



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 5, 2015**

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

Absentees: Brian Greene
Jerry Melaragno

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Larry Gomez, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Danny Goodson, USDA -- NRCS
David W. King, NM Coalition of Conservation Districts, (NMCCD)
Karen Lessard, US Forest Service
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Ericka Luna, Forest Service
Frank Luna, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District
Cody Stropki, SWCA environmental consultant
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. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from March 31, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

(Note that the district's May meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.)

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of March with accounts payable for April.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for March and pay the accounts payable for April. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of April with accounts payable for May.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for April and pay the accounts payable for May. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager reported that she and Jerry Melaragno reviewed the budget. She then commented on certain line items: personnel salary items, capital outlay, anticipated income from federal and state grants, and the soil and water conservation grant and the audit.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. Richard Shovelin asked about the district's conformity with several deadlines. The district manager responded that the district was meeting the deadlines on time.

Field Office Report:

The written NRCS Field Office Report is included in the board packets. April Luna stated that the deadline for submitting applications for the Regional Conservation partnership Program (RCPP) is June 19. She also said that she would attend a brush and weed control workshop on June 30 in Corona at the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board member's packets. The district manager attended the training for chief procurement officers, which she passed with an "A."

She also announced that the office has received several requests for pollinator flowers, so she is trying to procure seeds to disseminate at different venues.

A representative from the Holistic Management Institute contacted the district manager to ask the district to sponsor a workshop in Corona at the Rainey Ranch in August. After discussing several problems with a previous workshop, the district manager agreed to contribute \$300 to sponsoring the workshop. The district's logo will appear on published material. The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts will also be a sponsor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets. The district manager mentioned a letter from the environment department but said there was nothing in the report that pertained to Torrance County.

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 received a call from Angela Quintana at the Water Trust Board notifying her that the Estancia Basin project was not funded; however, the Greater Rio Grande project was funded. The district manager attended a subsequent meeting of the WTB and received a further explanation of the

WTB's decisions on funding. The Board was trying to distribute funds more broadly among entities with high ranking projects. The Rio Grande project scored higher this year than the Estancia Basin project, so it was funded. It was explained that \$8 million is pending at the Board of Finance, and an audit of WTB funds is being conducted because some entities didn't use their funds. Three projects may receive money when the funds are released, perhaps at the end of July, so it is possible that the Estancia Basin project may still be funded. Four capital outlay requests are to be funded with WTB money.

Asset Management Plan

Asset Management Plans are required when proposals are submitted to the WTB. Claunch-Pinto's Asset Management plan will help the district plan for needed repairs to equipment, to vehicles and to the building. The district can apply for a grant for up to \$50,000 from the New Mexico Finance Authority to pay for the development of the Asset Management Plan. The district manager described quotes from two contractors to develop the district's plan. A third contractor didn't respond. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve a contract with WH Pacific to submit an application for the grant and to develop an Asset Management Plan pending funding. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

A meeting was held of the GRGWA at which approval was given to put out an RFP for approximately \$1 million dollars in projects. The NM Forest and Restoration and Watershed Institute with Highlands University is doing the monitoring.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

No report.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

The Romeros are approximately half finished with the project for the first year. They hope to finish thinning 223 acres this year. The total three-year grant is for over 700 acres. Last year the Romeros sold out of wood. They are now shrink wrapping wood to sell to a vendor in Texas that then sells to many businesses in the west.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The district is working with the Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo Natural Resource Department on the project. The district will be contracting with Alamo Navajo for this project in the Mount Taylor district.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

Chipping is being completed on this project. However, the way the slash was piled is delaying the chipping because the slash wasn't piled to facilitate chipping. Hopefully, the slash will be piled in windrows in the future. Karen Lessard explained that the fire danger is rated as medium but will come back to high if June weather is typical. Hopefully, monsoons will come back in July and mitigate fire danger.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The deadline for application is June 19. The district manager is meeting with personnel in the Santa Fe office to work on some thinning projects. She mentioned how much money is being paid for thinning. She is working with José Varela López to figure out how to reduce the disparity between rates of pay for thinning in order to encourage completion of thinning projects. The district's ranking criteria has not yet been approved.

Ojo Peak:

Representatives of the land grant visited the Ojo Peak project with the district manager and LeRoy Candelaria to determine how much wood is left. The district manager will meet with Karen Lessard to develop a plan for the wood.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Building – Capital Outlay, driveway and parking area:**

The work on the parking area is complete. The ventilator fan was installed. The capital outlay funds have been spent, the invoices have been submitted and the reimbursements have been received.

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

The forest plan is in process. The district manager is the lead on the landscape areas in the Mountainair Ranger District. Four soil and water districts are the leads on the plan. The landscape planning group will meet on June 17. Rosemary Romero will facilitate the meeting. The Valencia, Edgewood, East Tarrance districts are involved as well as Punta de Agua, Manzano, Torreon, Chililli, Tomé, and Isleta. Hopefully, public meetings will begin in mid July.

Land Use Plan, approval for signature:

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the land use plan. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Chairman Lovato thanked everyone who worked on the plan and said that it required a lot of work.

NEW BUSINESS:**Los Lunas Plant Materials Center – Danny Goodson:**

Mr. Goodson is located in Los Lunas and asked to familiarize the board with the work of the plant materials program. There are 25 locations in the United States, which are the vegetative arm of NRCS and do all sorts of reclamation work using native plants. The Center has provided the Southwest with plant solutions for over 70 years, developing new vegetative methods for improving rangeland, native landscaping, riparian restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, native shrub transplanting, and mine reclamation. The Los Lunas Plant Materials Center has developed over 30 improved conservation plants including varieties of sideoats grama, alkali sacaton, blue grama, bottlebrush squirreltail, New Mexico olive, and Rocky Mountain narrowleaf penstemon. Mr. Goodson brought materials to share with the board. The program has 20 years of experience with riparian areas, and Mr. Goodson brought two plants to demonstrate new technologies which have been developed concerning long stem transplant deep planting. The program is working with the Lesser Prairie Chicken project to establish plants in its areas. The Center is also getting ready to establish a cover crop project to reestablish native plants in cropland that is being taken out of use. He stated that the Center wished to establish partnerships throughout the state. He said that perhaps he could assist in creating some demonstration projects on the district's property, especially with pollinators. The Center is happy to provide technical assistance, too.

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan:

The board reviewed the 2016 plan and updated it for 2017. The plan is due by June 15.

ID 28699 "New CPSWCD Shop Building" request for \$120,000 was reduced to \$60,000.

ID 29388 "Security System and Lights" request for \$1000 was raised to \$2000.

ID 20553 "4-wheel Drive Vehicle" request for \$40,000 was moved to 2018.

ID 20380 "Equipment-Skid Steer/Tractor" request for \$30,000 was moved to 2018.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the 2017 – 2021 plan, moving all items to one year into the future. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Appointed Supervisors:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the appointments of Richard Shovelin, board position No. 6 and Dan Williams, board position No. 7. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 11 – 2015 – FY2016 Budget

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 11 – 2015. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Dan Williams – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato -- yea.

Resolution No. 12 – 2015 – (ICIP) FY 2017 – 2021:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 12 – 2015. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

NMCCD Dues:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to pay the NMCCD dues for 2015 and 2016. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said that the NMCCD annual meeting will be held on July 30 in Edgewood despite a conflict in dates with a regional meeting of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. A presenter will speak about how to interact with federal agencies in order to be heard on important issues. Tom Dixon from the Department of Finance will also give a presentation. Danny Goodson from the USDA/NRCS Plant Materials Center has been invited to speak as well as a presenter from New Mexico Edge. Lunch will be provided.

Mr. David King president of the NMCCD, said that their interim executive director has resigned and that funds will be directed to the district to help out with needed staffing to take up some of the work for the NMCCD.

Mr. King also commented on a move by county assessors to pull back on some agricultural status tax benefits. Some counties may join in a suit to ask the assessors to attend to recorded land use plans, which are extremely important. The land use plans also help to educate the public about such plans as the Forest Plan. He thanked the board and the district manager for supporting NMCCD on important issues.

The district manager said that the NMCCD is working with the New Mexico conservation employees on setting up a workshop in July at the Edgewood district office in Moriarty. Carole and Joe Glade will present a workshop on Excel. Next week the district manager is working with Ericka Luna to set up a meeting with regional forest representatives and David King, Aubrey Dunn, and José Varela Lopez.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The district manager said that she learned at a meeting in May that the EBWPC was planning to hold a public meeting on June 18 on their updated water plan, but she has not received any further information.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager displayed three leather notebooks that she had made to give to the district's three state representatives. She is also having a notebook made for the state senator. When she was at the Round House, she noted that one of the quilts on display was made by Donna Chilton Barnitz. It's called Abó Canyon Memories.

The district manager has set up a meeting with NM Game and Fish, José Varela Lopez, Cody Stropki and herself to discuss possible funding available from NM Game and Fish.

Mr. Goodson announced a field day to be held on August 12 and said that everyone is invited to participate.

The district manager announced that following the meeting, she would conduct a tour of some of the district's projects.

Karen Lessard said that prescribed burns will be held the following week depending on conditions. Board members are invited to watch a prescribed burn in progress.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 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.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.