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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING February 2, 2018

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
LeRoy Candelaria  
David Cain  
William Caster  
Larry Gomez  
Richard Shovelin  
Dan Williams

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Jim Groom, CLPSWCD  
Wayne Sleep, NRCS

**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 8:10 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. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Minutes of the regular meeting from January 3, 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 January, 2018 with accounts payable for February, 2018.

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for January 2018 and pay the accounts payable for February, 2018. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**Second Quarter DFA Report:**

The report is in the board members' binders for information. The district manager said that approximately 43 per cent of budgeted general fund income has been received. Approximately 40 per cent of the budget has been expended. She reported on the percentages spent from certain categories.

## **REPORTS:**

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

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

### **Field Office Report:**

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

Mr. Sleep said that field offices are planning EQIP projects for 2018 funding. The CSP deadline for new applications is March 2. The job sheets will provide more specific details on requirements. A field office training on exactly what is required of producers will take place in Santa Rosa on February 13 – 15. The last day will be for producers. Prescribed grazing was a huge issue because of new requirements. The DC position is still up in the air. No hiring is taking place because of all the uncertainty at higher levels.

### **District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She reported on some additions. Mountainair's local FAA sent 16 students to the legislature for AgDay. She said that everyone should be proud of how the chapter conducted itself. The students were polite and helped out when asked. Also, the state land commissioner has asked the district manager to serve on the State Land Office Advisory Board. She will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday. The Senate will then act on confirmations to the advisory board. She will take Brent Racher's place.

A discussion followed on a proposed increase to the mil levy from \$1.00 per thousand to \$5.00 per thousand. The proposal comes from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts without consultation with the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts. Some districts oppose the proposal because their residents cannot afford the increase.

The district manager mentioned the bill to include conservation districts' elections in the general elections. Discussion followed.

Also, discussion took place on Kyle Sharp's appointment to the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **Release Letter from State Auditor's Office:**

The district manager received permission to print the district audit. There were no exceptions to the audit again this year. The auditor wants to conduct his audit in August this year.

## **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)**

#### **Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:**

A threshold had to be met between the Greater Rio Grande Watershed grant and the Estancia Basin grant. Only \$60,000 total from each grant could remain unspent as of January 25. The district manager described the process she had to follow to adhere to new reporting requirements. The balance on the two projects was \$54,000. All of projects are mostly finished except 20 acres on the Deer Canyon Preserve. The district manager will pay for spraying re-sprouts from unspent Greater Rio Grande funds. The Greater Rio Grande proposal did not make the list to be forwarded to the legislature, perhaps because the proposal didn't reflect the actual available match. The Estancia Basin proposal did make the list and will hopefully be funded.

#### **New Mexico State Forestry Grant:**

The district manager is working on a reimbursement for the grant, and she said that approximately \$45,000 has yet to be spent. All but about \$13,000 was spent on East Torrance and Edgewood projects. The unspent money will go to Claunch-Pinto.

The district manager has turned in the work plan for the 2016 NFL grant which is strictly for Claunch-Pinto. Any unspent funds can be used in East Torrance and Edgewood. She thinks that projects in the Corona area, on David Cain's state land, and on Felipe Lovato's state land can be done. These projects will contribute to defensible space on the border of Deer Canyon.

The district manager reported on contact made with her by a representative from Coca-Cola, who was impressed by the interest that AgFest participants showed in the booth of the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts. The district manager has a telephone appointment with this woman who is also very interested in the collaborative groups that the district manager told her about.

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

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

The district manager said that she and Pablo Romero met with Ian Fox and Aaron Kaufman last week. Two hundred and thirty-seven acres must be finished by the first of September, or there will be consequences to the Romeros. The district's hand crew may have to work on the project to get it finished on time.

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

One more Mexican spotted owl survey needs to be done. Also, there may be some cultural resource work that still needs to be done.

The district manager said that the Corona CFRP is well into the second year. Some cultural resource work needs to be done as well as another Goshawk survey. More than half of the money has been spent for year two.

The district manager described the extent of work that has to be completed before implementation grants can be submitted. She talked about the cost of the studies and reports that have to be done before any actual work can be done.

#### **Chupadera CFRP:**

The district manager said that she is meeting with the contractor, Rocky Mountain Ecological who will do the work. She described work that is being undertaken.

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

The district manager said that the application period for the 2017 funds has closed.

The district manager said that NRCS in Washington D.C. has changed the application process for 2018, requiring that applications have to be submitted through a portal.

### **New Mexico State Park Project:**

When the agreement with State Forestry is signed, work will begin on this project.

### **FEMA Grant Proposal:**

FEMA is working on the sub-recipient contract, but the district manager said that she hasn't heard anything yet.

### **New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Water Quality Grant:**

The district manager distributed a report. The project to install catchment tanks will commence on March 2 and 3.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

The district manager said that Ted Barela and Mike Valdez still need to decide on a time to go with her to the Department of Finance to explain what needs to be done on the shop with the funds.

Alamo Navajo is camping in the shop building while they are working on projects.

The district manager reported on the Mountainair police department response to the presence of Alamo Navajo on the district property and on her conversation with the chief of police.

### **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 late spring or summer in 2018.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that there is no new information.

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

The district manager said that the district can spray elm trees, so Vernon Kohler will find out what needs to be done.

**District Legal Description:**

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

**Community Based Collaborative Conservation Workshop – Fort Collins, Colorado – February 28 – March 2, 2017:**

The district manager will attend this meeting, and her hotel room and mileage to and from Mountainair to Las Vegas, NM will be paid for by the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Change Meeting Date for March, 2018:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to change the date of the next Claunch Pinto board meeting from March 2 to March 9, 2018. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager said that the NMCCD had a booth at AgFest, which was visited by a large number of people. The district manager described the items which were given away as publicity for the coalition. She said that 226 insulated bags were given out at the legislature and another 100 bags could have been distributed.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

A conference call was held which Mr. Lovato did not participate in.

**EBWPC:**

A meeting should be held later in the month. The district manager has received the new monitoring report, which she will send out to board members.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

Mr. Groom met with Jim Wanstall for a training, which he said was very helpful. He described the sorts of things he learned about. Mr. Cain will attend a similar meeting.

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 9, 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.