



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 3, 2018**

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

Absentees: William Caster

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor, CPSWCD
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.

Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:

Chairman Lovato administered the oath of office to Mr. Williams.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from July 13, 2018 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 July, 2018 with accounts payable for August, 2018. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for July 2018 and pay the accounts payable for August, 2018. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that she has been a part of the pilot group for the Department of Finance and Administration's (DFA) new budget management system, so she included a new format for the district's quarterly reports and budget in the board packets. She pointed out advantages to the new format of the quarterly report.

REPORTS:

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New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

No report.

Field Office Report:

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

District Manager's Report:

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

On July 24, she attended the Estancia, Moriarty, Willard, Torrance County (EMWT) water pipeline annual meeting in Estancia. She distributed information from that meeting.

The group's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan was passed so that the EMWT can apply for Water Trust Board funds. The district manager will provide information on the water pipeline's proposed route.

She said that Jason Quintana from the Manzano land grant announced that Manzano doesn't want the pipeline to go through Manzano. Senator McQueen said that since Manzano didn't want to be included, the town of Edgewood should be included. Discussion followed on Manzano's disregard for future planning for water and on Mr. McQueen's lack of knowledge of the fact that the Estancia Basin is a closed basin and Edgewood is not in the basin.

The district manager described the boundaries of the Estancia Basin and that it includes a good portion of Mountainair.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The district manager attended a meeting in Lincoln County on the local election act, and she called attention to copies of the "HB 98 Local Election Act" that are included in board members' packets. The act will be implemented in November of 2019. Copies of the "Noticias de las Acequias" are also included.

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:

The district manager is still working on WTB projects. The WTB has just opened up the new application period, so the district manager will be turning in some applications.

New Mexico State Forestry Grant:

The district manager is writing contracts, No work is being done in the Deer Canyon area yet, but Associate Supervisor Groom has told her that crews can work there now from 6 a.m. until 11 a.m. followed by a three-hour fire watch. There are several active contracts in the Corona area that are making progress.

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

BNSF Railroad Project:

After looking at the project and estimating costs, the district manager submitted a request for \$85,000 that includes between two and three years of monitoring activity. She then got notice from the railroad asking her to change the request to \$95,000.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:

Romero Wood, LLC CFRP:

The district manager talked with Jay Turner who told her that Pablo Romero says that he will finish the project on time.

Capilla Peak CFRP:

The district manager said that this project is on schedule to be finished by August 31. Then the Forest Service will have the reports that it needs to work on a NEPA document or work on a categorical exclusion. This project will be ready to allow application for implementation money in January 2019 to begin restoration work in September or October. This work would complete the project to protect the waters of Manzano.

Corona CFRP:

The SWCA crew has been working for a week and a half. The Corona CFRP is a three-year NEPA project and is in the second year. The project is on schedule. After the third year, the district manager can apply for an implementation proposal. This project protects the wells of Corona.

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager said that this project is a little behind. She is waiting to hear from the contractor to say when he will start work again. She explained the effects of not finishing the work on time.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager said there is still \$112,000 in 2015 funding for on-the-ground work, but NRCS is planning to send it back to the Washington DC office. She and Kenneth Lujan are working on getting permission to use the money.

The district manager has just received all of the shape files from the NRCS archaeologist on the projects approved by NRCS. She has sent them on to SWCA, so they will begin to work on the "arch" clearances. She said that she hasn't seen the final contract for the 2018 funding yet.

New Mexico State Park Project:

The district manager said that she hopes to go up to the state park on Wednesday to talk about a project there.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager has prepared an RFP to do the NEPA work on two project areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building:

The district manager submitted the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan on time, but she has to make some corrections to it. She has to delete any item that is less than \$10,000.

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

The district manager said that the Forest Service is going to do a soft release by publishing a draft of the forest plan revision on its website the first part of September. She explained that the four ranger districts had established collaboratives that include non-governmental entities (NGOs). The Mountainair Ranger District will hold a meeting in August to decide whether to continue meeting as a landscape team or meet as a collaborative. So that members of the landscape teams as well as non-governmental entities can review the plan. Board members suggested that the district manager decide how to vote on the issue as she is the person most informed about it. Discussion followed on what the Mountainair Ranger District Landscape Team has accomplished and the importance of the collaboratives. The published draft will probably be put out after the first of the year.

Americorp/Vista Program:

The district manager said that Caliope Janulis will report for work on September 4. The district manager talked about her attempts to find a place for her to live. She will be here for a year. The district has a three-year agreement with Americorp, so it should be possible to get another employee for the remaining two years.

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

The district manager said that the district will start to spray trees soon.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

The district manager pointed out several voluminous documents that she has been studying. She said that the hearing officer for the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) recommended approval of the needed easement for the SunZia transmission line but recommended against approval for the proposed route. She described the process for review. If the route isn't approved, the company will have to do a new Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for a different route. She reported on a conference call with SunZia yesterday. A contractor, EC Source, has been hired for the work.

The district manager will discuss reimbursement for the district's legal fees after the PRC makes a ruling.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager distributed maps of the area of the wind farms; it will be the largest in the northern hemisphere. She pointed out the four transmission lines that come out from the wind farm. She has a meeting with Pattern Energy next week and will receive best management practices at that time.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

A public meeting, called by the State Land Office, will be held in Mountainair at the community building next Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00. The meeting will be facilitated by a representative of the State Land Office. Pattern Energy representatives and people from Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA) will also attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The NMCCD will have a booth at the New Mexico Department of Agriculture Ag Day at New Mexico State University.

Also, the coalition received \$75,000 grant from the Healy Foundation.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Mr. Lovato reported that he received an email stating that the organization will be doing some work in the Sacramento Mountains.

EBWPC:

No Report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager reported on a conversation she had with Commissioner Aubrey Dunn from the State Land Office on the possibility that a NEPA on state land might be required and the possible consequences.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 7, 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 regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board:

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.