



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
March 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  
Katheryn Taylor, district volunteer  
Mike Valdez, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District

**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:** William Caster 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 February 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 February with accounts payable for March. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

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

#### **Field Office Report:**

The written NRCS Field Office Report is included in the board packets. Kenneth Lujan said that he will continue as the acting district conservationist for Team 5 for another two weeks. Brandon Bishop, the new district conservationist will begin on March 23. He will be stationed at the Estancia field office.

#### **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 received a letter from the forest service with a draft agreement of cooperating agency status. The district manager and Dan Williams will represent the district. She will be the lead.

### **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 prepared nine reimbursements for the Water Trust Board grants.

The district is working on Phase II of the Water Trust Board proposals which have to be submitted by April 13, 2015.

Work is finishing on time on the GRGWA projects in the Santa Fe – Pojoaque SWCD, Pueblo of Sandia and Valencia SWCD.

#### **New Mexico Association of Counties:**

The New Mexico Association of Counties has advertised a request for proposals. The district is preparing two proposals – one proposal would be for information/education concerning fire prevention; the second proposal would be to update the CWPPs for the district and Torrance County. Updating the CWPPs is important because CWPPs tie to grant proposals mentioned above.

#### **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**

No report.

#### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

##### **Romero Wood, LLC:**

Pablo and Marcus Romero have 20 acres completed on their portion of the grant. The district manager will meet with Marcus Romero in the next two weeks.

**Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

An additional \$200,000 will be added to this participating agreement for a hazardous fuel reduction project in the Zuni. The district is working with the Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo Natural Resource departments to get the match for the project. The district will be contracting with Alamo Navajo for this project.

**Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:**

The district will have a final wood sale during the weekend of March 13 and 14. The district will chip approximately 50 acres on this project over the next two weeks.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**

The district has met with NRCS personnel twice in the last month to work on the agreement between the district and NRCS. The district also met with the technical committee for this project to submit recommendations for the RCPP implementation. The technical committee is composed of New Mexico Environment Department, EMNRD – Forestry Division, US Forest Service, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico Game and Fish and the Placitas Group, Inc. The technical committee's revised recommendations will be submitted to NRCS today for approval. The technical committee suggested that CPSWCD submit a request to NRCS to take only 10 – 15% technical fees for the project implementation. The district manager will initiate negotiations today with board approval. Discussion followed on appropriate technical fees. Mr. Lujan suggested that care should be taken because how much money the work will require is not known. He said that statewide, there is a shortage of personnel and some offices are feeling overwhelmed and will need to be encouraged to participate in the RCPP. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the district manager to negotiate the technical fees with NRCS. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The district manager will designate Vern Kohler as the technical contact for the district. The district manager's name will be submitted as the administrative contact. SWCA will also provide technical assistance.

Hopefully, all funding will be obligated by the end of September, 2015.

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

Mike Valdez distributed an estimate of costs for district projects. He suggested that the board rethink its priorities for the district's projects due to winter weather and other factors. He said that work on the parking lot in front of the building should become the first priority. He suggested pouring a concrete pad large enough for 20 cars with curbing and sidewalks. Because of the increased costs for this project, installing a water catchment system would have to be put on hold. The other projects could go forward – lighting at the front entrance, re-graveling the entry and the road, attic ventilator(s), signage and a gutter system. He also discussed water flow from the upper parking lot and correcting it with a swale to move the water to the west. There are other drainage issues that also need to be corrected. The costs for the projects would not exceed the original estimate for the projects without the water catchment system. The district manager said that capital outlay funds were requested for furniture and equipment that will have to be spent on the parking lot project. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept Mr. Valdez' cost estimates for revised priorities. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:****Notice of Intent to Begin NEPA Process on Forest Plan for Cibola:**

The forest service will hold a meeting with cooperating agencies on April 8.

**Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization:**

The district manager has not yet met with Robin Beatty.

## **Supervisor Elections:**

### Appointment of a Canvassing Board:

The canvassing board consists of an elected official, a district board supervisor, and a land owner. The district manager said that Mathew Page, the Torrance county magistrate judge, will serve as the elected official and Richard Shovelin will serve as the board supervisor. Discussion followed on possible candidates to serve as the land owner.

## **Land Use Plan:**

### Special Meeting – March 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m:

The district manager reminded the board of the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Mill Levy Resolution No. 07-2015:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 07 – 2015. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato -- yea.

### **Resolution No. 08-2015 – Approving Submission of a Completed Application to the Water Trust Board for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 08 – 2015. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato -- yea.

### **Resolution No. 09 – 2015 -- Approving Submission of a Completed Application to the Water Trust Board for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance Project:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve Resolution No. 09 – 2015. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato -- yea.

### **Resolution No. 10 – 2015 – Authorizing and Approving Submission of a Completed Application for Financial Assistance and Project Approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority:**

The district manager said that the grant is to fund the development of an asset management plan for the district and what that entails.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the motion. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

### **Authorization to Sign the Rio Grande Water Fund Charter:**

Kim Kostelnik explained what the Rio Grande Water Fund Charter is and how the district should be involved. She is asking for the board to become a signatory to provide a voice for SWCDs and to support the partnership. She is on the group's technical committee. One of the supervisors will be designated to attend meetings. A discussion followed on the efficacy of controlled burns. The issue is to address the over grown condition of the water sheds. The Rio Grande Watershed Alliance will be involved.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the board chairman to sign the Rio Grande Water Fund Charter. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – ye; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Brian Greene – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

### **Appoint a Budget Committee:**

Richard Shovelin, Jerry Melaragno, and William Caster will serve on the district budget committee.

**Move Next Board Meeting to April 10, 2015:**

The next board meeting will be moved from April 3 to April 10 because April 3 is Good Friday.

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

The NMCCD had booths at the Soil and Water Conservation Day and at Ag Fest. The district manager said that a lot of information was disseminated. A board meeting will be held sometime in April at the Land Office. The executive director attended the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts' conference in New Orleans.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Mr. Greene reported that the February meeting was cancelled and a meeting is scheduled for March 26.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

Mr. Greene said that the state engineer held an informational meeting regarding the new regional water planning process on February 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Estancia. The meeting was held because The State Engineer and Interstate Streams Commission has hired budget consultants to do the work involved in getting regional planning groups on board with the Estancia Basin Regional Water Plan. What needs to be done to develop a plan was discussed, and a time line was provided. One thing that needs to be done is to establish a board to hold public meetings and to start writing a plan. This board must include all the stake holders, including environmental representation. Soil and water conservation districts will not be able to represent both the SWCDs and environmental communities. Mr. Greene asked board members to suggest possible candidates in the Estancia Basin. Discussion followed on appropriate representatives. A woman was introduced who is responsible for developing demographics for Torrance County. Decreases in population in the county was discussed. Mr. Greene stated that he refuted an implication that ranchers only stayed in business because of government financial support.

**Arizona Water Settlement:**

No report.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:****OTHER:**

Mr. Candelaria mentioned a county project to remove some trees on the Gran Quivira road north of Corona to improve safety conditions. He suggested doing a joint project with the district.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**Announcements:

The State Land Office will hold a public meeting in Socorro on March 11 at the former National Guard Armory regarding the Sun Zia Project.

The New Mexico Hub of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network will hold a Peer-Learning Workshop on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Albuquerque Fire Department Training Center in Albuquerque.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

A special meeting on the Land Use Plan will be held on March 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

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

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.