



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 8, 2016**

- Supervisors Present:** William Caster  
Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
LeRoy Candelaria  
Larry Gomez  
Jerry Melaragno
- Absentees:** Richard Shovelin  
Dan Williams
- Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD)  
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Cody Stropki, SWCA  
Jay Turner, U.S. Forest Service  
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 8:05 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:** LeRoy Candelaria 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 June 3, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes as amended. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 5, add Felipe Lovato's name to those voting by voice vote on Resolutions No. 09 – 2016 FY2017 Budget and Resolution 10 – 2016 – Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan. On page 6, replace "Camacho" with "Comanche."

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

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

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **REPORTS:**

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

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

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

Joshua Archuleta's report was emailed to board members. April Luna represented Mr. Archuleta and commented on aspects of the report. She mentioned that she serves on the Civil Rights Advisory Committee and is on the subcommittee for Diversity Day. She has been working on getting a speaker from the University of New Mexico for that event. The district manager mentioned that Kenneth Lujan attended the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) training on June 29 with Mr. Archuleta at the State Office.

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

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence is included in the board packet.

### **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:** The district manager is working on the readiness items that she has to submit to the WTB for the two grants that were funded. She said that the WTB probably approved its new guidelines on Wednesday. This means that 70% of the 2015 funds will have to be spent by October 15. She discussed with the program manager the issue of endangered species that affects when projects can be completed. The program manager suggested asking for a modification, but the district manager isn't hopeful about one being approved. She is looking at options that will help in getting projects off the ground and completed on time.

**GRGWA:** The Technical Team for the GRGWA has looked at all of the projects from a number of soil and water conservation districts. The district manager mentioned the Taos and East Rio Arriba districts' projects, which border each other, so there is a lot of acreage involved with 19 landowners. A meeting will be held soon of the GRGWA to approve the projects. Failing to spend 70% of funding on time can affect submitting future proposals both for the GRGWA and the EBWHRM.

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

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

Vern Kohler, the district technician, mapped the whole project area. Only 148 acres can be considered completed. The district manager summarized the extent of the work that remains to be done. She has proposed a meeting with all involved to decide on a plan of action to complete the work.

The education information portion of the grant is going beautifully.

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

The CFRP Technical Committee has not yet been approved, so the two proposals submitted by the district are waiting on approval by the CFRP Technical Committee when it is convened.

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

The district manager disseminated a work supplement modification to the participating agreement to address the impacts of the Dog Head Fire. A little over \$93,000 will be added to it. The Dog Head

burned area is not in the CPSWCD but this district is the only one with a participating agreement with the Forest Service. She went over the scope of the work that will be completed in the next few months. Cody Stropki described weather stations that will be installed to monitor storms in the burned areas. Discussion followed on monitoring invasive weeds and on installing signs as well as impacts from the fire and on the positive effects from thinning in the area. The importance of landowners in speaking favorably on how projects saved property was stressed as well as the responsibility of property owners in taking steps to reduce the risks from fire.

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

The district manager said that the district should be notified sometime in July if it is approved to submit a full proposal.

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

The district manager said she is working on wood sales and that there is considerable wood in the district's wood lot.

**New Mexico Association of Counties Grant – Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):**

The district manager reported that the county and district CWPP plans will be submitted at the end of the month, and the Dog Head Fire will be included.

The district manager said that construction of a traveling display on fire wise information was also funded by the Association of Counties grant and is complete. She is planning to take the display to several events in the near future.

**Water Quality Grant through New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission:**

The district manager reported that this project on soil erosion and water catchment is complete and the reimbursement request was paid yesterday.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager found out that the district's capital outlay request is at the Department of Finance and Administration. She will find out what the next steps are to get access to the funding.

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

The district manager said that a draft plan should be available in the middle of July. A public meeting in this area will be held August 2 in Corona and in Mountainair on August 3 at 6:00 at the community building. Requests for two special management areas were submitted but weren't included in the plan. A discussion took place on a land grant request to open a large allotment to domestic sheep.

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

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

**Update Land Use Plan – (discussion only) Kim Kostelnik:**

Kim Kostelnik asked for comments on revisions she made to the Land Use Plan. She commented that the district has an approved plan and that the suggested revisions take into account issues that have come up since the plan was approved. Mr. Gomez suggested that board members hold a meeting devoted to a discussion of the plan. A meeting was scheduled for July 22 at 9:00 a.m.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager said that the coalition is sponsoring a grant writing workshop to be held on July 20 and 21 at the Edgewood SWCD office. The coalition's annual meeting will be held on July 28 in Moriarty at the Edgewood office from 10:00 to 3:00. A panel discussion will take place on HB 143.

**South Central RC&D:**

No report.

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

The district manager attended the EBWPC meeting on June 9. The update on their regional water plan was submitted on June 30. Watershed work was included in the plan as a goal. She will send the plan to board members when she receives it.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

The district manager attended a meeting at the East Torrance Educational Building on July 7 sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Office of New Mexico State University. A map of several fires was distributed which includes the district's monitoring areas. A lot of discussion occurred on the Dog Head fire including seeding burned areas and the effectiveness of letting cattle on the area to break up the soil as well as the effect of fire retardant on livestock and fish. A disaster recovery handbook was also distributed.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 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 9:45 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.