



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 2, 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
Louis King, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Katheryn Taylor, 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. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from November 4, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. On page 2, first paragraph, replace "Richard Shovelin seconded the motion." with "Dan Williams seconded the motion."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of November, 2016 with accounts payable for December, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for November, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for December, 2016. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report which provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that she hasn't heard from the district's auditor, but since the report is due December 15 to the state auditor's office, she expects him to contact her for an exit interview soon. The district manager reported that the Financial Committee hasn't met yet to discuss possible services that the district could charge for and at the same time help land owners.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

Field Office Report:

Louis King, formerly of the Mountainair NRCS field office gave his report. He mentioned the EQIP deadline of 12/16/2016 and the CSP deadline – 02/03/2016. He announced that Louis King (Ft. Sumner FO 11), Kenneth Lujan (Mountainair FO 11) and Joshua Archuleta (Estancia FO 11) will serve in turn as the district conservationist until the position vacated by Brandon Bishop is filled.

He said that the state engineer resigned from NRCS to take a position with the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) and is in charge of the acequia design project for northern New Mexico, so currently NRCS is without a state engineer.

A team-wide ranking system for 2017 will replace the current system. There will be one pool of funds for the four offices and one ranking sheet. Mr. King said that he adamantly opposed using a single ranking sheet, but his input was ignored. He brought copies of the crop land ranking sheet for board members who wanted them.

He listed five questions that address local issues on range conditions. The questions will be discussed to make sure that all the offices are looking at them in the same way.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report follows.

- On the first of November the EBWHRM group held its meeting in Estancia. Although a quorum wasn't present, the attendees met as a committee.
- The district participated in Career Day at Mountainair High School. The district manager provided materials, and April Luna represented both NRCS and the district.
- On the third of November, the district manager attended the WTB meeting and made a presentation on the two proposals that she had submitted.
- The district's annual meeting took place on November 10th with 130 participants attending, most of them land owners. The district manager read all the minutes from September, 1941 until the present to prepare a presentation for the annual meeting commemorating the district's 75th anniversary. She was impressed how active the early board supervisors were. She noted that the park service supported the district well then; a representative attended every meeting but used his personal vacation time to do so until he got permission to take park service time to attend the meetings and serve as a board supervisor. The district manager described the physical size of the district in the 1940s and what some of the supervisors' concerns were.
- On November 17th, the district manager had a conference call with Brenda Smythe and Kim Kostelnik concerning the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts.
- The district manager passed around pictures of rock structures which the district built following the Dog Head fire to slow down water flow and prevent flooding on the Farrington property and on the De Rochie property. She described what was involved, expenses incurred and expected reimbursements. Mr. King asked whether the rock structures had replaced the trash racks that used to be built. A discussion followed on the effectiveness of the trash racks.
- On November 30, the district manager attended a Team Five meeting, the coordinating group that is being assembled for the Forest Service.
- Vern Kohler reported on an in-service meeting on weed control. He was reauthorized to continue to spray weeds.

- The district manager reported that a member of Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham's staff would like to attend district board meetings to be informed of the impressive work that the district is doing. The district manager wants to meet with Senator-Elect Liz Sefanics to explain the district's capital outlay request as well as the request to move the funds from the Department of Finance to the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. She also wants to discuss using the possible remaining balance of the \$85,000 in capital outlay funds on district needs, other than the shop building so that the district does not have to wait on an additional reauthorization.
- The Chavez SWCD has donated a truck to the district, which Joy Wagner and Rebecca Healy brought to the office the previous day. The district manager described the truck and what needs to be done to transfer it from the Chavez district to the Claunch-Pinto district. She credited Aubrey Dunn with the suggestion to give the truck to Claunch-Pinto.
- Supervisor Caster initiated a discussion of the sale of water rights on a land owner's property and the possible ramifications.
- Seventeen businesses donated door prizes for the annual meeting. The district manager prepared thank you cards for board members to sign.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets.

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:

Proposals:

The district manager said that the two proposals that she submitted to the WTB are second and third on the list to be submitted to the legislature for approval. Being on the list does not assure funding, but providing that some factors fall into line, funding is possible. No WTB funding has been contracted because the work plan for the NFL funding has not yet been approved by State Forestry.

EBWHRM:

The district manager said that a meeting will take place on the following Tuesday at the district office.

A meeting of the Estancia Basin Water Planning meeting will take place the following Thursday.

GRGWA:

Progress is being made on the GRGWA projects. The small project on Acoma is finished. Two projects have been completed. The riparian project on the San Cristobal ranch will be completed in approximately a week. State Representative McQueen will be given a tour of this project when the district manager is able to get an appointment with him. Boss Reclamation is working on this project. When it is finished, Boss Reclamation will move to the projects on the Sandia Pueblo. From there, the company will move to the Ojo Caliente project. The project in the Valencia district is slated to begin on December 12.

There will be a meeting of the GRGWA on the following Wednesday in Bernalillo.

New Mexico State Forestry:

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager talked with Pablo Romero, who said that the trees the District crew is felling aren't being limbed correctly. Vernon Kohler will inspect the part of the project which the district crew is working on and necessary corrections will be made.

Capilla Peak:

The district manager said that contracts with SWCA will go forward soon, and field work can be started.

Corona CFRP:

Signed contracts have been agreed on with SWCA. The district ranger wants to have a meeting with SWCA and the District before the CFRP work begins on both the Corona and Capilla Peak projects.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

No report.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

No update on the 2016 funds. The district manager is still waiting for a notice to proceed on this funding. No notification on the 2017 funds has been received.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that she wants to carry out another project with the New Mexico State Parks.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager submitted a proposal for FEMA funding. She thinks that this proposal will eventually be funded. Hazardous fuel removal in the northern part of Torrance County would hopefully prevent a fire from extending into the East Mountains.

The district manager encouraged board members to look at the district web site because information about the grants will be posted there, and she also encouraged NRCS to submit information to go on the web site.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager said that she hopes to keep the \$85,000 that was approved for capital outlay.

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

The district manager said that it may be June or July 2017 before the next draft is available. Public comments are still being reviewed and a group has been identified to help write the draft.

75th anniversary of CPSWCD – November 10, 2016:

The district manager praised Carla Cope for her hard work on the meeting and encouraged board members to thank both Carla and Liz Fleming for all their hard work.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that Kim Kostelnik is helping her with the application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review Mileage Rates:

The district manager reviewed the new mileage rates of \$.54/a mile. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the new mileage rates. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager explained the election process, which will begin in January. Positions three and four currently held by Jerry Melaragno and Larry Gomez will be up for election.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin announced that the conference call for NMCCD board members will be held on December 12. The district manager said representatives of several districts met the previous day. She reported on some actions that they will suggest for the NMCCD board to consider. These representatives are calling for the NMCCD to identify a legislative liaison. She said that Kim Kostelnik filled this role last year. Also, education trainings for district employees are being planned. Keeping the NMCCD web site up to date is under discussion with a plan to highlight one member district each quarter. The NMCCD brochure will be updated before the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the legislature and Ag Fest. NMCCD will provide information to legislators at the Soil and Water Conservation Day instead of having a table.

It will be suggested that the NMCCD contribute to the Rio Grande Water Fund.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman questioned the benefits of attending meetings of South Central RC&D. Discussion followed. Perhaps attendance can be rotated among board members and the district manager.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The EBWPC meeting will be held on Thursday December 8. The district manager will start sending minutes of these meetings to board members.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 6, 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:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.