



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
August 4, 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  
Jim Groom, Deer Canyon Preserve  
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 8:00 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. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from July 7, 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 July, 2017 with accounts payable for August, 2017. The chairman asked what "HMI" was. The district manager explained that it was Holistic Management Institute, which put on a workshop at the Monte Prieto ranch where she and Kenneth Lujan made presentations. She said that the workshop provided an excellent opportunity to promote RCCP and EQIP projects. A nationwide organization, HMI presents its methods regarding farming and ranching. Mr. Gomez said that the workshop provided a different perspective on ranching, and the dialog that takes place helps people to deal with future challenges. Mr. Lujan said that the workshop

was beneficial to a lot of people. A discussion took place on the participants' backgrounds and their practices.

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

In his report, Mr. Melaragno pointed out that individual line items on his report are not from this month, but the total is correct. He pointed out that the amount spent on plumbing for the shop was nearly \$6,000.

#### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager pointed out the FY 2017 worksheet for the point system, She said that the district earned 120 points for last year; 100 points were required.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. The district manager said that the district was awarded a Water Quality and Conservation Grant, but she hasn't received either the Notice to Proceed or the page with the secretary's signature.

##### **Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Mr. Lujan said that the Local Work Group will meet on August 29<sup>th</sup> in Encino. Team allocations will continue instead of office allocations. Mr. Lujan discussed the amounts of money that went to each office. He thought that the process and allocations were fair. He asked Felipe Lovato to chair the meeting of the Local Work Group. Mr. Lujan described what will be discussed at the meeting. He stressed the importance of having representation at the meeting. He also explained the effects of having caps on categories and on meeting resource concerns.

##### **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 announced that a Field Day will take place on August 15th in Los Lunas at the Plant Materials Center and described the topics to be covered. She also disseminated a letter from Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham asking for feedback on the programs established and funded through the Farm Bill. She is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and a ranking member of the House Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research Subcommittee. The district manager sent the letter to district cooperators with the announcement of the meeting of the Local Work Group. Mr. Lujan emphasized the importance of passing the Farm Bill so that the programs administered by NRCS will be supported. The district manager also said that several forestry programs are in danger of being cut. These programs support thinning projects.

#### **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 said that most of the projects are making good progress. Work in the Torreon and Tajique areas has been slowed by the amount of rain there. She is hopeful that the funds will be spent down to required levels so that she can submit a full proposal. The

WTB is requesting pre-proposals from August 7 through August 28. October 3 is the deadline for full proposals.

The State Forestry NFL grant applies to WTB funding as a match. Most of these funds will be spent, too. She will find out on Monday when she can submit a work plan for the State Forestry grant that is just for the Claunch-Pinto district. She has received applications for those funds.

She shared a brochure that describes fire-wise preparations, which Anita Ortiz created.

A request for Wildland Urban Interface proposals has been received and is due September 3.

GRGWA – A couple of projects are finishing up. One salt cedar project near Grants should finish soon now that a bird survey is complete. The contractor couldn't work on some of that area until after July 31. The district is working with the pueblo of Acoma on a forest thinning project on Horse Mesa on pueblo land near a joint project with Cibola National Forest.

The district manager mentioned that a thinning project funded by the WTB and NFL is taking place at the meat processing plant near the Claunch-Pinto district office.

#### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

##### **Romero Wood LLC CFRP:**

The work on approximately 65 acres of a 210 acre area is complete. The district's crew has started work on the district's project, but part of the area is in Goshawk habitat, so there are restrictions as to when work can be done; the work is restricted to winter months when snow may be an issue.

##### **Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:**

The second Mexican Spotted Owl survey on Capilla Peak has been done. Evidently, no evidence of owls has been found.

The district manager said that the cultural surveys have been completed. SWCA is on schedule with both CFRPs.

##### **Chupadera CFRP Proposal:**

The district manager said that she went to Albuquerque mid July to work on paperwork. She is working on revisions to the proposal. Changes to the budget will need to be made. She expects that the contract will be signed around the first of September. This project is with the State Land Office and BLM. The project is to carry out the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) work. The State Land Office should have funding from lease payments that continues into next year.

#### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):**

The district manager reported that the funds for 2016 have been contracted. One project has been finished.

Applications for 2017 funds won't be advertised until October, after the new fiscal year begins. She received a waiver for 2017, so NRCS could advertise for applications. Mr. Lujan said that there are 11 new applications. He expects to have 16 to 20 applications when unfunded EQIP applications are moved over. The district manager has advertised the program to the other SWCDs so that they can encourage their cooperators to come in and apply for the RCP funds. The district manager said that she has been approved to submit a full proposal, which is due the first of September.

##### **Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:**

The district manager said that she wants to use some NFL funds to do a project on the state park, but she hasn't signed the work plan yet.

#### **FEMA Grant Proposal:**

The district manager explained that she finished the proposal and submitted it. The Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan has to be approved before any FEMA funding is approved. She has submitted another invoice for \$1500, which the County still owes the district. She sent in the first invoice in October of last year. A discussion followed on the economic impact that the closing of the prison in Estancia will have on the County, local businesses and events like the county fair.

#### **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. The district manager is waiting for a notice to proceed from NMDA.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Capital Outlay -- Shop Building Bid Documents:**

The district manager said that she has prepared an RFP that she is ready to advertise. The ad will run for three weeks. Then a contractor will be selected.

##### **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.

##### **Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that the work plan has been approved, and the program has received three applications. After a period of advertising the position, the applications can be reviewed. A discussion followed on the amount of work that needs to be done in order to keep money flowing in to support work on the ground that benefits cooperators.

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

The district manager reminded the town clerk that an MOU has to be written and agreed to before the district can proceed with any work for the town.

The need for thinning west of Mountainair was discussed. The district manager said that 14 acres is being thinned in that area. She plans to talk to the town council about the fire danger to the town posed by the un-thinned acres there.

##### **District Legal Description:**

The district manager will request a different map that is accurate so that the properties excluded on current maps can be incorporated into the district's legal description.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

The NMCCD has postponed its annual meeting to October 10 at the Bodega Burger in Socorro.

A new board member is being sought.

A grant of \$75,000 was received from the Healy Foundation. The district manager said that Trudy Healy is an advocate for NMCCD and its work.

##### **South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

##### **EBWPC:**

The district manager said that a meeting should take place next week. She said that Art Swenka is monitoring anything that has to do with water use that affects the Estancia Basin. The district manager stressed the importance of demonstrating beneficial use of the water in the Estancia Basin and of keeping the water within the basin. A discussion followed on issues involved in keeping the water in the basin.

#### **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

#### **OTHER:**

The district will be represented at the county fair.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Mr. Williams attended a three-day water conference in Farmington at San Juan College. He described the content of the conference and the issues addressed.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 8, 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 9:55 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.