



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
September 7, 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  
Cali Janulis, CPSWCD  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CPSWCD

**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 8:15 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:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from August 3, 2018 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 August, 2018 with accounts payable for September, 2018.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for August 2018 and pay the accounts payable for September, 2018. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**Audit:**

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The district manager reported that the auditor is not finished with the audit.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager said that the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts will have a booth at the NMDA 2018 Ag Day on October 20<sup>th</sup>. She said that the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General will conduct a workshop on the "Sunshine Laws" in Rio Rancho on Wednesday, December 12. Also, the Local Government Division will hold its Annual Budget Conference on November 15-16. Mr. Shovelin pointed out that the New Mexico Vegetation Management Association Conference on noxious weeds will meet November 13-14 in Albuquerque. Finally, the New Mexico Wood Industry Summit will be held from November 16-17 in Ruidoso.

### **Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Kenneth Lujan reported on the local work group held on August 28 in Encino. He said that the only addition to the plan concerned a watershed initiative that several counties wanted. He will submit a proposal for \$70,000, which will come out of team funds.

Then Mr. Lujan elaborated on funding. Team 5 has been allocated 3.5 million dollars, Mr. Lujan explained the amounts that will go to each office. Three million dollars has been approved in RCPP funds for next year. He explained how staffing shortages may negatively affect how much money can be spent because of heavy workloads. He noted the staffing that will occur in the Team 5 offices. He hopes to have two people in each office. He asked board members to encourage producers to submit applications for EQIP because the amount of funding he expects will allow him to fund more projects. Next Mr. Lujan discussed misunderstandings about cultural clearances. He said that people with questions should call him.

He praised the work of April Luna and talked about efforts to help her with her workload. The district manager also praised April's work and dedication.

Next he discussed the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), a Farm Service Agency (FSA) program and the way that precipitation and its effects on the range are evaluated and the effects of the evaluations on funding. Discussion followed. He then talked about the Farm Bill and its possible implications and ambiguities.

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

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

She described the tour of the sites of the Dog Head, Trigo, and Ojo Peak fires conducted by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. She said that 50 people from the U.S., Canada, and Russia participated. She said that Randy Simmons was present during her presentation and she talked about where the tour went and what the group saw of Claunch-Pinto's projects. She praised Wayne Robbie who insured that the tour went like clockwork. The group was able to go into Ox Canyon to hear Cody Stropki's presentation on the work that was done there. The tour was a good opportunity for the Forest Service, the Chilili land grant, and the Edgewood and Claunch-Pinto to display the beneficial results of all the work that they have done.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A flyer was included in the packets announcing a workshop on how mesa flooding issues can be reduced. It will be held in Los Lunas on September 28 and 29.

The district manager talked about an email that she received from Linda Jaramillo, the Torrance County Clerk, which announced a public hearing in Estancia September 17 regarding opting into the local election. Soil and water conservation districts cannot opt out of the local election. State Senator Ivy Soto, who sponsored the bill on local elections, will be present to answer questions. Claunch-Pinto board members are invited to attend.

## **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 has received the invoices for the Estancia Basin 2016. After submitting some reimbursements, she received an email from the NM Water Trust Board saying that she had to prove that the match has been spent.

Two projects for the Greater Rio Grande 2016 grant, one in the Cuba area and the other in the Ojo Caliente area are on-going and will use up the remaining funds.

The application for the 2019 funding for both the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande recently opened up, and a team of four will be working on those two proposals to prepare them to submit by the October 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. Cali will attend the training on submitting the proposals in Albuquerque while the district manager attends other meetings.

**New Mexico State Forestry Grant:**

The district manager is contracting for the 2017 funds. She reported on the process for getting projects under way. The district's crew has been working on the projects in Deer Canyon. She distributed an addendum to contracts for approval. One contract has been completed, and the work was praised by the property owner and by Fred Rossbach, who inspects the projects for approval. There will be seven projects in the Preserve, which will keep the district crew employed after the Romero CFRP project is finished. Wood not wanted by the property owners will be removed and sold by the district.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to give permission to the district manager to deal with the contracts at her discretion. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval for 2018 NFL funding has been received. The total of combined funding for the two grants is \$570,000. A proposal for the wild land urban interface funding will be submitted.

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

**BNSF Railroad Project:**

The district has submitted a letter to BNSF for \$95,000 in funding for the railroad's remediation project on the construction area west of Belen.

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

**Romero Wood LLC CFRP:**

The district manager said that the project was finished two days before the deadline.

Reimbursements will be submitted soon, and she and Codi Stropki will work on the report which she will distribute to the board.

**Capilla Peak CFRP:**

The district manager said that this project is on schedule to be finished by the end of September. She reported on the work that remains to be done. She hopes to submit a proposal for hazardous fuel reduction in January.

**Corona CFRP:**

Second year surveys have been done. Reports will be submitted to the Forest Service. The project is on schedule to be finished next year.

**Chupadera CFRP:**

The district manager reported on the work being done and what it is like to work with the contractor.

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

NRCS has apparently contracted for all of the 2017 funds except for approximately \$23,000.

The district manager explained what the money can be used for.

She said that she hasn't seen the contract for the 2018 funding yet.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

No report.

**FEMA Grant Proposal:**

The district manager will advertise for bids for the NEPA work in the next couple of weeks

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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**Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

The district manager said that she is hopeful that the district will receive its \$85,000.

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

The district manager said that the draft plan and the draft EIS documents are on the Forest Service website. The documents do not constitute a formal release or scoping period. Comments can still be made on the draft.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that she will cover this item in her district manager's report in the future.

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

The district manager said that the district will start spraying some trees soon.

**Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:**

The district manager said that the location approval for the location of the transmission line has been denied without prejudice by the Public Regulations Commission (PRC). The 200 foot right of way has been approved. The district manager explained the reasoning behind the decision and what she plans to do.

**Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies:**

The district manager and Kenneth Lujan will meet with Pattern Energy's construction engineer and environmental lawyer on September 13 to discuss plans for remediation.

**Western Spirit Transmission Line:**

The district manager reported on the State Land Office meeting. She said that the moderator from the State Land Office did an exceptional job of conducting the meeting. Many representatives from Pattern Energy were present to answer questions. Discussion followed on the content of the meeting and the opinions of the attendees.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Resolution No. 04 – 2019 – WTB Submission of Application for the Estancia Basis Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring (EBWHRM):**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution 04 – 2019. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye; :Larry Gomez – aye; Dan Williams – aye; LeRoy Candelaria -- aye.

**Resolution No. 05 – 2019 – WTB Submission of Application for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA):**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2019.. William Caster seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous by voice vote: : David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye; :Larry Gomez – aye; Dan Williams – aye; LeRoy Candelaria -- aye.

**Resolution No. 06 – 2019 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant for EBWHRM:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2019: Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye; Larry Gomez – aye; Dan Williams – aye; LeRoy Candelaria -- aye.

**Annual Meeting:**

The district manager suggested that an open house at the district's facility be held as the annual meeting this year. She would like for NRCS and State Forestry representatives to present information about their work. Next year she would like conduct tours of projects.

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

The NMCCD will be represented at the NMDA Ag Day and at the Edgewood open house.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

The agenda for the August 23 meeting is in the board packets. She pointed out item number 4 under New Business: Discussion and Possible Action on Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee Project.

She will ask for more information on this item. She stressed the importance of paying attention to the business of the South Central Mountain RC&D that may concern the district. The next meeting will be the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

**EBWPC:**

Agendas for the June and August meetings are in the board packets. Meeting minutes from the April meeting and Comments on the New Mexico State Water Plan are also included.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 5, 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 10:15. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.