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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING January 8, 2016

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Managers
Brandon Bishop, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Larry Gomez, Claunch-Pinto
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 as amended. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Under new business, move "Vacant Board Position" following "APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF ADENDA". Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

VACANT BOARD POSITION APPOINTMENT (moved from agenda item number 8, New Business):

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve appointing Larry Gomez to the board to the vacant position no. 4 to replace J. Brian Greene who resigned effective January 1, 2016. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from December 4, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. On page 3, change "Anglan" to "Anglin." Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2015 with accounts payable for January, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for December, 2015 and

pay the accounts payable for January, 2016. LeRoy Candelaria 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 pointed out that mill levy revenues were received. A discussion occurred on the repair to the fiber glass hood of the chipper. The chairman praised the high quality of the repair.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the district's auditor met with Felipe Lovato and Jerry Melaragno for the audit exit conference. The auditor said he had found no audit exceptions. The audit has yet to be approved by the state auditor.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets. He commented on a number of items. He reminded the board to ensure that the proper bonding policy is in place. He pointed out the potential dates of interest during the 2016 legislative session and the dates of the Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture Regional Meetings, the closest meeting being in Albuquerque on January 13. He said that no booths will be set up during the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature 2016. The event will still be counted in the points system. Mr. Wanstall called attention to the Society for Range Management 2016 winter meeting to be held in Los Lunas on January 7th and 8th. He explained that the Water Dialogue's 21st Annual Statewide meeting will be held Thursday, January 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Albuquerque. He said that the 2016 Whole Farm/Ranch Business Planning and Land Management workshop series sounds interesting and pointed out the dates.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's written report is included in board members' packets. He emphasized that the deadline for the batching period for FY 2016 EQIP sign up is January 15, 2016. After this date no more applications will be accepted for this program at this time.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager reported on her activities in December. On December 2nd, she participated in a conference call with the Forest Service on a workshop that will held in March. She attended the Edgewood SWCD board meeting on December 3 to give Representative McQueen information on the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts that he had requested. She met with Danny Branch from NMACD on the Priest Canyon project to review the coordinated resource management plan. She attended the CFRP workshop on December 8th and 9th. She attended a Coalition board meeting in Albuquerque on December 17.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packet. The district manager read a letter from Elaine Kahrman, Cibola Forest Supervisor responding to the district's concerns about the participating agreement between the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands and the district. Ms. Kahrman explained that she had made the decision to pull funding intended for the Torreon Allotment due to FY2014 budget shortfalls late in the fiscal year. Ms. Kahrman's letter clarifies the conversations that she and Karen Lessard had with Johnny Perea and the Chavezes regarding the cancellation and expresses regret that "our concerns regarding preferential treatment have been misunderstood and directed at the Board." Mr. Williams asked that a follow-up letter be sent to Mr. Chavez and Johnny Perea.

The district manager also read a letter from the Red Wolf Clan thanking the district, the Land Grant Consejo, the Chilili and Manzano Land Grants, the heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant and the New Mexico State Parks for providing wood for the Red Wolf Clan to conduct their weekly inipi/sweatlodge ceremonies in the Valle of Atrisco Land Grant within the Albuquerque's South Valley.

The district manager then read a thank you letter from Kaisa, Kyle and Logan Jones thanking the district for the engraved piggy bank celebrating Logan's birth. She also read a letter from Janice Barela, the Torrance County Treasurer, thanking the district for the date log that she says will be put to good use.

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 couldn't attend the WTB meeting, so she has no new information on the status of the two proposals that have been submitted. Progress is being made on the both the GRGWA and the EBWHRM projects. Reimbursements are being submitted, so funds are slowly being spent down.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

No fuel work is being done due to the snow. The district manager is working with the Forest Service on two proposals, one in the Corona area and another in Priest Canyon. She is working with Game and Fish on three areas in Priest and Sand Canyon regarding bighorn sheep. Two CFRP planning grants will be submitted by January 25th. The project on the Zuni is on hold due to snow.

Romero Wood, LLC:

No report.

New Proposals:

No report.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

No report.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Three contracts with SWCA Environmental Consultants are ready for the chairman's signature. The first is for 4,000 acres of cultural resource work for projects that NRCS has contracted. SWCA was the only bidder on this work. The district manager also asked for bids to update the CWPPs for Torrance County and Claunch-Pinto SWCD. Again, SWCA was the only bidder. The district received \$10,000 of educational funds from the New Mexico Association of Counties and SWCA was awarded the contract.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the contracts. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that the State Forestry inmate crew has completed 10 acres of thinning. Slash and wood from the project are covered with snow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager reported that the pad has been prepared for the shop building. Footings are being constructed. Paperwork has been submitted to the Mountainair Planning and Zoning Board asking for a variance for future projects.

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

The district manager said that she and Dan Williams attended meetings to review recommendations on the wilderness. Apparently most of the wilderness in the Mountainair Ranger District will eventually be removed. The draft forest plan revision will be published for public comment in 2016.

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

The chairman asked the board members for ideas for the 2016 annual meeting.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager is still working on this program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 08 – 2015 – Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Greater Rio Grande Riparian Restoration Project:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 08 – 2015. 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; Larry Gomez – yea.

Personnel Committee Appointment:

The chairman announced that he has appointed Larry Gomez and Dan Williams to serve with him on the Personnel Committee.

Finance Committee Appointment:

The chairman announced that he has appointed Richard Shovelin, Jerry Melaragno and William Caster to the Finance Committee.

Appointment of Representative to the South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman said that he will ask board members to attend meetings and report back on a rotating basis.

Appointment of Representative to the EBWPC:

The chairman said that he has appointed the district manager to the EBWPC.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said that the board met and gave an update to Trudy Healy on the coalition's activities. At Ms. Healy's urging, José Varela Lopez and the district manager will prepare a letter to apply for funding to the Healy Foundation on an ongoing basis. The coalition will sponsor a two-day workshop on grant writing for district employees. Others may attend at a discounted rate. There will be no booths at the Soil and Water Conservation Day, but the coalition will assemble bags and deliver them to legislators and staff members.

South Central Mountain RC&D and the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager said that a Personnel Committee meeting will follow today's board meeting.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 5, 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.