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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING May 18, 2018

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Dan Williams

Absentees: David Cain
LeRoy Candelaria
Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor, CLPSWCD
Kim Kostelnik
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CLPSWCD

CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) special 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.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

FY2018 – 2019 Budget:

The district manager reviewed the budget revenues and expenses pointing out some specific items. She said that the Water Trust Board grant was approved, so the district will realize \$30,000 in administrative fees. The NFL grant was also approved, so \$20,000 will be received for administration of that grant. Revenue from wood sales is in this budget because the district will do work on state land and will be able to sell some wood from that project. The Edgewood SWCD will continue to have Claunch-Pinto do chipping. Some revenue will come in from BNSF for erosion control, but the amount hasn't been determined yet. Grant revenues are expected to be \$2,493,166.00, and total revenues are projected at \$2,835,838.00.

The district manager said that personnel services expenditures may go down somewhat because the Romero grant will end by September. The total expenses are expected to be \$2,825,980.00. Revenues exceed expenses by almost \$10,000.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the FY2018 – 2019 budget. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 12 – 2018 – Budget Resolution

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve Budget Resolution No. 12 – 2018 – Budget Resolution. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

The district manager will meet with Laura Lee Hunt, the attorney for Pattern Wind Energy at 2:30 this afternoon. Ms. Hunt will attend the June 1 board meeting.

Discussion followed on the relationship and coordination that should exist between soil and water conservation districts, and energy companies planning projects within the districts.

The district manager explained some background and history, including the mil levy regarding installations of energy projects within the district.

Kim Kostelnik, who participated in the discussion by telephone, explained that there is no requirement that directs companies to coordinate with local entities, but companies are required to carry out their due diligence when planning projects and thus should communicate with soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). They then must follow the district's land use plan. The districts are required by statute to protect the resources within their boundaries, and their land use plans outline resource concerns and goals and objectives that need to be met to protect those resources. Ms. Kostelnik included a section on energy and utilities in the Claunch-Pinto District's land use plan. It indicates that the district will coordinate with and participate in all planned energy/renewable energy projects within the district's boundaries with the expectation that projects will not adversely impact current land use within the district,

Ms. Kostelnik advised that the representatives of companies and the district's constituents should be assured that the Claunch-Pinto district did not wish to try to stop energy projects, but it did require that companies submit reclamation and mitigation plans in keeping with the district's land use plan. She also said that guidance should be provided in what a reclamation plan should include.

She then said that the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) may require companies to follow, throughout the state, mitigation steps that the BLM mandates no matter whose land the projects are on. However, whether the PRC institutes this requirement, the energy companies still have to comply with the district's requirement in its land use plan to provide a reclamation plan to the district.

Supervisor Gomez asked for a map or a list of areas where transmission lines are planned so that resources there can be looked at. Ms. Kostelnik said that knowing what issues might exist in these areas would help the district in evaluating reclamation plans it receives. She also mentioned that the Hidalgo district and Socorro County are expressing their concerns about proposed projects. Mr. Groom suggested that the district manager contact these entities to find out what their thinking is.

The need for a letter of intervention was discussed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved that a letter of intervention be filed with the PRC by May 25. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gomez will help compose the letter.

The district manager invited Ms. Kostelnik to attend the board's June 1 meeting.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 1, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the special meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.