager will find out if the district's election superintendent can attend. Regarding item number eight, "Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature 2014," the date is February 12. Mr. Wanstall said that space for the NMCCD will be available. Number nine announces a workshop "Commenting on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents," to be held on February 20 in the Tucumcari Convention Center. Mr. Wanstall said that the workshop will present interesting information and is open to anyone. The district manager will attend with Kaisa Jones. Next, Mr. Wanstall pointed out the date for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission on February 12 at 2:00 pm at the County Extension Office in Santa Fe. He also said that the Water Quality and Conservation Grant Program available from the commission may be a source of funds for small projects. Regarding number 16, he said that he wrote the comments on eradicating feral hogs. A discussion followed on whether feral hogs have been seen in the area and on a new strategy to eliminate the hogs.

Field Office Report:

The written NRCS Field Office Report is included in the board packets. Kenneth Lujan elaborated on the report. Regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), he said that the initial allocation is for \$250,000, about the same as last year. There are 14 active contracts and 25 applications for FY 2015. The allocation can pay for three contracts. Perhaps Brandon Bishop, the new District Conservationist for Team 5, will request more money. Regarding the Conservation Stewardship program (CSP), There are three new applications. The deadline to apply is not known yet, but there is a mandatory meeting on February 10 where the dates may be announced. He asked board members to reach out to friends and neighbors to encourage them to apply. He described the renewal process that will be required in the future. There will be a meeting of Team 5 on February 12 in Mountainair to review programs. April Luna has been working by herself and is doing a good job. Mr. Lujan went to an engineering meeting recently. His office is on time and up to date on NRCS engineering. Mr. Lujan expressed his appreciation for the snow removal from the driveways, parking lots and the sidewalks.

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 bill proposed by State Representative Mathew McQueen and co-sponsored by Senator Griego. The bill provides protection to real property owners against eminent domain.

Mr. Candelaria reported on a presentation at a meeting of the American Land Council. The presentation concerned getting better access to federal lands and transferring federal land to local stewardship. He suggested that issues raised in this presentation are important to follow. The district manager will forward emails which she receives to board members.

The district manager reported on House Bill 157 sponsored by Representative McCamley. She disseminated a fiscal impact report on the bill. She explained the substance of the bill and the problems with the bill. She wrote a statement for the NMCCD and for the district opposing the bill because of its potential impact on funding.

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):Asset Management Plan:

Next month, the district manager will present a resolution on an asset management plan for board approval, and she will ask for authorization to apply for funds from the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to pay for the development of the plan. Funds are available from the NMFA up to \$50,000. An asset management plan is a requirement for a Water Trust Board application this year and will give the district the opportunity to create a plan for repairs and improvements to its assets.

Regarding the GRGWA, Boss Reclamation is making rapid progress on projects and is doing a good job. The district manager will be meeting with Jasmine Nangi on Tuesday to find out what she wants done on a project in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District property in the Valencia SWCD. They will also discuss how to resolve a problem with a contractor.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**Romero Wood, LLC:**

It has been too muddy for work to proceed on that CFRP project.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

It has been decided not to allow trailers, except for those of the Knights of Columbus, the VFW and the American Legion on the site because of issues that have come up. Discussion followed on the problems that have occurred. The funds generated will go to conservation projects.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The copy of the draft statement of work is in the board packets. The district manager will meet with NRCS on Tuesday. All required paperwork is due to NRCS on February 27. The amount of the award is 2.4 million dollars. NRCS will take 27 % for their technical assistance. The district will receive 10% for technical assistance. A meeting was held in Edgewood last Tuesday with 41 contacts to start up the grant. The technical committee for the grant will meet on Feb. 11 to discuss various required practices.

Then this information will go to the EBWHRM “Core” committee and the GRGWA for their approval and then there will be a sign up period.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Building – Capital Outlay:

The district manager reported that Mike Valdez is getting bids on the district’s projects. She will bring them to the next meeting.

Report on BLM – CO2 Pipeline:

Kinder Morgan withdrew its application from BLM, which was set to issue its draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in March. The reason that was given was the low price of oil. If the company reapplies, the process will have to begin completely over. Discussion followed on what it takes to make comments on the NEPA process and an EIS, Matthew McQueen’s bill on eminent domain, the Sun Zia project and the fact that the district was not a cooperating agency with BLM on that proposal.

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

Notice of Intent to Begin NEPA Process on Forest Plan for Cibola:

The district manager was notified that the notice of intent will be published in the “Federal Register.” She has been asked to coordinate a meeting with cooperating agencies in April.

Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization:

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

Supervisor Elections:

Approval of Election Superintendent Marion Riley:

The district manager said that the county clerk suggested Marion Riley for the position of election superintendent. She agreed to serve in that role. Ms. Riley is a municipal judge in Mountainair.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Marion Riley as the election superintendent. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Mateo Page, who is the magistrate judge for Torrance County, will be the elected official on the district’s canvassing board.

Land Use Plan:

Special Meeting – March 11, 2015:

The district manager reminded the board of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None reported.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The NMCCD annual meeting was cancelled because several of the board members couldn’t attend. The meeting will be rescheduled, probably after the legislative session ends.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held about two weeks ago. A new board member, Jackie Powell, attended. Sources of funding were discussed. Mr. Greene attended a meeting several months ago where the new director of Game and Fish gave a presentation during which she stated that she had funding and was looking for new partners and non-traditional partners. Mr. Greene contacted her, and she will meet with South Central on February 17 to discuss how the RC&Ds can partner with Game and Fish. She told Mr. Greene that she is looking for projects of 400,000 to 500,000 acres. South Central is looking at projects for wildlife habitat enhancement. The projects would be similar to EQIP. The requirement for ten-year

duration of the contracts may be a deterrent to getting ranchers to participate. The funding is available to any government entity or non-government organization (NGO).

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Greene said that the EBWPC will hold a meeting on February 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Estancia. It will be the first public meeting on the Estancia Basin Regional Water Plan.

Arizona Water Settlement:

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Announcements:

Soil and Water Conservation Day – February 12, 2015

Ag Fest – February 17, 2015 at the Sweeney Center in Santa Fe.

Land Use Plan -- Special Meeting on March 11, 2015

Plan for Next Meeting:

Resolutions for Water Trust Board Proposals

Resolution for an Asset Management Plan

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.