



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2017**

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

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
David Cain
April Luna, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
John Perea, Torreon Fire Department
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer
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:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from April 7, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Jerry Melaragno 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 April, 2017 with accounts payable for May, 2017.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for April, 2017 and pay the accounts payable for May, 2017. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The district manager described a minor incident at the Senior Center when the district crew inadvertently dinged two car windows while maintaining the grounds. The district is repairing the damage.

Mr. Melaragno distributed his unofficial treasurer's summary for April 2017. He answered questions about certain line items. He explained the total funding for on the ground conservation projects.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Financial Committee:

The members of the Financial Committee, William Caster, Jerry Melaragno, and Richard Shovelin met with the district manager on May 4. The district manager distributed the FY 2017-2018 draft budget prepared by the committee; she went over it and answered board members' questions. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the FY 2017 – 2018 draft budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. He highlighted several items: the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, the 2017 Women in Agriculture Leadership Conference, the New Mexico Drought Task Force Resources, the New Mexico State University Youth Ranch Management Camp, and the sixty-second annual New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute's Conference.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. April Luna presented the report. She said that she and Kenneth Lujan are trying to figure out next year's EQIP funding to maximize the money.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She explained the participation of the district in the maintenance of the weather station in Chilili. She also commented that the Forestry Day at the Acoma Pueblo was very good. The Picuris Pueblo made a presentation on how they use every part of felled trees. The district manager wants to invite the Pueblo of Picuris to make their presentation at the district's annual meeting. She and Mr. Lovato attended the event. He was very impressed by the event and praised the district manager for bringing the Acoma Pueblo into participation in the district's conservation activities.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager included a copy of the letter she received from NMDA that explained the point system funding distribution and said that the district will receive \$7209.98.

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 said that she has been contracting with landowners. She met with a land owner at the radio station and also said that she will be interviewed at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday on 88.7. The segment will center on the watershed work that the district is doing.

GRGWA – The district manager said that Boss Reclamation will be finishing a large mastication project near a highway on the San Cristobal ranch.

She is working with the Acoma Pueblo on a 60-acre project on Horse Mesa which will be done in 20 to 30 acre increments. She expects that 75% of both the GRGWA and EBWHRM 2016 funding will be spent by August 15. Meeting the deadline will fulfill a requirement for submitting proposals for 2018 funding. She and Cody Stropki will begin work on the 2018 proposal soon.

There is a GRGWA meeting this afternoon at 2:00 where the Forest Contract Inspector will give a presentation on all that has been accomplished in the last five years.

Money has been set aside to treat Salt Cedar re-sprouts. The district has a ten-year commitment to maintain the treatment of re-sprouts.

New Mexico State Forestry: Non-Federal Lands (NFL) funds will provide a match for EBWHRM projects. All of Edgewood's NFL funding has been contracted. Most of Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance projects have been contracted.

Kim Kostelnik represented the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts at a state coordinating meeting two weeks ago in Santa Fe. She said that it was announced that Claunch-Pinto will receive another State Forestry grant to be used only in the Claunch-Pinto district, so work will be done in the Corona area, on state lands and on the subdivisions.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

The district has finished all of its commitment on the Romero CFRP. She reported on three project areas including two where work is delayed by the presence of Goshawks and Mexican Owls. She explained constraints involved in working on these habitats. The Forest Service is looking for areas to replace them. Three hundred and forty-four acres of the project have to be completed by September 1 of 2018.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The district manager reported that changes were also made to this CFRP, reducing acreage in really steep areas. Once the NEPAs are done, permittees can be encouraged to work with NRCS and the Forest Service to get work done on the allotments. Similar changes and consequences occurred with the Corona CFRP.

Chupadera CFRP Proposal:

The district manager said that the 250,000 acre project in the southwestern part of the district was approved, due to Claunch-Pinto's reputation and Aaron Johnson's successful answers to questions posed by the Technical Committee. This is a three-year project. The district manager described the scope of the project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

The district manager reported that she has been signing financial paperwork on behalf of the district since 2015. She is now required to provide a letter that states that she has been authorized to sign documents on behalf of the district since 2015. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved approve a letter that states that the Claunch-Pinto board has authorized the district manager to sign financial documents since 2015. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2015 --2016 RCP Funding:

The district manager said that she was disappointed that the regional conservationist was unable to visit some of the RCP projects since this local partnership is the only one in the state that is finishing up projects and is doing work on projects with 2015 funding.

She updated the board on the progress of the 2016 funding process through the state and federal government.

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 RCP Funding:

The district manager has signed all of the financial documents and submitted them to the regional office on 2017 funding. She was informed that she should be signing contracts in June. She is already distributing RCP applications to SWCDs and landowners. Applications will be handed out to the Greater Rio Grande committee when it meets today.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager wants to use state forestry money on the state park project and will call her state park contact.

Salt Cedar project:

The district manager said that that the salt cedar project just above the ruins at Abó is complete, and she understands that State Forestry is working with the Salinas Pueblo Missions Park to get the lower portion done.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager explained what she and Codi Stropki still need to do on the FEMA proposal. She hopes to submit it by the first part of the following week. The proposal is for work on the Aceves property and the Chilili land grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Capital Outlay -- Shop Building Bid Documents:**

The district manager said that the district's legal counsel reviewed the bid documents, and the district manager added the counsel's suggestions. The district manager will advertise them on Monday, with the board's approval. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to give permission to submit the bid documents for advertisement. William Caster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A Mountainair Ranger District collaborative meeting will be held with local governments and NGOs on May 23. The larger collaborative group will meet on May 24 in Albuquerque.

Mr. Melaragno reminded the district manager to write a letter requesting that the Ciengita area be established as a special management area because it's a wetland and needs to be protected. He will help her with the wording.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager announced that the district will get a Vista worker and will submit paperwork to start the process of finding a suitable person.

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

The district manager will work on an MOU between the town and the district.

District Legal Description:

Mr. Wanstall commented that it is very important to develop an accurate legal description and provided information to help write a properly done description.

NEW BUSINESS:**Torreon Fire Department – John Perea:**

The chairman recognized John Perea, who made a presentation on behalf of the Torreon Fire Department asking for help in purchasing a brush truck. He explained the need and described the equipment. The chairman provided the names of two contacts that Mr. Perea can reach out to for help, and the district manager said that there are grants available for purchasing a truck. She said that she would help write a proposal.

Mr. Perea praised the district for its thinning work in making forest land safer from fire.

Letter from San Francisco SWCD:

Board members discussed the letter from the San Francisco SWCD, which expressed concern about the changes to NRCS policy regarding how EQIP funding is distributed and how applicants are scored. April Luna described how the Mountainair office has benefited from state initiatives. The district manager pointed out that smaller landowners have been neglected and that CPSWCD has been trying to address that need. The relationship between the district and NRCS was discussed. The district manager explained changes that have taken place in NRCS. Mr. Gomez asked for clarification on many aspects of changes in NRCS policy and the nature of leadership in NRCS. The district manager emphasized the role of the local NRCS in preparing to use funding. Discussion followed on the importance of local history and background of personnel in serving local needs. Mr. Wanstall provided information on NRCS policies that have been followed or not in the past as well as on concerns and solutions. A discussion followed on the role and importance of the local work group. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the district manager to draft a letter to the San Francisco SWCD

showing support for expressing concerns about this statewide issue with a copy to the NMCCD and NRCS. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY 2017 – 2018 Draft Budget:

After discussion, **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the 2018 draft budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin suggested bringing the attention of NMCCD to the issues raised in the letter from the San Francisco SWCD.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman said that a meeting was canceled.

EBWPC:

The district manager said that there may be a meeting in June.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Mr. Cain asked for a possible date for the district's annual meeting. The district manager hopes to plan for a meeting in September.

OTHER:

The district manager will provide information on a request by the Mountainair Arts Council on purchasing sunflower seeds for the Sunflower Festival.

The high school forestry team will present to the board on its activities. The district manager has suggested that the district provide jackets recognizing the team's achievements.

The district manager distributed an announcement for a Forest Service workshop.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 2, 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 10.15 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.