



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 2015**

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Brandon Bishop, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Larry Gomez
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 8:05 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:** Jerry Melaragno 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 September 11, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Under **Welcome Attendees**, add: "in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001" following the word "silence."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September, 2015 with accounts payable for October. The district manager prepared a report on electric, gas and water bill payments during the past year. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for September and pay the accounts payable for October. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report. He explained that he changed the format of his report by putting expenditure figures in parentheses. His report provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture. He said that the district is paying out more for conservation than for anything else. In reality, virtually all of the expenses are related to work on conservation.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager pointed out the reports on annual costs for electricity

Letter from Department of Finance and Administration (DFA):

The district manager called attention to the letter from the DFA approving the FY2016 budget. She said that the board has to re-approve the FY2016 budget after receiving the letter.

Approve FY2016 Budget:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the FY2016 budget. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion passed. Vote was unanimous.

Letter from DFA – Approval of Budget Revision, Resolution No. 01 — 2016:

The district manager explained that she received an additional letter from the DFA approving the Budget Revision Resolution 01—2016 as amended. The board passed this revision to the resolution in August. The district manager had reduced the amount in inter-budgetary transfers from dues and board fees from \$700.00 to \$194.00. The letter from the DFA requires the board to review that amendment and concur with it.

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved concurrence with the amendment to Budget Revision, Resolution No. 01 – 2016. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets. Mr. Greene asked what the term "Plug-and-Spread treatments" means in number 7 -- 2015 Quivira Coalition. The district manager may go to the Quivira Coalition conference in November where she can find out what the term means.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's written report is included in board members' packets. He reported on working at the NRCS booth with Kenneth Lujan and their experiences with technology.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. She also reported on leaves that will be needed by Kaisa Jones and Vernon Kohler.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packet. The district manager mentioned that four board members will attend the Edgewood annual meeting this evening. She talked about the improvements that Mike Valdez has been working on there.

She reported on a social event which she attended thanking people who worked on watershed legislation. She also explained what the Rio Grande group is doing on behalf of watersheds. A copy of the district's letter to Elaine Kohrman regarding the concerns of the Chavezes is in the board packets. A copy is also included of the letter to Elaine Kohrman, Forest Supervisor, commenting on the second Phase Wilderness Inventory for the Mountainair Ranger District. A copy of the district comments on the Draft Water Project Fund Project Management Policies is also included. The district manager, with

Vernon Kohler, submitted comments on line on the Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The district manager is working with the county on this plan.

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):

The district manager has been completing the contracts for Claunch-Pinto and Edgewood SWCDs for the EBWHRM project funding. The new contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants for the monitoring portion of the EBWHRM have been approved and signed.

The GRGWA met on September 11, 2015 and approved contracts totaling \$553,077 for 252.8 acres of riparian restoration. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD workers have sprayed re-sprouts in Grants and Santa Fe the past two weeks. On October 1st the crew sprayed another 26.5 acres.

The district manager submitted a proposal for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) request for proposals through Energy Minerals Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). There is no report on the grant proposal.

The district manager submitted five reimbursement requests to NM Finance Authority for the EBWHRM and the GRGWA.

The district will submit two proposals to the Water Trust Board – one for the GRGWA project and one for the EBWHRM project.

New Mexico Association of Counties:

The district manager will advertise a "Request for Bids" for the update of the Torrance County and CPSWCD Community Wildfire Protections Plans. She will also advertise a "Request for Bids" for the education funding the district received.

Asset Management Plan:

The New Mexico Finance Authority has notified the district manager that representatives will go before the Water Trust Board on October 14 to ask for the Asset Management Plans to be waived for the watershed projects. The district manager has been discussing a plan with an engineer who thinks a plan can be developed for about \$16,000. The district manager thinks that the district needs a plan to prepare for the future. She recommends contracting with Forsgen Company to develop a plan only if a planning grant can be secured from the New Mexico Finance Authority.

Mr. Candelaria thanked the district manager for assisting the county in developing a re-leaf proposal for the county.

Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:

Since this group has disbanded, this item will be dropped from the report starting in November.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

Pablo Romero has continued to work to complete the acres for 2015. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD crew has completed 23 acres which the district was responsible for. Cody Stropki has emailed information on the presentations for the science and ag classes at Mountainair High School to the two teachers. The district manager gave the ag teacher information on the Envirothon

competition. Peter Vigil will be invited to talk to the two high school teachers and to the principal about the Envirothon completion.

New CFRP Proposals:

George Long, Acting District Ranger, has scheduled a meeting for Monday, October 5 to discuss "CFRP Out Year Planning for the Manzano Mountains."

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The district manager is working on an agreement with the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. for the Zuni project. All signatures will be obtained before the end of the month.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

Cody Stropki, SWCA Environmental Consultants is working on the one "coordinated resource management plan" needed in the North Central New Mexico Watershed Restoration project area. The district's pre-proposal has been selected for a full proposal which will be due November 10, 2015.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The ENMRD – Forestry Division Inmate Work Crew will start thinning on September 28, 2015. Wood permits will be issued during the last part of October. Discussion will take place during the November meeting on who should receive the permits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager received final signature pages and was notified that \$50,000 has been deposited in a New Mexico State University account. Mike Valdez will draw up plans for the shop building shell to present at the next board meeting.

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

The district manager said that a new round of meetings will begin soon and work will continue for two more years. Mr. Williams said that comments received will be categorized at the next meeting and another meeting is scheduled for October 15. In November there will be two meetings. A third phase follows this series of meetings.

Annual Meeting Plans:

The annual meeting will take place on October 14 in the community center. Speakers have been confirmed. Kerry Jones, a warning coordination meteorologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Weather Service and Joe Diaz, Chief Meteorologist at KOAT TV will make presentations. Cody Stropki will present on the Ojo Peak project. NRCS will make an annual report. The district has bought a portable public address system that can be set up anywhere.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager is still working on preparing the application.

NEW BUSINESS: 75th Anniversary of CPSWCD:

The annual meeting will be held in September in 2016. She wants to find a volunteer to review old records for district to find district milestones during its 75 year old history. Gail Jones compiled a history for the 50th anniversary, but the district manager needs to locate the report. Suggestions were made to create digital files of records and pictures. Many pictorial records exist that need to be categorized. Mr. Greene suggested that it would be interesting to see the evolution of types of projects that the district carried out. The district manager said that a lot of changes occurred in the configuration of the district that should also be included in a history.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said that the coalition is working on an MOU with the Forest Service to encourage the Forest Service to work with each soil and water conservation district in which forest service land is being included.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Greene said that no meeting was held the previous month.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Greene said a meeting will be held on the third Thursday in Moriarty. The district manager said that a burn workshop will be held on October 29 in Capitan at the county fairgrounds.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 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 9:15 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.