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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING March 9, 2018

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor, CLPSWCD  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CLPSWCD

**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:** 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 February 2, 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 February, 2018 with accounts payable for March, 2018.

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

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**Audit Report:**

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The report is in the board members' binders for information. The district manager said that the audit report is now a public document and that it was problem free. The district manager will attend a statewide audit rule training at the end of March.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in board member's packets. The district manager noted that the next Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will be at 10:00 on March 13 at the Valencia SWCD in Belen. She also pointed out that the 73<sup>rd</sup> International Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference will be held in Albuquerque at the Albuquerque Convention Center July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

### **Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. The district manager said that Kenneth Lujan has been appointed acting district conservationist again. She also said that he is applying for the permanent position and would like a letter of support from Claunch-Pinto SWCD.

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

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

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **Letter from the State of New Mexico: Commissioner of Public Lands:**

The district manager distributed a response to a letter by the Chairman to the State of New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands concerning her service on the State Land Advisory Committee. The commissioner determined that there is no conflict of interest.

### **Local Election Act signed by Governor Martinez:**

The district manager distributed an email from José Varela López, president of the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts reporting that the local election act was signed by Governor Martinez. Claunch-Pinto will have to hold its elections during the general elections. The bill included the increased mil levy limit of five dollars per thousand of net taxable value.

### **"The Forestry Source:"**

The district manager made available a newsletter, "The Forestry Source" for board members to read. The Society of American Foresters held its annual meeting in Albuquerque last year. Kim Kostelnik, José Varela López and John Wacanda gave presentations about their heritage and its relationship to the forest.

## **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)**

A contractor is working on a project in Deer Canyon. When he finishes this project, he will move to the project on Mojo Road in Deer Canyon.

There is also an ongoing chipping project on Horse Mesa at Acoma, which should be finished by the end of the month. The Greater Rio Grande project will then be finished.

In April, the district will be informed about whether the Estancia Basin project will be funded again.

The work plan for the Non-federal Lands Grant from the New Mexico State Forestry has been signed, so contracts can be signed. Advertising for landowners will have to be publicized in the media.

A discussion took place on the importance of publicizing the work of the district because the community needs to know about its importance, especially its positive economic impact on the area. The RCPP alone has brought in a little over seven million dollars since 2015. In this year, 3.2 million dollars has come into the district. Art Swenka will be invited to the next board meeting to make a presentation about advertising on the local radio station.

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

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

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The district manager said that another 20 acres will be finished soon. She described the work that is being done. By the first of September, 237 acres must be finished.

**Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:**

Work on bird surveys will commence the first of May. Cultural resource work is being completed. This grant will finish up by the first of September. Then it will be possible to apply for implementation funding.

The district manager said that the Corona CFRP will also start up at the beginning of May. Hopefully, it will be possible to apply for implementation funding there, too.

**Chupadera CFRP:**

The district manager said that she and the district's field technician participated in a tour of the BLM and State Land areas involved in the CFRP so that Rocky Mountain Ecological could observe the kinds of treatments being applied and therefore will understand what needs to be included in the NEPA documents it prepares for the BLM and State Land Office. A discussion followed on the company's responsibility to the Claunch-Pinto district and the timeline and the scope of work.

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

The district manager met with Kris Graham Chavez, head of programs for the NRCS, on the RCPP budget for 2018. Claunch-Pinto can receive 15% of 3.4 million dollars for technical assistance. Most of the work will be contracted to SWCA.

For 2017 about \$200,000 will go to the district for technical assistance.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

Now that a work plan and agreement with State Forestry is signed, the district manager can contact the state park on a project for the fall.

**FEMA Grant Proposal:**

Paperwork for phase one of the FEMA project has been signed to get the NEPA work done on the Aceves ranch and on the Chilili Land Grant where hazardous fuel reduction is to be done.

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

The district manager said that the project to install catchment tanks at the fire station should finish up today. Workshops on the project can then take place in May.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

The district manager submitted a revised budget to the Department of Finance. She distributed it to board members. After the district manager receives a response to the budget, she will ask for a meeting to explain what needs to be done on the shop with the funds. Ted Barela and Mike Valdez will attend the meeting.

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

The district manager said there will be a meeting of the Mountainair collaborative on March 20 and on the 27<sup>th</sup> the stewardship council will meet. A draft of the forest plan revision probably won't be available until late summer in 2018.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that she and Mr. Lovato, Mr. Gomez and Mr. Williams will meet following the board meeting.

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

The district manager said that the district has not been able to spray elm trees because it has been too windy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mil Levy Resolution No. 11 – 2018:**

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**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve Mil Levy Resolution No. 11 – 2018. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous voice vote as follows: William Caster -- yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; David Cain – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato — yea; Larry Gomez – yea.

**Appointment of Budget Committee:**

Richard Shovelin, William Caster, and Jim Groom volunteered to serve on the budget committee.

**Envirothon:**

The Mountainair FFA will send two teams to Envirothon, and Claunch-Pinto is to pay \$1500 for their expenses and registration. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve expenses of \$1500 for the two Envirothon teams. LeRoy Candelaria 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. She said that 226 insulated bags were given out at the legislature and another 100 bags could have been distributed. One outcome from the representation at AgFest was that a representative of the Coca Cola company called the district manager to discuss the possibility that some funding for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance may be available from the company.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

A webinar was held on March 7 which Mr. Lovato could not participate in.

**EBWPC:**

The district manager attended a meeting of the EBWPC at the beginning of February. Another meeting is planned for April. The board chairman, John Jones retired, and board member Rick Thompson, who represents Santa Fe County was elected chair. The district manager said that if she hadn't been appointed by the Claunch-Pinto board to serve on the committee, none of the watershed work for the past 13 years would have been included in the regional water plan. Mr. Gomez mentioned that New Mexico Tech is doing water level monitoring studies in the basin, and he will provide contact information to the district manager.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

Mr. Groom commended the board on a great meeting.

**OTHER:**

Mr. Lujan commented on the impressive amount of funding that the district manager brings into the district and the amount of work that is being done here. He thinks that the community should be better informed about what the Claunch-Pinto district accomplishes.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

The district manager reported on the Community Based Collaborative Workshop in which she participated in Fort Collins, Colorado. It was attended by representatives from non-profits, the Colorado Watershed Institute, the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Institute, as well as ranchers. Sixty-five people from Utah, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado attended. The district manager was the only representative from a soil and water conservation district. She said that all the attendees from New Mexico knew each other, but those from Utah, for instance, did not. This fact indicates that New Mexico entities are working together. The meeting was well-organized and worth attending.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 6, 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 at 9:30 a.m. 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.