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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING January 3, 2018

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
Jim Groom, Deer Canyon Preserve
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Jim Wanstall, NMDA
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 5:05 p.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. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from November 3, 2017 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the minutes as read. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2017 with accounts payable for January, 2018.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for December 2017 and pay the accounts payable for January, 2018. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that she, the chairman, and Jerry Melaragno met with the auditor and the district audit was turned in on time to the state auditor's office. She said that she doesn't expect to receive the approved audit until February.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets.

Mr. Wanstall pointed out the dates of legislative sessions in his report.

He said that he has been working on the Forest Plan Revision.

He pointed out a number of conferences and said that the Society for Range Management 2018 Winter Tour and Meeting is usually a good meeting.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written is included in board members' packets.

Mr. Lujan hopes that the permanent DC position will be advertised in February.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager described what was included in correspondence.

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 she is working on closing out both the GRGWA and EBWHRM projects. There will probably be about \$30,000 left on each grant, which are allowable amounts.

GRGWA -- The Acoma Pueblo project has slowed due to the supervisor being out on maternity leave.

The State Forestry grant – The district is currently working on the current NFL for the Estancia Basin.

The district manager now submitted her comments on the work plan for the new state forestry grant for \$265,000 for the entire Claunch-Pinto area. Included in the work plan is the agreement that if the district can't use all of the money in a timely manner, it can be used for the Estancia Basin projects. The Estancia Basin project is on the list for legislative approval. The Greater Rio Grande project missed getting on the list by half a point.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

The district manager said that 60 acres are on the verge of being finished.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

All of the cultural resource inventories and bird surveys are complete and have been submitted to the Forest Service. A couple of more bird surveys need to be carried out in the spring.

Another Mexican owl survey needs to be carried out, but the CFRP should be finished by September of next year.

The district manager said that the Corona CFRP is ahead of schedule. The cultural resource work is mostly finished for the Corona CFRP for the first year and a half, and the bird surveys have been turned in. More than half of the money has been spent for year two.

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager said that next week, she will meet with BLM and the contractor, Rocky Mountain Ecological who will do the work. She described work that is being under taken.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

January 3, 2018

Regular Meeting

The district manager said that NRCS has completed its application process. Applications will be reviewed and projects planned. Mr. Lujan explained the process.

The district manager said that there is a little over \$600,000 to go into projects. She has gone to Taos to talk with cooperators and has been in touch with the Santa Fe Fire Shed group. She was notified that pending available funding, the 2018 funding will amount to 3.42 million dollars. She has heard that this RCPP is the only one which has money on the ground working. She is proud of the 14 soil and water conservation districts that have been working on RCPP.

Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:

The district manager said that as soon as she has the work plan from State Forestry, she can contact state park personnel to get permission to do 10 acres of thinning.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

FEMA is working on the sub-recipient grant. The district manager said that she turned in the financial paperwork. That money will be spent on the Aceves land north of Tajique and on the Chilili land grant to protect the east mountain area from fire.

New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Water Quality Grant:

The district manager will meet with the fire department, and the project to install a catchment tank will commence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay :

The district manager said that Ted Barela and Mike Valdez will go with her to the Department of Finance to explain what needs to be done on the shop with the funds. She had been told that no outside concrete work would be funded. Mike Valdez told her that a certificate of occupancy will not be issued without an apron and a sidewalk.

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 summer in 2018.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that she, Mr. Lovato, Mr. Williams will meet after the board meeting to consider other candidates since the first choice had accepted another job.

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

The district manager said that the district has a signed an MOU between the town of Mountainair and the district.

District Legal Description:

The district manager said that she will submit the required documentation to the Secretary of State for recording.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment to the Board of Supervisors:

Chairman Lovato read Mr. Melaragno's resignation letter which explained that he and his wife are relocating to Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Mr. Lovato stated that he will be missed. Mr. Wanstall said that while Mr. Melaragno was very well educated, he continued to try to ask questions and learn in his role as a supervisor and was very humble and soft-spoken in that role.

The chairman recommended David Cain as his appointment as a supervisor to the board since he has been fulfilling his role as associate supervisor and is interested in filling the position. **ACTION TAKEN:**

Mr. Candelaria moved to confirm David Can's appointment to the board of supervisors. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A discussion of the importance of the associate supervisor position followed. The chairman expressed his appreciation to Jim Groom for his willingness to serve.

Selection of New Secretary-Treasurer:

Mr. Shovelin volunteered to fill the Secretary-Treasurer position. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Candelaria moved to appoint Richard Shovelin to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 10-2018 – Bank Signatures:

The district manager read the resolution to change signatory authority on the bank accounts.

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve Resolution No. 10 – 2018. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea.

Community Based Collaborative Conservation Workshop:

The district manager explained that she has been invited to attend the Community Based Collaborative Conservation Workshop in Fort Collins, Colorado from February 28 to March 2. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to grant approval for the district manager to attend the workshop. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Approval of Board of Directors:

Each district member of the coalition is required to approve of the slate of officers recommended at the annual meeting of the NMCCD.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the slate of officers proposed by the NMCCD in October in Socorro. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of By-Law Revision:

There being no quorum present at the annual meeting in Socorro, each district is required to approve the By-Law Revision for 2018.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Caster moved to approve the By-Law Revision of the Coalition for 2018. Mr. Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

EBWPC:

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Mr. Groom had no comment. The district manager reported that the first phase of the thinning project on Mojo Trail in Deer Canyon is complete and has been inspected. Soon the second phase of the project will begin. The district manager spoke of future thinning projects to expend \$250,000 in the development.

OTHER:

Presentation to Jerry Melaragno, Supervisor, upon his Resignation:

The chairman presented Mr. Melaragno with a mantel clock commemorating his service to the Claunch-Pinto Board of Supervisors. The district manager presented Mr. Melaragno with a “Corkcicle” thermos and thanked him for his service.

The district manager said that the Alamo Navajo crew has been staying on district grounds. She described an incident that occurred when the Mountainair police confronted the crew because someone reported seeing a light on the property. These men said that they were disrespected by the police. The district manager has met with the mayor of Mountainair to express her indignation at how the police handled the unfortunate situation. She is concerned that the police chief and police officers have made no effort to become acquainted with the district and its work.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 2, 2018 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 5:55 p.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.