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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 2016**

Supervisors Present:

Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
LeRoy Candelaria
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees:

Others Present:

Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer
Jay Turner, U.S. Forest Service

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:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from September 9, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. On page 1, delete LeRoy Candelaria from list of absentees. On page 3 under Forest Service Participating Agreement, change "knap weed" to "knapweed." On page 4 under Capital Outlay – shop building, change "used" to "accustomed." Under Cibola National Forest, insert a period between "permittees" and "She."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September, 2016 with accounts payable for October, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for September, 2016 and

pay the accounts payable for October, 2016. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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 that the revenue from sales consisted mostly of income from wood sales. He remarked that Revenue exceeded Expenses in the general fund for September because of reimbursements. The chairman praised the district manager for buying wood from the state land office and then selling it, resulting in revenue. He said that she goes above and beyond the call of duty trying to generate income for the district.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager asked the Financial Committee to meet to discuss possible services that the district could charge for and at the same time help land owners. She mentioned examples and discussion followed on including municipalities in the mil levy.

The district manager said that the district's auditor will be in the office in the afternoon following the board meeting to go over what the district manager will need to provide. Beginning on the following Tuesday, he will be auditing the books.

DOG HEAD FIRE AREA PARTICIPATING AGREEMENT:

Jay Turner announced a public meeting at the Tajique Community Center on October 13 at 6:00 p.m. to meet with members of the community, to roll out results of the investigation of the Dog Head fire, to assess the needs of the community to recover from the fire, and to address questions. Various partners that have been working with recovery, including the district manager, will attend, too.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's report is included in board members' packets.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's report was distributed to board members. April Luna attended the meeting in his place to answer questions.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. She added that she attended a workshop in Claunch on September 23 organized by Supervisor Larry Gomez and complimented Mr. Gomez on the effectiveness of the workshop. A discussion took place on the preponderance of snake weed this year and its benefits to the soil. Mr. Gomez said that the plant's taproot allows for deep water penetration and delivers nutrients to the soil.

The RCPP proposal was submitted on September 19.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets. The district manager announced that the Edgewood district will hold its annual meeting tonight at 6:00, and that district will recognize its 75th anniversary.

The district manager received information about SAM.gov. She said that she can help cooperators to get them reauthorized in 10 minutes for free. There are companies which are charging high fees to get cooperators reauthorized.

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)

WTB:

EBWHRM:

The district manager said that budget paperwork will be signed following the passage of Resolution No. 07 – 2017 for new funding. She is waiting for the work plan from New Mexico State Forestry. When this is signed, it will be a match for the EBWHRM project.

GRGWA:

The district manager submitted two proposals, but she had to write a letter requesting a waiver because \$525,000 remains to be spent from 2015 funds. She wrote in the waiver letter that by March 1st, 2017, all of the 2015 funds will be spent down.

She said that the GRGWA voted to contract a little over \$600,000 at their September 13th meeting, and there is a pending contract for \$113,000. Work is already being done on one contract. She described work in progress.

State Forestry:

The district manager said that the work plan is in the State Forestry legal department. When she receives the notice to proceed, contracting for 2016 EBWHRM funds will take place.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager said that she is still working with the Romeros on getting the work done. The district crew has been unavailable because of work on other projects.

New Proposals:

The district manager the two new CFRP proposals for NEPA projects with the US Forest Service were approved. A contract will be signed with SWCA to start NEPA work on the Corona and Capilla Peak project projects. She explained the location and the scope of the projects on Forest Service land and in Corona.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The participating agreement that lasted for five years beginning in 2011 ended on September 30. The district manager still has to complete the draw downs on it. She explained how the agreement came about.

Rehab Project for the Dog Head Fire Area:

She explained the extensive work the crew did by hand on the storm patrol.

Zuni Project:

All of the acreage on the Zuni project is complete and was done very satisfactorily, so she is very proud of that project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

SWCA is in the process of finishing the cultural clearances in the Grants area for the FY2015 funding cycle. The district manager described work that is being completed. She said that Vern Kohler and the district crew will be in that area on Tuesday spraying re-sprouts so he will be checking with the Mt. Taylor Ranger District and NRCS, so he can complete the pre-work photo monitoring on the RCPP projects in that area.

The district manager has just received the RCPP contract from NRCS for \$500,000. She will take the contracts to Albuquerque on Tuesday. A notice to proceed is forthcoming.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that she will use grant funding to do another 10-acre project on the Manzano State Park project. The purpose of the projects is to protect the village of Manzano.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager was told that FEMA and Homeland Security had a significant amount of money and that she could submit a proposal for hazardous fuel removal, so she is working on a proposal for \$100,000.

State Land Project:

The state land commissioner visited the chairman's project site to see the work there. He is advocating for masticating wood from a thinning project. A discussion followed on the pros and cons of masticating versus cutting up and selling the wood.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

A discussion took place on whether the district's funding might be cut. The district manager was asked to submit a memo to Representative McQueen explaining why the district didn't submit a severance tax questionnaire. She sent the memo to Representative McQueen and to Senator Barela.

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

The district manager coded comments on September 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22, at Forest Plan Revision meetings. Over 600 comments were submitted. She is waiting for notification of an upcoming conference call.

The district manager described an issue concerning the effect on private land if the forest service declares the Tajique watershed, which doesn't flow year round anymore, as a wild and scenic river. She has provided information to the landowner and submitted comments on the forest service preliminary draft plan.

75th anniversary of CPSWCD – November 10, 2016:

The district manager described progress on the meeting. She said that the regular meeting of the board will take place on November 4. Mr. Candelaria suggested that board members look for historical material and photos that the district manager could display at the meeting. She showed new fire posters to the board.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she and Codi Stropki expect to finish the application by the following Monday. The new worker may be on board by February.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 07 -- 2017 – WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

The district manager explained the purpose of the resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 07 -- 2017. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria -- yea.

Resolution No. 08 – 2017 WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 8 -- 2017. William Caster seconded the motion: Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams – yea; William Caster – yea; LeRoy Candelaria -- yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said the NMCCD will be represented at NMSU – NMDA Ag Day on October 22 in Las Cruces. The district manager is preparing for the district’s contribution to the booth.

South Central RC&D:

The next meeting will be held on October 27.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The next meeting will be held on October 13.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin reported on the NMDA Operations meeting that he and the chairman attended. He pointed out that a first draft of the meeting minutes should be available for public inspection on the district’s web site within 10 working days after a board meeting. The minutes must be clearly labeled as a draft subject to approval by the board at its next meeting. The chairman stated that the district manager does her best to keep the district in compliance with all state regulations.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 4, 2016 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 10:00 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.