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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING November 6, 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 8:10 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 October 2, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster 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 October, 2015 with accounts payable for November. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report for October and pay the accounts payable for November. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report His report provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture. He explained what was included in the category 'Outreach.'

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the district's auditor will be in the office on November 12 and 13.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets. He highlighted several items applicable to the district. The board has to adopt an Open Meetings Act resolution to cover the upcoming calendar year.

Item number three announces the attorney general's trainings on the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act. The closest training is in Alamogordo on November 18th. Mr. Wanstall commented that the trainings were very informative.

Item number four concerns a half day pesticide applicators workshop in at the Albuquerque Garden Center on November 19th. The agenda is at the end of Mr. Wanstall's report.

Item number 10 the New Mexico Vegetation Management Association annual conference on November 18 and 19 may be of interest.

Item number 11 concerns meetings and comments on national forests in New Mexico. Lincoln National Forest is hosting public workshops during the first two weeks in November in Ruidoso, Carrizozo, Alamogordo, Mayhill and Carlsbad.

Item number 12, the Joint Stockmen's Convention will be held on December 3 -- 6 at the Marriott Pyramid North in Albuquerque.

Mr. Wanstall also commented on the definition of "waters of the west." The federal appeals court found that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency had overstepped their boundaries and that the rule was null and void. It was too far reaching and must be reconsidered. In addition, the rule on the prairie chicken was appealed to the federal court and it was found that the five-state plan was ignored, so a stay was ordered on that regulation, and the Fish and Wildlife Service was told to consider what was happening on the ground.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's written report is included in board members' packets. He reviewed the NRCS/Claunch-Pinto memo of understanding (MOU), which needs to be updated. The district manager pointed out that a copy of the MOU is in the front of board members' packets. She also emailed it to them.

Mr. Bishop then reviewed the NRCS Civil Rights Policy on non-discrimination and passed out a form on which to report the make-up of the board.

He mentioned the annual meeting of land grants with NRCS, FSA and State Forestry at UNM on Saturday.

He then reported on rainfall simulators and explained what they do. Mr. Greene saw a demonstration of the simulators and said that it is really dramatic to see the effect of cover on range land. He said that it is an outstanding tool. He recommends a demonstration for the board and thinks that the simulator can be used to do outreach. A discussion followed on what might be done.

Finally, he covered staff positions that are being vacated for different reasons and positions that need to be filled.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packet. The district manager mentioned that New Mexico First has its progress report on line. She can provide a copy. She explained what is contained in the report and said that the section on water was of special interest. She also has information on New Mexico First Regional Meetings on Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture. She said that it is important for board members to attend. The dates of the meetings are on page 3 in the Acequia newsletter that is included in the board packets. She then described what New Mexico First is. A discussion followed on the group's effectiveness.

The district manager reported on a letter that she received from St. Vincents de Paul thanking the district for the contribution of wood and the number of families which received the benefit.

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 said that both the EBWHRM project and GRGWA project are going forward. Boss Reclamation is working in the East Rio Arriba district and is almost finished. The land owner is extremely satisfied with the work being done.

A district crew is almost finished with spraying 186 acres of re-sprouts. The crew has sprayed from Valarde to Belen and over to Grants. The costs have averaged at \$69 an acre. The district manager received a letter thanking the district for spraying the re-sprouts.

The district manager distributed two notices of intent to apply for WTB funding, one for the GRGWA and one for the EBWHRM. The full proposals are due on the 23 of November.

She is still working with a contractor to work on an asset management plan. It isn't required, but it is prudent to complete a plan for the future.

There is \$500,000 in contracts for the GRGWA, which has been contracted. Work will continue all winter.

The district manager explained what is involved in working with the Environment Department.

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

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

Pablo Romero continues to work to complete the acres for 2015. The district manager explained why Romero lost a contract. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD crew has completed 23 acres which the district was responsible for. Codi Stropki made presentations at the local school to the science and ag classes. He also talked to the students about the Envirothon.

The district will submit proposals for planning in the Corona area and in Priest Canyon. The proposal for Priest Canyon is exciting because of the big horn sheep. Game and Fish are on board with both projects.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The district manager has signed an agreement with the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc. for the Zuni project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Claunch-Pinto will be responsible for all of the cultural clearances for the projects. NRCS will provide some technical assistance funds to help pay for the work. A coordinated resource management plan for forest service and private lands is being worked on out of the Grants office. NRCS has contracted all but \$70,000 for the RCPP. Work is in progress on the 2016 RCPP proposal. Several federal agencies will participate as partners and will provide letters to support the proposal.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager will meet with Sarah Woods, a regional park supervisor and Todd Haines from NM State Forestry today at 11:00 at the park. Hopefully, The ENMRD – Forestry Division Inmate Work Crew will start thinning on Monday. The district manager described how wood will be sold. Wood sales will be open to the public.

Grant with Soil and Water Conservation Commission:

Funds have been granted to present a workshop on water catchment both from buildings and for wildlife and cattle. Soil erosion would also be covered. The Edgewood district is interested in helping with the workshop. A mix of subdivision residents and ranchers would make up the audience. The

district may partner with the Edgewood district to apply for grant money for water catchment. Other sources for funding may exist.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

Mike Valdez distributed proposals for various options to construct a shell for the district's metal shop building. A discussion followed on the proposals. Mr. Valdez got several different bids from metal building manufacturers. Mr. Valdez will not serve as a contractor on the job but will supervise the construction of the building. One of the proposals was presented in phases to take into account the funds available. Options were discussed regarding what to do with the restrooms, whether to increase the size of the building, and possible stages of construction. The district manager explained the risks of delaying construction and funding options that should be considered at the end of the second quarter.

ACTION TAKEN: Leroy Candelaria moved to authorize the chairman to commit the district to continue with the construction of the building, taking into account the consensus of the board reached at this meeting. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

The district manager said that a letter from the CPSWCD, praised by Art Swenka, was discussed at a recent meeting in Edgewood. A Claunch-Pinto board discussion was held about whether to send the district's letter to congressional representatives at the present time. It was decided to delay sending it until a more appropriate time. The district manager praised Lacy LaVine of the NMDA who made extensive, careful comments on the forest plan revision. Mr. Williams stressed that individual comments matter.

Annual Meeting Plans, 75th anniversary of CPSWCD – September 2016:

The district manager will start Mr. Melaragno on a review of the historical documents in the next week or two.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager is still working on this program.

NEWBUSINESS:

Resolution No.05 –2016 Open Meetings Resolution:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2016. 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; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – yea.

Approval of 2016 Meeting Dates in 2016:

January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, August 5, September 9, October 7, November 4 and December 2.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the meeting dates for 2016. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 06 – 2016 WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

ACTION TAKEN: : Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2016. Brian Greene 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; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – yea.

Resolution No. 07 – 2016 – WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: Brian Greene moved to approve Resolution No. 07 – 2016. Jerry Melaragno 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; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin said that Ag Day in Las Cruces was very successful.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Greene said that no meeting was held last week, but he will attend the next meeting. He said that the New Mexico Association of RC&Ds held its annual meeting, which he attended. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss how to revitalize the organization. There remain only four of eight RC&Ds in the state. There was a long teleconference with the national representative in Washington D.C. The main concern was how to operate outside the borders of the RC&Ds. The other item of interest was the demonstration of the soil and rain water analysis. Mr. Greene said that new drought policies for insurance will be based on rainfall index, a change from the previous use of the vegetative index. He recommended that cattle producers look into the insurance coverage. He explained what was involved. Finally, radio interviews have been conducted locally with local producers and officials who are involved in NRCS programs, and an edited version will air on KOB.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Greene said the last meeting was cancelled, but he will attend the next scheduled meeting.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Greene announced that it was time for him to retire from the board after twenty plus years and has submitted a letter to that effect.

Mr. Williams described an informative meeting that he attended sponsored by the New Mexico Prescribed Burn Council in Capitan. He said that the meeting concerned legal aspects, liability aspects, state laws, smoke requirements and using fire for noxious weeds.

The district manager said that Lisa Lujan is helping out in the office two days a week. She said that Kaisa Jones has had a baby boy, and she described the challenges that Kaisa and the baby have faced. The district manager bought a present, which she will give to Kaisa when it seems to be a good time for Kaisa.

Vernon Kohler will have surgery on his ankle right away.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 4, 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 10:15 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.