



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

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

September 9, 2016

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

**Absentees:** William Caster

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Brandon Bishop, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Paul Montoya, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD)  
Jay Turner, U.S. Forest Service

### 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. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Minutes of the regular meeting from August 5, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention. On page 1, change "Melargno" to "Melaragno." On page 2, change "Marcos" to "Marcus."

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

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August, 2016 with accounts payable for September, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for August, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for September, 2016. Larry Gomez 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:

**Letter from New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):**

Usually the district receives 90% of the funds from the point system, but only 45% can be spent through December 31, 2016 due to the state's budget deficit.

**Meeting with Betty Cabber, Torrance County Assessor:**

The district manager met with Betty Cabber. It appears that the mil levy should increase by about \$4,000 this year. Adjustments are being made to assessments on vacant land, depending on whether live stock is on the land. Also, some people don't report that buildings have been constructed on their property. Ms. Cabber will attend the next board meeting.

**Letter from Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) – FY 2017 Budget Approval:**

The district manager received a letter from the DFA approving the district's final budget.

**Approve FY 2017 Budget:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to re-approve the FY 2017 budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

Jim Wanstall's report is included in board members' packets. The district manager asked that board members let her know if they want to attend the NMDA SWCD Operation Training on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Richard Shovelin would like to attend.

**Field Office Report:**

Brandon Bishop's report was distributed to board members. He added that the EQIP applications are due December 16. He said that only one work group meeting will be held for Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner and a second meeting will be held at the Edgewood district on October 6 for the Edgewood, East Torrance and Claunch-Pinto SWCDs.

**District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. Jerry Melaragno expressed his appreciation because Vern Kohler spent three hours at Deer Canyon spraying salt cedar in a rugged side canyon to the main arroyo. He said that there is a gyp spring up there with water in it. A discussion took place on the spread of salt cedar in the Abó watershed and on an insect that is killing the salt cedar trees in various locations. District crews have also been doing re-sprout treatments for the GRGWA. Work is being done on the San Cristobal ranch on the Gallesteo.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence is included in the Board packets. The district manager circulated a thank you letter from the Mountainair Gymkhana Rodeo. The chairman said that it had a successful season. He has been announcing at the events for 12 to 15 years.

**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:**

For 2016 funding, the district manager has received a timeline so the board will be able to approve a resolution on the funding. She will email the information to board members for review. She explained that 70% of the 2015 funding needs to be spent by October 5. She will request a waiver from the WTB because of the delays to certain projects due to the migrating endangered bird population. She will report on the Dog Head Fire rehab work at that time.

**EBWHRM:**

The district manager said that contracts for both the EBWHR and the GRGWA will be presented at the next board meeting for approval. Reimbursements for the Water Trust Board grants have to be approved by the Environment Department.

**GRGWA:**

RFPs have gone out on the projects. A technical committee meeting will be held the following Friday to go over the proposals and to make recommendations. Nearly one million dollars will be contracted on projects.

**State Forestry:**

The district received a grant from NM State Forestry, The district manager has received the paperwork, which she has reviewed and sent back to State Forestry. Shortly that paperwork will be finalized.

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

**Romero Wood, LLC:**

Jay Turner said that work is proceeding on this project.

**New Proposals:**

The district manager submitted two new CFRP proposals for NEPA projects to the Regional Forest Service office. She explained the location and the scope of the projects on Forest Service land and in Corona. Both of the proposals were funded. She said that the Cimmaron project that George Long has worked on for several years was also funded. She said that the Corona project was funded for \$360,000, and the project on Forest Service land above where Pablo Romero is working was funded for \$187,000.

Since June, approximately 1.9 million dollars in grant funding has been received overall

**Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

The District Manager received an email from Elaine Kohrman, Cibola Forest Supervisor who couldn't attend the board meeting this week but thanked the board for their cooperative work for many years.

District crews are spraying Russian knapweed in Priest Canyon. Spraying will take place on forest land near Corona. The crew will also be spraying salt cedar and Russian olive infestations on the forest land within the Claunch-Pinto SWCD area. The district is planning to work with the Mountainair Ranger District to conduct another herbicide application on the Russian knapweed in the spring.

The Zuni project is also progressing. Sixty-eight acres have been completed. Ramah and Alamo Navajo are working on this project.

Hazard and trail signs have been installed on the North Fire in the Magdalena Ranger District. The chairman supervised the installation of signs. He described hazards that were involved. The district manager praised the crew. She said that costs of the signs were about half of the money allotted for the project.

**Rehab Project for the Dog Head Fire Area:**

Regarding the rehab work on the Dog Head the following has been completed: 1) Stabilization of the archaeology sites was accomplished with more monitoring of the sites to take place; the hazard signs were ordered in July and have been stored in the district shop building since they were received from P&M Signs in Mountainair. The signs were received the third week of July, 2016; Storm patrols are also taking place and will continue until the end of the month.

Jay Turner explained what areas of the forest are open again.

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

SWCA is in the process of finishing the cultural clearances in the Grants area for the FY2015 funding cycle. The district manager described work that is being completed. She said that Vern Kohler and the district crew will be in that area on Tuesday spraying re-sprouts so he will be checking with the Mt. Taylor Ranger District and NRCS, so he can complete the pre-work photo monitoring on the RCPP projects in that area.

The district manager has just received the RCPP contract from NRCS for \$500,000. She will take the contracts to Albuquerque on Tuesday. A notice to proceed is forthcoming.

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

The district manager said that she will use WTB funding to work on the Manzano State Park project.

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

The district manager said that the Community Wildfire Protection Plans are finished for the district and for Torrance County. The new community wildfire protection plan includes Corona. She will take a copy of the plan to the Lincoln County Commission to let the members know that Corona was included.

She is submitting reimbursements for this funding, which will complete the process for this grant.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager said that Senator Barela has been extremely helpful in locating the money. She said that Linda Kehoe at the Legislative Council Service, who is working on the proposal to cut the budget, told her that 2016 funding is not being considered for a cut at this time. She also talked to Jimmy Rodriguez at the Capital Outlay Bureau, who said that in December when she receives the severance tax questionnaire, she should work with Ms. Kehoe and the current senator on moving the money from the Department of Finance to the Department of Agriculture, which is accustomed to working with soil and water conservation districts.

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

Public meetings were held August 2 in Corona and in Mountainair on August 3. By August 31, the district manager submitted comments on behalf of Team Five and Claunch-Pinto as well as comments by the permittees in the Mountainair Ranger District. At the request of Lincoln County Commissioner Preston Stone, she had met with 25 permittees. She thought that the meeting went very well, and she received some good comments. After the comments were prepared the district manager sent them to Jay Turner, District Ranger and Preston Stone, Chairman, Lincoln County Commission for their review and approval before they were sent to the Cibola Forest Supervisor.

She thanked the supervisor of the Valencia County SWCD for bringing to her attention two areas on the west side of the Manzanos that might be designated as wilderness. If this happened there would not be parking areas for members of the public who would want to hike in this area. The public would have to park on private land which would also cause a problem. When the next draft comes out, the district manager will make sure that the permittees get a copy of the new draft and will hold another meeting for them.

**75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPSWCD – November 2016:**

The chairman reminded the board members about the 2016 annual meeting. It has been postponed from September to November 10 at the community building. The district manager passed around the invitation to the annual meeting. She discussed some of the plans.

The New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) notified the district manager that it would like to recognize the district at the NMACD annual meeting for its 75th year anniversary. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to decline the recognition. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that the new worker may be on board by November.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointed Supervisor – Oath of Office:**

Richard Shovelin and Dan Williams took the oath of office and were re-appointed.

**Resolution No. 04 -- 2017 – WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 04 -- 2017. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams -- yea.

**Resolution No. 05 – 2017 WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 5 -- 2017. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion: Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams -- yea.

**Resolution No. 06 – 2017 – Budget Adjustment:**

The district manager explained that the funds for the participation agreement with the Forest Service needed to be added to the 2017 budget.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2017. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Dan Williams -- yea.

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager said the NMCCD will be represented at Ag Day in October in Las Cruces.

The coalition held its annual meeting on July 28 where José Varela Lopez handed out a memorandum of understanding with the regional Forest Service. She expects a conference call will be held review it.

**New Mexico Association of Conservation District's report on the Manzano Acequia Project:**

Paul Montoya introduced himself. He is a contractor for NMACD whose duties are to work with the Acequia Program. He made a report to the board members, at their request, to inform them about the acequia project that he is working on in Manzano.

**South Central RC&D:**

Dan Williams reported on a meeting that he attended. Meeting documents are on file.

He said that the annual meeting will be on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Williams would like for someone to alternate with him to attend the meetings.

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

The district manager attended the meeting of the EBWPC in August. Three proposals were received in response to their request for proposals for their monitoring project. The contractor selected is the EBWCPC current monitoring contractor. The next meeting will be held in October at the Edgewood SWCD Conference Room.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 7, 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:** Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

---

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

---

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.