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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING April 6, 2018

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

Absentees: David Cain

Others Present: Joshua Archuleta, NRCS
Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor, CLPSWCD
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Art Swenka, KXNM Radio
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:** 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 March 9, 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 March, 2018 with accounts payable for April, 2018.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to accept the report for March 2018 and pay the accounts payable for April, 2018. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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The district manager said that she has to prepare a new contract for the auditor who wants to conduct his audit in August. It will be his third audit, and the district manager will have to put out a new RFP for the year after.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Joshua Archuleta, acting district conservationist highlighted several points in the report. He announced that Kenneth Lujan was chosen as the new district conservationist. He will assume his new duties on April 15, and his home office will be the NRCS office in Estancia. Mr. Archuleta pointed out the numbers of active EQIP contracts, pending EQIP applications, CSP applications and CSP 2019 renewal applications. He pointed out April Luna's activities and then went over the district conservationist's talking points from the state office for the second quarter of fiscal year 2018. He listed the positions that NRCS has filled this year as well as unfilled vacancies. He mentioned that Team 5 is one of the busiest and understaffed in the state. Then he went over news about programs: EQIP, RCPP 2017, 2018 and 2019, CSP, easements, CIG, and payment schedules. Finally, he went over the NRCS training for NRCS and conservation district employees and board members plus upcoming events.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Information is 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)

The 60 acre project on Horse Mesa at Acoma is finished, has been inspected and passed. There is a WTB meeting on April 11 where projects that will be funded will be announced which should include Estancia Basin funding.

The remaining funds for Estancia Basin are for the monitoring contract with SWCA.

Projects for the State Forestry Grants are finishing up.

There is a new work plan for the Claunch-Pinto District. The district manager is waiting for the practice plans to be approved by State Forestry. Then she can start contracting for the projects. There are three projects in Corona. There are three projects in this area adjacent to state land.

The district manager applied for more funding from State Forestry.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Romero Wood LLC CFRP:

Thinning is taking place on the Romero project. The district manager said that another 20 acres will be finished soon. The district manager talked about the requirement of having a spotter on thinning projects and the extremely dry conditions which will result in the Forest Service imposing restrictions early. The conditions may mean that the Romero project cannot be finished on time. Discussion followed on the consequences to Mr. Romero if the project isn't finished.

Two teams will participate in the Envirothon, and the district manager has written checks to support their participation.

Capilla Peak and Corona CFRPs:

The Capilla Peak project is on schedule, and SWCA says that they can finish the NEPA work, bird surveys and cultural resource work. 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 is on schedule, and there is still a year and a half on that grant. The NEPA work being done on the project has been approved by the Forest Service. A coordination meeting for the second year will take place on April 16.

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager said that the contractor has been unresponsive to the district's requirements. A discussion followed on the company's responsibility to the Claunch-Pinto district, the timeline and the work plan. Work will not commence until a work plan has been submitted and coordination with the district takes place. The district manager wants to ensure that double billing does not take place for the same work.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager will contact Kris Graham Chavez, head of programs for the NRCS, on the issues that are being raised with the ranking process.

The preliminary paperwork for 2018 has been signed and sent to Washington D.C.

Applications for 2019 funding will probably be due in December.

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:

The contract to do NEPA work is at Homeland Security for signature. No notice to proceed has been received.

New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Water Quality Grant:

The district manager said that the project to install catchment tanks at the fire station is finished, and a workshop can be held on April 28. The district manager praised the work of the volunteers in completing the project. The chairman described the work that the volunteers did and commended them. Some work still needs to be finished.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building:

The district manager has a meeting at the Department of Finance on April 25 to review her request for funding for the shop building. Felipe Lovato, Ted Barela and Mike Valdez will attend the meeting with her.

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

The district manager said that she will email a draft of the revision that she has just received to board members.

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 cold and windy. Perhaps the members of the town council don't understand the conditions that can prevent spraying and the consequences of doing so when the conditions aren't right. The chairman volunteered to attend a council meeting to inform the members about spraying.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Appointed Supervisors:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to submit the appointments of Richard Shovelin and Dan Williams to the Claunch-Pinto Board of Supervisors to the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission for approval. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Advertising Proposal – KXNM Radio Station:

Mr. Art Swenka from the KXNM Radio Station presented two proposals to the board to broadcast announcements, alerts and public service announcements or any other information that the district wants to bring to the attention of the public in a timely manner.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the fee of \$1500 for advertising on KXNM Radio Station. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Application for Eligibility – NM Surplus:

The district manager explained that she needs to re-submit the district's application for eligibility to buy New Mexico surplus. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to renew the application to buy surplus. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin commented that the NMCCD had a very good meeting on the previous Wednesday at the Edgewood district office. The district manager reported that José Varela López will meet with a representative of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association during the legislative session to discuss bills before the legislature. The district manager explained the purpose of the coalition's desire to meet with the association. The coalition also intends to work with the local government division of the Department of Finance on training district members on the DFA's new online reporting system. Marsha Wright has resigned and the coalition will contract with someone new to take over her duties. The district manager announced the names of the new officers and a new board member. Richard Shovelin will continue to represent the southern districts. A change in the bylaws was also approved.

At a commission meeting, someone was allowed to nominate an appointed supervisor for the Doña Ana District from the floor. The nomination was not recommended by the district's board of supervisions.

This action violated the statute, according to Kim Kostelnik. The district manager noted that Senator Ivy Soto said that he intends to open up the soil and water conservation statute for review. The coalition will look at possible changes.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The district manager will forward information to Felipe Lovato and Dan Williams for their review.

EBWPC:

A meeting will be held next week on April 12.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin asked for a discussion on placing political signs on district property.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

The district manager attended a meeting concerning fire held by the county emergency manager. Disseminating emergency information was discussed as well as future weather forecasts for New Mexico.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 4, 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 9:50. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.