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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING April 8, 2016

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Cody Stropki, SWCA

**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:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from March 4, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. On page 2, second paragraph, third line, change "agency-s" to "agency's" Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of March, 2016 with accounts payable for April, 2016. The district manager reported on the excellent work being done by two employees. She explained unemployment claims. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report for March, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for April, 2016. Larry Gomez 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:**

The district manager explained why the district may not be able to continue to contract with Dan Austin to audit the district's books, but she will double check with the state auditor. She explained that three bids for the audit were received. She asked for permission to contract with an auditor. Richard Shovelin

moved to accept the district manager's recommendation for the contract. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The district manager reported that a representative from workman's comp conducted an audit of the district's records, reports and payments to workman's comp, and he said that everything is in order.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):**

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

##### **Field Office Report:**

Brandon Bishop's report was emailed to board members. April Luna represented Mr. Bishop at the district board meeting.

##### **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 reported on a letter of support that she wrote to Bill Ferranti, Natural Resource Specialist of the Alamo Navajo School Board, Inc., which is applying for an ANA grant.

She also pointed out a blog from the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, which includes an article on the \$ 1.2 million funding through the RCPP that the New Mexico Acequia Association and its lead partner, the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts received in 2015 to provide financial and technical assistance to acequias to make changes that will improve water delivery and conservation. This group has also been awarded \$3,000,000 for 2016.

Reports of New Mexico public meetings on New Mexico sustainable agriculture were provided to board members. The district manager thanked Richard Shovelin for attending the meeting in Tukumcari. He noted that all regions have very similar problems.

#### **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 she has drawn down all the funding for GRGWA projects, and she is beginning to spend 2015 funds. She left about \$58,000 in the EBWHRM grant because some projects haven't been completed. The district is in positions one and two for the 2016 WTB funding cycle. She was asked to answer some questions about what the effects would be of not receiving this funding. She mentioned the political influences that will affect the funding awards. A WTB meeting will be held on the following Wednesday where the district manager will learn whether the district will be funded.

The district manager reported that the state land project on Felipe Lovato's lease has produced between 90 and 100 cords of wood. The state land office will allow the district to buy the wood and sell it for a higher amount. A project on the southwest side of the Deer Canyon subdivision will involve a complete mastication. Cultural clearances have to be carried out because the thinning will be done by mechanical means. David Cain asked Vern Kohler to keep a close eye on the project to make sure that the chips are not too large or too deep. A discussion took place on the danger of fire to Deer Canyon, Mountainair, and Corona.

##### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP): Romero Wood, LLC:**

The district manager explained that the number of completed acres is inaccurate, and she will correct the situation during the following week.

**New Proposals:**

The proposals and letters of support were submitted on time. Hopefully, a CFRP Technical Committee meeting can be held in May to determine which proposals will be funded. She explained what the proposals entail.

**Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

Both Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo are preparing to start work on two projects.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**

The district manager said that she met with Kris Chavez, program manager at the state NRCS office, last week, and all of the paper work has been submitted for 2016 RCPP funding. For the 2017 funding proposal, the names of cooperators will be collected who are interested in doing work in this program. SWCA has completed cultural resource clearances on several projects.

**Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:**

The district manager said that last of the wood has been removed from the project and brought to district property. It will be sold for \$30 a cord.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager visited with Senator Barela whom she thanked for the \$85,000 in capital outlay funds that the district was awarded. The funds will allow the building to be completed.

She will write letters thanking legislators for their support.

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

The district manager reported on a workshop about working together collaboratively, which she attended in March. She also described a three-day Forest Plan Retreat that took place last week. A conference call will take place on Tuesday for the Points of Contact. The landscape teams are to remain in place and an all inclusive group of NGOs, local, state and federal agencies is to be formed. This group will meet on May second.

**Annual Meeting Plans, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPSWCD – September 2016:**

The chairman reminded the board members about the 2016 annual meeting.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager is still working on this program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Letter to BLM:**

The district manager explained that she received a letter from the BLM asking for comment on their planning rule. She has written a letter to the BLM asking them to extend the comment period to August. She would like the board's permission to send the letter. Dan Williams moved to send the letter. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Request from Manzano Mountain Arts Council**

The district manager said that the Arts Council is planning a fundraising event in June at Rancho Bonito. The council is requesting the use of the district's parking lot so that vehicles won't be parked on the highway. The district manager can be in the office on that afternoon to monitor the use of the lot. A discussion took place on several positive aspects for the district and some issues. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to grant permission for the council to use the lot. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Resolution No. 09 – 2016:**

The district manager explained the background on the resolution. A discussion followed, and the board agreed that the mapping needs to be reviewed before the resolution is approved.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to table the resolution until the next meeting or until the GIS mapping is approved. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Appointed Supervisor Approval:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve Richard Shovelin and Dan Williams to the appointed supervisor positions. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager said a two-day grant writing workshop will be held in July at the Edgewood SWCD office for all 20 districts without cost for one person from each district to attend.

**South Central RC&D:**

Chairman Lovato attended the meeting in February and will attend the meeting on April 28.

The district manager explained one of the purposes of the RC&D and said that the board needs to monitor South Central's plans to work within the CPSWCD. The district needs to be included in all the planning processes. Meeting dates include: April 28, May 26, and June 30.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

The committee is in the process of updating its regional water plan. The district manager will attend the next meeting and review the draft plan in preparation for the meeting. A discussion between a private company and the State Engineer's Office is taking place about selling saline water from the basin.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The Rotary Club may want to rent the district's hoop house to grow some vegetables to sell at the farmer's market to raise money for scholarships. The district manager will work out an agreement with the club.

The district manager is working with the Roosevelt SWCD on a proposal to set up a cost share program. There is a demonstration project at that district's office to show the effect of covers on tanks. She said that if the proposal is successful, the Claunch-Pinto district will try to participate. She explained the effectiveness of the covers to keep water free of ice and lower the rate of evaporation. A discussion took place on the effectiveness of donut vehicle tires in keeping a drinking hole open in the winter.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.