



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
March 3, 2017**

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
David Cain
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Codi 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 8:05 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. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from February 3, 2017 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 February, 2017 with accounts payable for March, 2017.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to accept the report for February, 2017 and pay the accounts payable for March, 2017. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Melaragno distributed his unofficial treasurer's summary for February 2017. He said that there was a large amount in the general fund. A discussion of the mil levy took place.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Audit:

The district manager pointed out the printed audit report in the supervisors' binders and said that she would now post the audit to the district's web site.

Financial Committee:

No report.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The district manager said that most of Mr. Wanstall's report concerned the supervisor election. He had a conflict and couldn't attend the board meeting.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Kenneth Lujan commented that he has several good applications and hopes to find funding for them.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager pointed out a NMED discharge application 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 State Forestry signed the district's work plan. She will write contracts for the Edgewood, Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance districts.

Seventy-five per cent of the WTB funding has to be spent by the first of September so projects will have to be finished in about six months.

On the Greater Rio Grande, several contractors are behind. Some projects are being finished with 2015 funding. Sixty acres will probably be added to the Ojo Caliente project. There is a large project on the San Cristobal ranch. Mastication will take place on acres near the highway.

Ten to twenty acres of tree thinning projects will be completed for the Pueblo of Acoma. The district manager described the scope of the project.

The Esquibel project has just been completed at old Abó north of the ruins. The land owner is very happy with the work of the Alamo Navajo crew because his well has already risen. A lot of the work had to be done by hand. This crew has now moved on to an eight-acre project in Tijeras.

The district manager will save back some 2016 Rio Grande funds to spray some areas of salt cedar and Russian olive.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood, LLC:

The district manager described the location of the project. A meeting was held with State Forestry in mid-February because the project is behind and needs to get back on track. She described the progress of work and what has to be done in the next 15 to 17 months.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

Cody Stropki reported that Goshawk surveys will begin at the end of March, first in Corona and then Capilla Peak. Each survey will take about two weeks.

Both projects are intended to complete the NEPA on the project areas. Then funding for thinning will be found. The district manager described the location and scope of the projects.

Mr. Candelaria mentioned the dumping that is taking place in the Manzano area. He asked whether the State Environment Department can prevent this behavior.

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager reported on this new proposal. It is a partnership with BLM and the State Land Office to carry out the NEPA on state lands. Land owners are providing letters of support for the project, which will open up opportunities to do more work on state lands for both the district and the State Land Office. The ranchers will attend the multi-party meetings that are required if the proposal is funded.

Mr. Lujan asked whether SWCA can do clearances on state land. Mr. Stropki said that SWCA could do the clearances. Mr. Lujan said that North Central received a million dollars of RCPP funds which Mountainair used most of. He said that in the past, the clearances were done on private land, but this time, the clearances will be on state land. He explained the past ranking criteria compared to the present. He intends to support land owners who just need to do brush management as opposed to a plan to address multiple practices. Mr. Gomez said that applying common sense was always the right approach. What do people need in a geographic area? What are the needs that need to be addressed? A discussion followed about the scope of resource concerns and ranking.

Request from the Grant SWCD to give a presentation:

The district manager has been asked to give a presentation on collaborative partnerships if the CFRP grant proposal submitted by Grant SWCD is funded.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**2017 RCPP Funding:**

The district manager is working on reports that she described. She was notified that the RCPP was funded for \$960,000 for 2017. All cultural clearances have been done for 2015 funding and projects are starting to finish. The district is the only RCPP that has all its projects contracted and starting to finish up. All of the 2016 funds have been contracted. Of the 1.6 million dollars, the Mountainair field office has put one million dollars on the ground. Once the contract has been signed and approved by the national Department of Agriculture, outreach efforts will occur to get participation

2018 RCPP Funding:

The 2018 pre-proposal is due April 20. The district has been asked to meet with the Santa Fe and Taos watershed groups and Nature Conservancy to encourage them to become partners. Perhaps the 2018 funds can be applied for brush management and forest stand improvement to meet geographic needs. Mr. Candelaria credited the district and the district manager with getting things done and therefore attracting partnerships..

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager wants to do work on the state park in the fall after the camping season is over.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager said that she hasn't heard from Homeland Security. She explained where the funding would be spent if the project is funded.

She commented on her efforts to get the district paid for the CWPP work that was done for Torrance County.

ACTION TAKEN: Supervisor LeRoy Candelaria moved to authorize the district manager to write a letter on behalf of the board to the County Commission demanding payment that was done for the county. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager called the community development division under the Department of Finance and Administration, local government. The representative said that she will find out whether the office ever received the letter from the Board of Finance saying that contracting with the district is not in violation of the anti-donation clause. The district manager has not heard back.

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

The district manager said that the wilderness information is being reviewed. She will help the district manager of the Quemado-Salido district review the information. It may be after July 2017 before the next draft is available. Kim Kostelnik may be contracted to word the forest plan revision so that the public can understand it.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager said that Gail Jones, the village clerk at Bosque Farms, will be the district's election superintendent. If elections need to be held, the voting locations are in Corona, Mountainair and at the intersection of Forest Road 422 and Highway 60. Therefore, all four counties that the district encompasses will have a voting location. The declarations of candidacy are due in person on March 14. The declaration of candidacy for write-in candidates is due on March 21. Positions three and four held by Mr. Melaragno and Mr. Gomez are up for this election. The district manager reviewed the rest of the election process.

Americorp/Vista Program:

No report.

Beautification – Partnership with the town of Mountainair – Elm Trees in Town Right of Ways:

The district manager will attend the next town council meeting. She will explain how the herbicide will be applied and that notification will take place so that anyone sensitive to the chemical will be forewarned. Vern Kohler is preparing to take the test needed for certification. The treatment of the elm trees will take place in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 10-2017 – Mill Levy:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve resolution No. 10—2017. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Larry Gomez – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin reported that HB 174 on combined elections passed several committees and the House in spite of strong opposition and has gone to the Senate. He mentioned entities that opposed the bill. He said that the bill passed with amendments. The district manager explained what entities will have to participate in the joint elections, the criteria that trigger their participation and when the elections would be held. She said that amendments were made to include watershed districts and provide for write-in candidates. She also explained the ballot on demand process. Mr. Candelaria spoke about the confusion that would result from passage of the bill. Mr. Shovelin mentioned two negative aspects of the bill: the mil levy couldn't be raised and those elected to office in November couldn't assume office until January.

Mr. Shovelin commented that the only chance of killing the bill depends on the Governor's veto.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the district manager to write a letter on behalf of the board asking the Governor to veto the bill if it passes the Senate. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The district manager called attention to Senate bill 222 and urged board members to review it.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The meeting was canceled.

EBWPC:

The district manager said that the draft minutes for the last meeting is included in the board members' packets.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Mr. Cain addressed the ranking criteria that Mr. Lujan had brought up and supported Mr. Lujan's concerns. Mr. Lujan said that he would continue to address the criteria.

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin asked whether the district would apply for a grant mentioned in Mr. Wanstall's report. Discussion followed.

He also wanted to know about the composting plan to put composting on rangeland.

Discussion followed on the viability of the plan.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 7, 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.