



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 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
Jay Turner, USFS
Jim Wanstall, NMDA

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 March 3, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:

Minutes of the special meeting from March 27, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. William Caster 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 March, 2017 with accounts payable for April, 2017.

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

Mr. Melaragno distributed his unofficial treasurer's summary for March 2017. He answered questions about certain line items. He explained why the equipment line was higher than usual and the payroll line was lower than usual.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Financial Committee:

No report.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. He mentioned grant opportunities. He said that the elections bill was on the governor's desk, but she has not signed it yet. The district manager said that two grant proposals have been submitted, one for water quality and the other for an NFL grant.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Kenneth Lujan commented that he will be the acting DC for 120 days. Probably there will be another acting DC for an additional DC until the permanent position is filled. There is a renewal deadline for CSP producers who already have a contract for CSP. The new CSP will be very different from the ones in the past. Mr. Lujan went over the differences. Mr. Shovelin asked about EQIP criteria. Mr. Lujan explained how the ranking criteria will be consistently applied. He thinks that a lot of contracts from the Mountainair office will be funded. He will make sure that the process is fair.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager included a copy of the letter she wrote on behalf of the district regarding the elections bill.

The district manager also announced that she received her procurement officer's certification.

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)

EBWHRM -- The district manager said that NFL funds will provide a match for EBWHRM funding. She is in the process of writing contracts for East Torrance, Edgewood, and Claunch-Pinto 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. She has submitted a new NFL proposal for \$298,000 for thinning in the Claunch Pinto district.

GRGWA -- On the Greater Rio Grande, the district manager thinks that the 2015 funds have been spent and she is working on the 2016 money, which has to be spent by August. She is confident that the projects can be completed. Some projects are being finished with 2015 funding. Sixty-five acres was added to the Ojo Caliente project. Boss Reclamation has completed those acres. The land owner is very happy with the work. There is also a project on the Puebla of Acoma. A ten-acre salt cedar demonstration project has also been done there. A Forest Day will be held on April 28 at the Resource Department near the tribal offices.

The Forest Service will conduct an audit of how State Forestry funds have been spent.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

Regarding the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program, on the Romero project, almost all of the 335 acres have been completed. A meeting with the Romeros will be conducted on April 18.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

There have been some changes to the Capilla Peak CFRP. The Forest Service has removed some really steep land from the proposed project area. The district manager said in addition to the Goshawk surveys, Mexican owl surveys will also be done. Cody Stropki reported SWCA has started Goshawk surveys in the Corona CFRP.

Chupadera CFRP Proposal:

The district manager reported that the Technical Advisory Committee will consider the proposal on Monday.

Four of five proposals including Claunch-Pinto could be funded.

Request from the Grant SWCD to give a presentation:

The district manager has been asked to give a presentation on collaborative partnerships if the grant Silver City SWCD is funded.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2015 --2016 RCCP Funding:

All of the cultural clearances have been completed plus all of the reports have been turned in for the 2015 funding. Work is taking place on the ground and some projects have been finished.

The District Manager reported the 2016 projects have been ranked, but she doesn't know anything else about the projects at this time.

2017 RCPP Funding:

The district manager met with three groups in Taos. She described the land involved and who was at the meeting. She said that ideas were about possible projects and she said that some participants left with applications. She attended the meeting at the invitation of the Taos SWCD and Chris Graham Chavez, head of the RCPP. The district manager described the content of the meeting.

2018 RCPP Funding:

The 2018 pre-proposal is due April 21. She described what has been involved.

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 met with Homeland Security yesterday. She explained where the funding would be spent if the project is funded and what she needs to provide as far as maps and other required documents. The proposal is pending because the hazardous mitigation plan from Torrance County hasn't been approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- shop building:

The district manager submitted paperwork for the third time to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and everything was in order. She will begin work on a pre-proposal. DFA representative encouraged her to get work started as soon as possible to ensure that the funding remains available.

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

It may be fall 2017 before the next draft is available. Jay Turner said that a meeting was held to review the wilderness section again, but no substantive changes were made. The district manager said that a request will be made to establish the Ciengita area as a special management area because it's a wetland and needs to be protected from off road vehicles. The collaborative team hopes to meet

quarterly on the same day as the EBWHRM meeting. The district manager explained the location of the area and what it's like.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager submitted a proposal, received comments on it and submitted a revision.

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

The district manager is working on an MOU between the town and the district.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Supervisors:

The chairman asked supervisors Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin to confirm that they wished to continue to serve in their appointed positions. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to re-appoint Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin as supervisors. William Caster seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Budget Committee:

Jerry Melaragno, Richard Shovelin and William Caster will serve as the Budget Committee and will develop a draft of the budget.

District Legal Description:

The district manager explained what was necessary to revise and update the district's legal description. Jim Wanstall commented on the information the district has and what is needed. Discussion followed on district boundaries.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin reported that the governor has not yet signed HB 174. He said the deadline is today to sign more than 100 bills.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman said that a demonstration on an air curtain will take place that he will provide to the district manager. He wasn't able to attend the last meeting, but he attended a seminar that he was an active participant in.

EBWPC:

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

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin asked about an item in the minutes. In response, the district manager reported on a request for reimbursement from the county that the district hasn't been paid for.

Mr. Lujan provided his telephone number to board members.

Cody Stropki reported on his work with high school students who placed first in the forestry division of a state competition. Individual students also placed high. Mr. Stropki gave high praise to their teacher.

The district manager suggested that the students be recognized at the next board meeting to support them. The chairman suggested giving them a remembrance of their achievement.

Mr. Lujan reported that he will take a state representative on a tour of local projects.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 5, 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 9:50 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.