



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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

August 5, 2016

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
LeRoy Candelaria
Larry Gomez
Jerry Melaragno

Absentees: William Caster
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Joshua Archuleta, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Cody Stropki, SWCA
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 8:10 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the agenda. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from July 8, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes as read. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes of the special meeting from July 22, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes as read. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of July, 2016 with accounts payable for August, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to accept the report for July, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for August, 2016. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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. One item of interest was that "Know your Watershed" posters are available from State Forestry. The district manager said that she would get

some for the school district in Mountainair. Also, the NMDA is holding a SWCA Operations Training on September 30th, hosted by the Valencia SWCD. The chairman and the district manager will try to attend.

Field Office Report:

Joshua Archuleta's report was distributed to board members. Mr. Archuleta went over activities concerning EQIP, CSP and RCPP. He mentioned that the Emergency Watershed Protection program is winding down for the burn areas of the Dog Head Fire, pending funding. He also covered his activities, those of Kenneth Lujan and April Luna during the past month.

The Cooperative Working Agreement between NRCS, the US Department of Agriculture, the State of New Mexico and the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District was reviewed. No changes were made. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the agreement. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. The district manager said that she asked for a report from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) on the Manzano Acequia Project. She got an email from Norm Vigil saying that Paul Montoya would provide information on the design work that is almost complete. Information on progress on the projects was provided. Paul Montoya will attend the board's September 9 meeting to make a report. Senator Barela may also attend because he has been getting a lot of complaints regarding the Manzano Acequia Project.

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 will submit the readiness items for the 2016 funding after the weekend. Pre-proposals are due in September for the 2017 funds. She said that the new guidelines have been approved. This means that 70% of the 2015 funds will have to be spent by October 5. The rules were changed mid stream so that work that needs to be completed couldn't be done because of the endangered species. She will have to ask for a modification, and she hopes that she will be allowed to submit a full proposal. She will know by October how much work has been contracted and how much has been completed. There is enough funding to pay for projects for 2017.

EBWHRM: The district manager announced that a meeting will be held on August 16th at the district's office at 10:00 a.m. The funding for 2016 will be allocated and work will begin on the projects. The EBWHRM project was funded through State Forestry for \$298,000 and the WTB for \$600,000.

GRGWA: A meeting will be held this afternoon at 1:30 in the district's conference room. The district manager has a 75 page RFP ready to go out. She described the wide scope of the projects and the districts which proposed the projects. The district manager mentioned the Taos and East Rio Arriba districts' projects, which border each other, so there is a lot of acreage involving 19 landowners.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:

Romero Wood, LLC:

A conference call took place on July 22 including Ian Fox, Aaron Kaufman and Marcus and Pablo Romero. Pablo Romero will try to cut 80 acres by the end of September. The Forest Service has given them until December to get all of the downed wood out. If Mr. Romero can fulfill his commitment, the Forest Service will give him a 4th year extension. The district's saw crew will work on the mountain this winter, depending on the snow.

New Proposals:

The district manager submitted two CFRP proposals. She explained the location and the scope of the projects on Forest Service land and in Corona. The CFRP Technical Committee will meet

on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the coming week. The proposals will be heard on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the committee will decide on which proposals will be funded.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

The district manager received a report from Bill Ferranti of Alamo Navajo saying that Ramah Navajo is working on the Zuni project above Grants where good progress is being made. The district manager described work on noxious weeds in Priest Canyon and the Corona area, which she expects to be complete by the end of September.

Rehab Project for the Dog Head Fire Area:

Regarding the rehab project on the Dog Head Fire, the Forest Service has put on hold the noxious weed project and the installation of the signs until they can meet with the East Torrance SWCD on August 17. Signs will be installed on the North Fire beginning next Wednesday. The chairman will work on and supervise the installation of signs. He described what is involved.

Straw has been put down on the archeology sites. The sites will have to be checked to determine whether more straw will be necessary.

The district manager said that the participating agreement allows the district to work anywhere in the state of New Mexico. Vern Kohler is about to start out on storm patrol. The chairman explained what storm patrol entails. The district manager distributed maps of the burn areas provided by Codi Stropki.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager said that she sent a letter to NRCS asking permission to carry out work before the agreement for 2016 funding is actually signed. She submitted all the necessary paperwork but hasn't heard anything yet. She submitted a pre-proposal for 2017 funding and was given permission to submit a full proposal. Five entities in the state were approved to submit full proposals, but the district's proposal is one of two under the state allocation. SWCA can now proceed with archaeology clearances on projects near Grants. Nearly all of 1.6 million dollars awarded was spent on the ground by the 14 SWCDs involved in the RCPP. The district manager said that she was very proud of this achievement.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that there are only a few cords of wood left from this project. There is still a lot of "free" wood designated for the VFWs and Knights of Columbus. The district is working on removing the wood from the state land/Deer Canyon project. The chairman praised the crew that is removing the wood, which the district will sell.

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 next week.

The district manager said that the traveling display on fire wise information will be used at the homeowners meeting at Deer Canyon. She said that the development is working with State Forestry to develop a stewardship plan. She hopes that Deer Canyon will work with the district on their plans for fire safety.

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 has asked Senator Ted Barela to help her work with the agency. The district was not notified that it needed to submit a questionnaire in order to be included in severance bond sales. Therefore, the funding will be delayed. She said that other sources of funding need to be explored.

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

Public meetings were held August 2 in Corona and in Mountainair on August 3. The chairman reported that the meetings went very well. The district manager will disseminate comments to the board members that she proposes to submit on the plan. She was asked for a meeting with permittees in the Corona area to listen to their concerns. She will ask for written concerns about what should be included in the plan. A discussion followed on the responsibilities that should be shouldered by various communities.

75th anniversary of CPSWCD – September 2016:

The chairman reminded the board members about the 2016 annual meeting. The district manager said that the meeting may need to be postponed until October.

Approve Land Use Plan:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the revised Land Use Plan. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager has gotten a model to use in filling out the application for an Americorp/Vista worker. A worker may be on board by November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Re-organization:

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to continue with the current board organization. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 03-2017 – Updated Land Use Plan:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve Resolution No. 03-2017. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said that the coalition held its annual meeting on July 28. Senator Ivy Soto gave a presentation on a bill (formerly HB 143) to consolidate all of the elections. The mil levy won't be included, but a different bill may be introduced to vote on the mil levy every 10 years. The coalition is working on a memorandum of understanding with the regional Forest Service office. The coalition wants the Forest Service to form agreements with individual districts.

South Central RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

A meeting will be held on the following Thursday.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 9, 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:** Larry Gomez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.