



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
July 7, 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
Tom Betts, National Park Service, SAPU
David Cain, CPSWCD
Kenneth Lujan, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Cody Stropki, SWCA
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer
Jay Turner, Cibola National Forest
Jim Wanstall, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (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.

APPOINTED SUPERVISORS OATH OF OFFICE:

Chairman Lovato administered the Supervisors Oath of Office to Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster 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 June 2, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. LeRoy Candelaria 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 June, 2017 with accounts payable for July, 2017.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to accept the report for June, 2017 and pay the accounts payable for July, 2017. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention. In his report, Mr. Melaragno pointed out the amounts for the general fund revenue from the mil levy, the expenses, the balances and said that the shop expenses so far were in the amount of \$5,571.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that a letter was received from Rick Lopez, Director of the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. The letter grants approval of the district's draft budget contingent upon submission of a resolution adopting the FY 2017-2018 operating budget, the 4th quarter financial report, a resolution approving the 4th quarter financial report and any revisions discussed.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. He emphasized several items:

- On July 15, the point system worksheet is due to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- The cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) pre-proposal is due on July 12 and the full proposal is due on September 19.
- Claunch-Pinto received funding in the amount of \$10,993.50 for its project, Harvesting Rain Water for Community and Resource Protection.
- The 23rd Annual Southwestern Noxious/Invasive Weed Short Course will be held July 25 – 27 in Farmington.
- Information presented during meetings of the New Mexico Drought Monitoring Working Group can be found at http://www.nmdrought.state.nm.us/df_workgroup.html.
- According to the Federal Register, two national monuments in New Mexico, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument are being reviewed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Comments are due by July 10, 2017.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Mr. Lujan said that there is no head of NRCS yet. He said nation-wide, 250 positions can be filled in NRCS, but 50 or so will be allotted to NRCS in Washington D.C. New Mexico will get two positions. Three positions in the state had already been filled. He mentioned the positions that won't be filled in New Mexico, 5 in the north and 19 in the south. The state engineer position and the district conservationist position for Team 5 can be filled. More work will have to be done with fewer people since no replacements will be hired for those employees who leave their positions.

Mr. Lujan's assignment as acting district conservationist for team 5 is supposed to end on July 28, but he will probably serve an additional 60 to 90 days in the position because he knows what is going on with funding.

Next, he pointed out the allocation report for Team 5. He explained what the amounts in each category meant for contracts for Mountainair. He also corrected the amounts for Estancia and Santa Rosa. He said that although Ft. Sumner was not allocated any funding, Mr. Lujan was able to identify about \$300,000 from the Strike Force Initiative for that district. He explained how Mountainair, Estancia and Santa Rosa will benefit from the Strike Force funds. He said that the amounts of funding for all the districts in Team 5 were similar, which was Mr. Lujan's goal.

He then talked about the letter that the Claunch-Pinto previously received from the San Francisco SWCD. He explained the misunderstanding that the letter was based on and what was actually going on. He said that the team allocation will continue and explained his plan for equitably handling allocations.

The Local Work Group will meet in August. After hearing comments from constituents of the districts, the district conservationists will make the final decision on what will go into the proposals. A discussion followed on the importance of comments and on the need for fairness. He said that he would like to hold the local work group in Vaughn this year. The district manager pointed out the importance of an

early announcement for the meeting. A discussion followed on the location and participation in the previous meeting.

Mr. Lujan commented on how well the team allocation can be made to work.

Review Memorandum of Understanding:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to table the agenda item until next month's meeting.

Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager mentioned the "Noticias de las Acequias" included in board members' 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)

WTB and State Forestry Grant -- The district manager is working on reimbursements for completed projects. She hopes that the funds will have been spent down to appropriate levels by August 15. She complimented the Edgewood District for meeting with and getting to know landowners during the Dog Head Fire. As a result that district has a waiting list of people who want to do thinning projects. There are four prospective chipping jobs for the Claunch-Pinto crew to do when the dry conditions are relieved. The district manager received funds to do work in the Deer Canyon Preserve, in the state park and in the Corona area.

GRGWA – A couple of projects are finishing up. One salt cedar project near Grants should finish by next Friday.

The district is working with the pueblo of Acoma on a thinning project on Horse Mesa on pueblo land near a joint project with Cibola National Forest.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

The 342 acres that have been in progress for three years are now finished. The district's crew will begin work next week, but the work is restricted to the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Stage two fire restrictions have been imposed now which limit the time that work can be done in that area.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

Codi Stropki said that all of the archeology surveys were completed on July 4th and the reports will be written next week. SWCA finished the Goshawk surveys in Corona and surveys of Goshawks and two sessions of the Mexican Spotted Owl surveys on Capilla Peak. Cultural resource surveys will be started after the monsoon season starts because of current hot, dry conditions.

The district manager said that there is an educational component for the Corona school system, so that component will be carried out in the schools in the fall. She mentioned that she has contributed money in the name of the district to the Buyer's Club for the Lincoln County Fair so that the district will have a presence.

Chupadera CFRP Proposal:

The district manager said that she will sign papers for the grant that was funded for \$360,000 in the State Forestry regional office during the third week in July.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager reported that she received a waiver for 2017, so NRCS could advertise for applications. She has advertised the program to the SWCDs so that they can encourage their cooperators to come in and apply for the RCPP funds. The pre-proposal has been submitted for 2018 funds, but the district manager was informed that she would be told sometime in July whether she can submit a full proposal.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that she has funds that can be spent in the state parks after the tourist season is over. She said that the chairman met with Eliseo Cisneros, and he is interested in getting work done after learning about the project in the Ábo area on Russian Olives on Mr. Esquivel's property. The state park's inmate work crew will work on the monument there in Ábo. The district manager is hopeful that with cooperation with the state parks, work can be done on the Sisneros property.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager explained that she finally finished the proposal and submitted it. She thanked Cody Stropki for providing her with a map of the location of all the residents in the area.

New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Water Quality Grant:

The district received a grant to install a water catchment system at the Mountainair fire department. She gave a report to the Mountainair town council at the last meeting. The council members told her to request funds from them to install a third tank if the grant funds fall short. The members were happy to hear that 15,000 gallons of water would be collected by the system, and the district manager told them that the 10 to 15,000 gallons available in the district's tanks could be used by the town, too.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay -- Shop Building Bid Documents:

The district manager said that she stopped the work on the shop building on June 15 after a meeting at the Capital Construction Bureau. At that meeting she described the work that the district would do and the plan to accomplish it. She was told that the Department of Finance would not approve the plan, so she informed the board that another RFP would be necessary. She was also informed that the total \$85,000 capital outlay funds would need to be spent on the shop. As a result, she and Mike Valdez prepared a new work plan, which she distributed to board members. She mentioned that several additional items can be added including a security system. Discussion took place about items on the list and the work that has already taken place. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to go out on a new Request for Proposals on the shop building. William Caster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The district manager said that a draft of the revision probably won't be available until after the first of the year. Mr. Wanstall commented on positions that were reviewed and prioritized and that may be filled.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she will finish and submit some required paper work right away.

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

The district manager attended the recent town council meeting and reminded the council members that an MOU between the town and the district has to be written.

District Legal Description:

Larry Gomez helped the district manager with the paperwork involved in writing the district legal description. She stated that the map of the district needs to be reviewed carefully for accuracy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Organize the Board: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to preserve the current slate of officers. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 01 – 2018 Fourth Quarter Report:

The district manager distributed the district's fourth quarter report and reviewed revenues and expenses with the board. She pointed out an increase in mil levy revenues over last year. She said that the district's saw crew more than paid for itself last year. A discussion occurred on possible revenues from different sources such as area wind farms.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve Resolution No. 01 – 2018. 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; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Resolution No. 02 – 2018 Inter-Budgetary Transfers:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 02 – 2018. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Resolution No. 03 – 2018 Budget Resolution:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution 03 – 2018. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Discussion/Approval – Donate the F-150 Pickup to the Mountainair FFA:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved approval to donate the F-150 pickup to the Mountainair FFA. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The NMCCD has postponed its annual meeting to sometime within the next 60 days.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A conference call took place.

EBWPC:

The district manager attended the EBWPC meeting and said that information was discussed that she has already distributed to the board.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Felipe Lovato, Richard Shovelin, and William Caster attended a county commission meeting to hear discussion about future projects.

Mr. Lovato attended the open meetings act workshop in Estancia and said that it was a good and informative meeting.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 4, 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 10.10 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

After the meeting adjourned, the Mountainair FFA Chapter Forestry Team that won first place at their State Conference gave a presentation on what they had each learned during the preparation period prior to entering contests across the State. The District Chairman gave checks to the Forestry Team, Shelby Emmons and Wyatt Greene that had been provided by the Southwest Quay SWCD. After the presentation sandwiches and dessert prepared by Vickie Lovato were enjoyed by all who attended.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.