



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2017**

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

Absentees: Larry Gomez

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Javier E. Sanchez, Torrance County District 3 Commissioner
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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from December 2, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Dan Williams 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 December, 2016 with accounts payable for January, 2017.

Discussion occurred on the district manager's use of the district trailer in December. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to reimburse the district manager in the amount of \$60 for trailer use. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to accept the report for December, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for January, 2017. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Audit:

The district manager reported that she, Jerry Melaragno, Treasurer and Felipe Lovato, Chairman met with the District's auditor for an exit conference. The audit was sent to the state auditor's office by December 15th for review and approval.

Financial Committee:

No report.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's report is included in board members' packets. The district manager pointed out the supervisor election process. She mentioned that she received the timeline late.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Kenneth Lujan commented on several items. He mentioned that the district conservationist position has not been advertised yet, and he will serve as the district conservationist until February 3rd followed by Joshua Archuleta, who will serve for three pay periods followed by Louis King. Then Mr. Lujan will serve in the position again.

EQIP:

Mr. Lujan said that the proposal from the local work group that met in Edgewood was submitted to the state office and was approved for 2017. He reminded the board that a team-wide ranking system for 2017 will replace the current system. There will be one pool of funds for the four offices and one ranking sheet. He said that what was important about the proposal is that there are no caps, so one request could be awarded all of the funds. He had recommended that caps be established so that the funds could be distributed more widely, but the other field offices didn't agree.

He explained the categories that the funds can be used for and said that the Mountainair office might not receive as much money as the other offices because there isn't very much crop in the area.

CSP:

Mr. Lujan said that in the past CSP paid well for work that had to be done, but changes have occurred. Now it pays about one dollar per acre for rangeland, so that change represents a big cut in funding. He explained what the field office will be responsible for, and he said that the process will be a lot more time consuming for the field office. Producers might not sign up for the program because they feel that the program won't pay enough to be involved in. He also explained the potential effects on funding for the field offices because of changes to CSP funding.

Other:

Mr. Lujan will be on leave from February 17th until the 20th and Sandra Copeland will be acting in his place.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She also mentioned several other matters. She said that both district chain saws were stolen and described what happened. The saws have been replaced with district funds and some reimbursement from insurance. Now the saws will be stored in a more secure place.

Also, the district manager and Vern Kohler met with Adrian Padilla, Mountainair town councilman, the mayor and the town clerk. They discussed spraying elm trees that are causing damage in various parts of town. This project will take place in the fall of 2017. Vern has looked into what is needed to carry out the work. No work will take place on private land. This item will be on the agenda in February for board approval.

The district manager said that both the mayor and the councilman are very concerned about areas on the southwest side of town because of the danger of fire. She said that residents in these areas should be encouraged to apply for help with thinning.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence is included in the board packets.

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 is contracting 2016 funds. She is preparing readiness items for 2017 funds.

The 2015 funds for the GRGWA have to be spent by March 1. **Progress is being made on these projects.** Two projects have been completed. The riparian project on the San Cristobal is complete.

Work is starting on the project in the Sandia Pueblo and the projects in Valencia district and the Grants area. Boss Reclamation is working on this project. When these projects are finished, the company will move to the Ojo Caliente project.

The district manager said that a small article appeared in this week's Mountainview Telegraph about the projects that the district did in partnership with the state land office.

New Mexico State Forestry:

The district manager is still developing the work plan, and Lawrence Crane is in the process of answering some questions that have been raised about the project. Different ways of advertising contracts will be used to get qualified contractors to apply.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager said that the district crew is walking into the work area to thin trees. Fourteen of the 23 acres have been completed.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The district ranger wants to have a meeting with SWCA and the district before the CFRP work begins on both the Corona and Capilla Peak projects so that all parties are on the same page on the NEPA work.

Forest Service Participating Agreement:

No report.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

The district manager was notified that the RCP was funded for \$969,000. There will be a conference call on January 12 with Washington D.C. and NRCS. NRCS has never advertised for 2016 projects so these funds will probably be added to the new funding and then advertised for projects. Mr. Lujan suggested that he and the district manager should talk with Kenny Branch, who is in charge of EQIP for the state, about deadlines. The district manager has informed the soil and water conservation districts who are involved so that they can start on outreach.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager met with a representative from H2O Partners. She will write a letter to him which explains what will constitute the match for these funds. FEMA funds will amount to \$90,000 and \$30,000 in match will be provided. The district manager explained where the project areas are and the importance of the project to prevent the spread of fire.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The district manager said that she has been in touch with Senator-elect Stefanics regarding the funds. She also said that the severance tax bonds have been sold, and the paperwork from the Board of Finance is in order. She has been assured that local government will work well with the district in administering the funds.

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

The district manager said that it may be June or July 2017 before the next draft is available.

Supervisor Elections:

The chairman reminded the board that positions three and four held by Mr. Melaragno and Mr. Gomez are up for this election. The district manager put a copy of the election timeline in the board packets. By the next board meeting on February 3, the election superintendent will have to be discussed. The district manager went over some other deadlines.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she is still working on the application.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

REPORTS:**Javier Sanchez, County Commissioner for District 3:**

First, Mr. Sanchez introduced himself to the board as the newly elected commissioner. He is organizing a meeting to take place on January 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Torreon community center to get input on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). He wants to find out what needs exist across District 3. Mr. Sanchez wanted to be sure that the board is aware of the meeting since Claunch-Pinto is a vital stakeholder. The district manager stated that it will be important to include the Estancia Basin thinning project in the ICIP. Mr. Sanchez said that the country has access to funds that would help in implementing projects, so it is important to achieve maximum participation in the meeting.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager said that the NMCCD will not have a booth at the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the legislature, but information bags will be prepared and hand delivered to legislators' offices. NMCCD will have a booth at AgFest. The morning following Agfest, a breakfast will be held for supervisors and employees of member districts to discuss their needs.

Some district employees will meet on a quarterly basis in different areas to find out from employees in those areas what they need help with and what questions they have. Kim Kostelnik will attend these meetings.

David King and Joe Delk will represent NMCCD at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in Denver, Colorado.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman said that the South Central meeting was canceled.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Mr. Caster attended the EBWPC meeting held on Thursday December 8. His questions didn't come up at this meeting, but the district manager said that they were discussed at the Estancia Basin Resource Association meeting. She said that a land owner near Estancia gave a presentation during which he said that he was approached last March about selling his land's water rights. He said that there is no plan at this time to sell them.

The Estancia Basis Resource Association's annual meeting will be held on January 21.

The district manager explained how the EBWPC was established and what its role is as an advisory committee. She explained the importance of participating in the EBWPC's meeting. Discussion followed.

The district manager said that Brian Green now has an appointed position on the EBWPC. She will provide a list of the committee members, a copy of the minutes, and the date of the committee's annual meeting to the supervisors.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 3, 2017 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.