



PO Box 129, Mountainair, NM 87036 Ph: 505-847-2243 Fax: 505-847-0615

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 6, 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  
Brandon Bishop, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
David King, Chairman, Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District (ESWCD)  
Tommy Marshall, Area Conservationist, NRCS  
Tom Perkins, New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO)  
Brenda Smythe, ESWCD  
Cody Stropki, SWCA  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer  
Jim Wanstall, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

**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. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved that the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District board be closed to discuss a) Personnel matters: Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2). Discuss limited Personnel Matters. William Caster 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.

The chairman declared that the motion was approved by a “majority vote of a quorum of the Board.” The board entered closed session at 8:10.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The chairman said that the board of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District was again in open session at 9:05, and he asked for a statement regarding the closed meeting. Supervisor

Williams stated: "Pursuant to Open Meetings Act. Section 10-15-1 (J), the board of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District discussed in closed session only those matters specified in the Motion to Close."

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

Minutes of the regular meeting from March 4, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. On page 1, under Approval/Disapproval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting: change "Motion carried." to "Motion carried with one abstention." Delete: "Vote was unanimous." 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 April, 2016 with accounts payable for May, 2016. The district manager reported on the excellent work being done by two employees. She explained unemployment claims. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for April, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for May, 2016. Richard Shovelin 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 the expense for the audit appears in this month's report.

#### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager reported that the district should receive the new audit contract with Integrity Accounting within the next few days. This Albuquerque company performs the audit for the Mountainair school district.

The board's budget committee will meet after May 16.

#### **REPORTS:**

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

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board members' packets. He noted that the department is updating its noxious weeds list. Two out of a number of petitions are eligible for the list. Myrtle spurge will probably be listed.

In regard to HB 143, its sponsor will probably resubmit it next year in spite of a number of problems that have been pointed out to him. A discussion took place on whether the mill levy would be included. Mr. Wanstall mentioned the problems that the Taos district is having with requirements that the Finance Authority is insisting on before it releases funding for the construction of a building.

Mr. Wanstall pointed out two items in his report of interest to young people. An AgriFuture Educational Institute will be held on Monday, May 16 at 3:00 PM – May 18 at 1:30 at the Ramada in Las Cruces. He said that that the conference was well attended last year and was successful. He also mentioned the Ranch Management Camp to be held at the CS Ranch in Cimarron, NM, designed for 15 to 19-year-old New Mexico Youth in an effort to reverse the aging trend in ranching.

Richard Shovelin asked for clarification on participation by the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts. Mr. Wanstall said the Soil and Water Conservation Commission asked for input regarding the point system. Suggestions included leaving it the same, getting rid of it, and creating a hybrid.

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

Brandon Bishop's report was emailed to board members. He added that he would be going on a detail for 90 days to the area office taking Kenneth Lujan's place. Josh Archuleta will be acting in his place during this time. A discussion initiated by Larry Gomez on a conference benefiting ranchers.

##### **District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. In addition, the district manager displayed the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award received by the district two weeks ago. The nomination for the award was made by Kent Reid of the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute and Joe Zebrowski at the Geospatial Applications and Natural Sciences at New

Mexico Highlands University. The district manager said that the award was given because of all of the partnership work being done with all of the entities involved in the projects. The award is for the collaborative work being done on the Estancia Basin project, the Greater Rio Grande project and the regional conservation partnership program. Mark Dixon the director of the natural resource department at the Pueblo of Isleta was given the Environmental Leader of the Year Award.

Richard Shovelin recognized the district manager for all her efforts that have resulted in the award to the district. She said that many people have been involved in developing the successful partnerships created over the last 10 years.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence is included in the board packet.

The district manager pointed out a workshop to be held at the Corona Range and Livestock Research Center on May 31 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on herd health issues.

She also reported that the district's new website, [claunchpinto.org](http://claunchpinto.org), is up and running. She said that there is an NRCS section on the website. She said that any information that NRCS sends to her will be posted.

#### **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 reported that the district's applications for WTB funding are in positions one and two. She gave examples of the kinds of questions that she has had to answer to support the projects. All of the severance tax information has been sent in. The district manager will attend a meeting on May 11 and she will know by then whether the projects have been funded. She said that she had applied for \$600,000 in funding for each project..

Approximately \$400,000 remains of the 2015 Greater Rio Grande project.

The district manager has a meeting scheduled with the Acoma tribe, which will be the fourth tribe to bring into the Greater Rio Grande and the Regional Conservation partnership program project areas.

#### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

##### **Romero Wood, LLC:**

The district manager explained that the Romeros understand that they have only completed 120 acres on the project. She wants the district crew to start thinning on 50 acres. She plans on finishing 250 acres by September 30. The district manager has met with both Ian Fox and Aaron Johnson who are aware that the district is behind on the project. They are trying to figure out how to proceed with the project. The district manager reported to Ian Fox on the success of the educational part of the project that is being led by Cody Stropki. There is a forestry team of students. Cody Stropki described the progress that the students are making. Hopefully an Envirothon team will emerge as an outcome. Cody Stropki described what the students will do and see on the CFRP project with the Romeros.

##### **New Proposals:**

There are two new proposals to do NEPA work in the Manzanos and the Gallinas. The proposals and letters of support were submitted on time. The CFRP Technical Committee has not met. Hopefully, the committee will meet at the end of June.

#### **Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

Work is going on in the Zuni with the District's contractors Alamo Navajo and Ramah.

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

A successful technical committee meeting was held including State Forestry, New Mexico Game and Fish, the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, Highlands University, and NRCS. The district

manager is working on a pre-proposal for 2017 funding. She said that a team is working on the proposal which should help create a better proposal than a proposal worked on by only one person.

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

The district manager met with the Manzano land grant commissioners and 13 cords of wood are available for sale to land grant heirs on the district's property for \$30 a cord. Funds will be designated for state park projects. She explained the Manzano, Torreon and Tajique Land Grants will receive portions of wood.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager reported that the capital outlay funds were approved for \$85,000, but no further information is available. The district's building will be completed, but the process will await paperwork authorizing spending.

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

The district manager reported that a conference call was scheduled for the following Thursday morning prior to the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee meeting. She explained what will be discussed. The Landscape Teams will see the preliminary draft of the forest plan first. The district manager attended a forest plan revision retreat, and she pointed out two areas that hopefully will be selected as special management areas. She described the areas and suggested that two board members look at an area in the Cienaguita, which was missed as a designation. It is a unique area, a very spongy area. This is another potential area for a special management. If this area can be included, it will be fenced off, but the permittee will have limited grazing access. She suggested that Mr. Williams and Chairman Lovato visit the area with her sometime during the next two weeks. A letter from the district may be needed to get this area designated as a special management area.

The district manager reported on a meeting of a collaborative team known as Team 5 which is composed of private and government entities. This meeting was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by 25 people. This group will help plan public meetings on the forest plan during July and August. The district manager announced that the new district ranger, Jay Turner, has begun his duties.

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

The chairman reminded the board members about the 2016 annual meeting. Denise Williams has offered to help with plans.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager is still working on this program. A former Vista volunteer has offered to help initiate the program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. 09 – 2016 Acceptance of SWCD Boundary Map:**

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.

**Resolution No. 10 – 2016 – FY2017 Budget:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to table Resolution No. 10 – 2016. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Approval to Extend Janitor and Maintenance Contracts for One Year:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to extend both the janitor and maintenance contracts for one year at the same rate. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan:**

The district manager said that the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan will be included for approval on the agenda for the next board meeting. A public meeting will immediately precede the next board meeting.

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager reported on a conference call held on April 15. The date for the annual meeting was set for July 28 from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Representatives Bandy and Smith will be invited to the meeting to talk about HB 143. The grant writing workshop will be held on July 20-21. So far, 19 people have indicated interest in attending. The BLM comment period has been extended for 30 days. The district manager will write draft comments and send them to board members to review.

**South Central RC&D:**

Chairman Lovato and Supervisor Dan Williams attended the last meeting on April 28. Mr. Williams brought copies of the agenda and minutes. He noted that an emphasis seems to be given to Otero County and the southern and eastern parts of Lincoln County. The RC&Ds projects are located in these areas. A discussion followed on the activity level of RC&Ds. Mr. Williams mentioned the importance of collaboration that could take place with the RC&D. He talked about the Moon Mountain fire and the very positive effects there of thinning. He also said that the group is seriously considering getting a portable "fire curtain."

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

The district manager said that a meeting was held last month. An ad hoc committee meeting was held first. This committee is working on the Estancia closed basin regional water plan update, which has to be completed by June 30. She was given the task of summarizing all the project funding received since 2002, which she has completed.

She said that another ad hoc meeting will be held in Moriarty on May 12. She pointed out several problem areas in respect to exporting water from the basin and that the topic will continue to be controversial. Discussion followed on various aspects of exporting water.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

Cody Stropki reported that SWCA has completed all the RCPP cultural resource field reports. Final reports will be submitted to NRCS within two weeks. The district manager said that she was waiting for the EQIP contracts through NRCS for the Grants area to be finalized before the cultural resource field work can be started.

Mr. Lovato asked about the student groups that Cody is working with at the Mountainair school. Cody described the two groups of students and what they were doing. Mr. Lovato thanked him for his work.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Kim Kostelnik will attend the next meeting to assist with updating the land use plan. The land use plan will be sent out again to board members.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 3, 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 10:50 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

---

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

---

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.