



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 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)
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 May 5, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. On page 2, Delete motion under Financial Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of May, 2017 with accounts payable for June, 2017.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to accept the report for May, 2017 and pay the accounts payable for June, 2017. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Melaragno distributed his unofficial treasurer's summary for May 2017. He answered questions about certain items. He explained where the reimbursement of \$28,561.17 came from.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager mentioned that the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP) was not on today's agenda. The ICIP is due on June 15, so a board conference call will take place on June 12 or

13 to approve a resolution. She doesn't plan to make any changes except to include the Water Trust Board grant information. Otherwise, there will be no additional requests for funding, and items on the plan will just move down to the next year.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. In Mr. Wanstall's absence, the district manager mentioned several items.

- The mil levy rate resolution was passed and submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC).
- The appointed supervisor positions were also submitted to the commission.
- She said that she will begin work on the Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form for the district audit.
- The district's draft budget has been submitted to the Department of Finance.
- She will work on the district's annual work plan for the coming fiscal year.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Mr. Lujan will continue to act as the district conservationist (DC) for Mountainair, Estancia, Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner until the end of July. He went over the process and a timeline for selecting a permanent DC. He explained that a staffing plan for each state has to be submitted to headquarters and approved, so a DC will probably not be chosen for six months.

He then went over allocations for EQIP and said that the team only got 13 contracts. He thinks that the team allocation is not the problem with low numbers of contracts, but not having caps on contracts is the issue. He said that an additional \$500,000 in state funds was awarded. He reported on the amounts that each area was granted and how the team allocation affected them. Mr. Lujan thinks that over time, allocations will even out. He encouraged board members to attend the annual work group meeting next year to voice opinions on the process. A discussion took place of the effect on staffing of having a small number of contracts. Mr. Lujan said that the work load depended on the number of applications received, not the number of contracts awarded.

Mr. Lujan then reported on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). He explained changes that have taken place in the program and their effects on producers. The Mountainair office only has two applications for 2017 but seven renewals. He suggests that producers wait a year to sign up again. Mr. Lujan said that he is intent on keeping the local boards informed on these programs so that they will understand what is happening. He wants to analyze outcomes of the CSP to determine whether it is benefiting producers. If it is not, then concerns need to be brought to the attention of the state office. A discussion then took place on the favorable reaction of the NRCS contracting officer, Terry Sarazan, to improvements to the property since he last visited. The district manager said that he took the district's new regional contracting officer and a contracting officer from Iowa through the building, pointing out various features. Mr. Sarazan said that the district may be required to make a change to the gate on the west side of the enclosure to prepare for the possibility of an active shooter. Mr. Lujan commented on how lucky NRCS is to have such nice offices and facilities in the district building.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She added that the district's saw crew finished at the Romero CFRP for the time being, so they are working on 15 acres on the Martin Zamora property near Gran Quivira. The project is about half finished and needs to be finished by June 15.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager mentioned the two "Noticias de las Acequias" included in board members' packets. A discussion occurred on the importance of the water pipeline from Willard to Moriarty

because if local beneficial use of water from the Estancia Basin isn't proven, the water could be diverted to Albuquerque or Santa Fe. In addition, the water belongs to the state, so the state engineer decides who will use it. The district manager will get a map of the pipeline route to share.

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 has been contracting the WTB funds. The district manager said that the legislature used the 2017 WTB money to balance the budget. The WTB will hold a meeting on June 15 to decide how to proceed. The legislature authorized Claunch-Pinto to go out for 2018 funding if the 2017 funds are not reinstated.

New Mexico State Forestry Grant – The district manager is about to finish writing contracts for this grant. She has begun to submit reimbursements for the grants. East Torrance may not be able to finish their projects by August 15, which may hinder an application for next year's funding.

The district manager was notified of being awarded \$285,000 in State Forestry funding, which is designated for Claunch-Pinto only. Some of this funding will be used in the Corona area. It will allow more defensible space to be done in Deer Canyon Preserve, too. The district manager will try to convince land owners in Barranca Canyon to get some thinning done, and she wants to work on state land, too.

GRGWA – The district manager described a statewide mapping program. She said that the Estancia Basin and GRGWA projects have been mapped through the Highlands State University. She described what can be done with the maps.

A bird survey has to be done on a project near Grants to be sure that there are no Willow Flycatchers. Then a contractor can continue working there.

A mastication project was completed on Highway 285 near Lamy on the San Cristobal ranch. Mr. Candelaria said that it looked beautiful.

Surveys are being done for re-sprout treatments, and the district manager hopes that treatments will be applied in the Abó area in the fall.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

Marcus Romero notified the district manager that work has been finished in an area on the Romero CFRP. Aaron Johnson from the Forest Service will inspect the area today. Then work will start on another locale.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The district manager reported that SWCA has been doing Goshawk and Mexican Spotted Owl surveys. Goshawk surveys are also being done on the Corona CFRP, and preparation work for the cultural resource surveys is also taking place.

Chupadera CFRP Proposal:

The district manager said the proposal was funded for \$360,000, and paperwork for it will soon be taken care of at the Forest Service regional office. NEPA will be done on the 250,000 acre project in the southwestern part of the district. The district manager described the scope of this three-year project. A discussion occurred on the effects of various practices on the environment and on fires and how thinning beneficially affects the environment and holds back fire.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager reported that projects are being contracted for 2016 funding. All of the paperwork has been submitted for 2017 funds, and Claunch-Pinto will sign the contract within the next month. The pre-proposal has been submitted for 2018 funds and the district manager will be told sometime this month whether a full proposal may be submitted.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that work can be done using state forestry funds.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager explained that she has worked on required changes to the proposal. The proposal has to be finished and submitted by next Friday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- Shop Building Bid Documents:

The district manager said that the district received only one bid for work on the shop building, and that was from CCS Construction, Chris Valdez' company. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to accept the bid. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The district manager described the planned improvements to the building, both inside and outside. Discussion followed on work that will be done and possible increases in costs.

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

The district manager said that she learned during a conference call that a draft of the revision probably won't be available until late fall. She also said that Larry Winn from the Mt. Taylor Ranger District thinks that a draft Environmental Impact Statement will also come out when the draft of the forest plan does. The drafts won't be available to the public until after the holidays.

The Mountainair Ranger District held its first collaborative meeting on May 23. It was attended by 17 people, not including Lincoln County. All soil and water conservation districts were represented.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she needs to finish and submit some paper work, and then the district will get a Vista worker.

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

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

District Legal Description:

Larry Gomez will help the district manager with the paperwork involved in writing the district legal description.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The NMCCD will hold its annual meeting on July 27, 2017 at the Bodega Burger in Socorro.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No meetings are scheduled.

EBWPC:

The district manager said that the next meeting will be held on June 8, 2017 at 9:30 in Moriarty.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

An AG Day will be held on the pueblo of Acoma on June 16.

An Environmental Day will be held on the pueblo of Isleta on July 15. The district has been invited to attend and provide information at both events.

The 4 high school students on the forestry team are attending the state FFA conference in Las Cruces, so they couldn't attend today's board meeting, but they may be able to attend the next meeting. The district bought jackets for the students commemorating their success, and the chairman presented the jackets to them at the students' banquet, which Mr. Candelaria and David Cain also attended. The students presented Codi Stropki with the same jacket to thank him for his help in preparing for the state contest that they won. A discussion occurred on the need to encourage students to apply for available scholarships that aren't applied for.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 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:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 10.10 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.