



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
March 4, 2016**

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

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
David Crabb, land owner
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service
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. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from February 5, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes as read. Larry Gomez 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 February, 2016 with accounts payable for March, 2016. The district manager explained that reimbursements weren't included in this report. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for February, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for March, 2016. Dan Williams 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.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets. The district manager reported on a meeting that she attended in Edgewood the previous day where she learned that the NMDA wants soil and water conservation districts to pass a resolution that would allow the NMDA to work on district maps and shorten districts' legal descriptions. She expects that Mr. Wanstall will attend the April board meeting and will explain this issue.

The district manager also said that the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD) board will participate in a conference call on Monday, March 7 to discuss the BLM's proposed Planning Rule 2.0 initiative to "modernize the agency's planning process and increase public involvement in the management of 245 million acres of public lands the agency directs."

The district manager thanked Richard Shovelin for offering to attend the Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture regional meeting in Tucumcari on March 9.

Field Office Report:

Brandon Bishop's report was emailed to board members. April Luna represented Mr. Bishop at the district board meeting. She said that Kenneth Lujan will be the acting North Area Programs Specialist at the state office for two months, so April will be taking care of local NRCS business. She also reported on her attendance at the New Mexico First – Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture regional meeting in Albuquerque.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. She reported that the district is on the capital outlay list for \$85,000 to finish the shop building, but the governor has not yet signed the bill, and she has line item veto on it. Senator Barela will send a letter to the governor asking her not to cut any of his requests.

The district manager also reported that HB 143 didn't get out of the Senate Rules Committee this year, but the bill needs to be monitored next year because of its possible effects on soil and water conservation districts' ability to borrow money and make loan payments because of a requirement of conducting a mill levy election every 10 years. She said that José Varela Lopez is planning to invite representatives Smith, Bandy and Soto to a NMCCD annual meeting to discuss the issue.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packet.

The district manager reported on a letter that she received from the owner of the server where the district's web site resides. She said that the district will find another location for its web site.

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 said that the funding for GRGWA and EBWHRM projects has been spent by the deadline or has been contracted. Weather problems have affected progress on these projects. She thanked Lawrence Crane from State Forestry because he allowed progress to take place on 100 acres. She reported on a project completed on 28 acres by Alamo Navajo.

A defensible space and thinning project will be completed with state land funds on leased land adjacent to the Deer Canyon Preserve development to assist in fire protection. The district is also working with a land owner on the south side of Deer Canyon to reduce vegetation. The district will work with other lease holders bordering the preserve to carry out other thinning projects.

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 Canyons regarding big horn 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:

The district manager explained that it is still too muddy to work on this project.

New Proposals:

No report.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

Alamo Navajo has contracted in a participating agreement for projects in the Zuni area. In the next three weeks, both Alamo Navajo and Rema Navajo will work on these projects. Questions need to be answered regarding the budget to determine if an addendum is needed.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager said that contracts are in place with SWCA to complete work on the RCPP. cultural clearances so that work can commence. The district manager explained how NRCS requirements are implemented. She also explained what efforts are being made to report on the possible participation of land owners in future projects.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that the inmate work crew will move slash and wood over to the road so that slash can be chipped into the trailer, and both the slash and the wood can be transported to the district's property. The wood will be sold for \$20 a cord.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager reported on the progress on the shop, how the district's funds were spent, what remains to be done and what can be done if capital funding of \$85,000 is approved. If the capital outlay funding is approved, the district manager will present a plan for use of the funding. Funding for a water catchment system was approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, so the system will be implemented,

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

The district manager made a report to the Lincoln County Commission on the forest plan revision. Dan Williams also attended the meeting. The district manager and Dan Williams will attend a three-day meeting in Albuquerque to draft a forest plan revision. A new ranger for the forest service will begin in May.

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:**Mill Levy Resolution No. 08-2016:**

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 08 – 2016. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea;; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Larry Gomez – yea.

REPORTS:**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

The district manager said that a conference call will take place on the following Monday.

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

The chairman reported on a meeting that he attended. He said that a large thinning project will take place in Otero County supported by 13.2 million dollars in funding. He plans to attend the next meeting on March 24.

EBWPC:

The district manager will attend the next meeting on the following Thursday. She said that the draft comments are available and due immediately on their 56 page draft water plan update. She will update the board on applicable areas.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager distributed a newsletter from the Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute that includes an article on the Estancia Basin Watershed Alliance and on the watershed monitoring.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

The district manager will meet with Homeland Security to cooperate in getting hazardous fuel mitigation funding for Torrance County.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 1, 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 9:20 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.