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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2019**

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

Absentees: William Caster
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor

Others Present: Robin Dunn
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer

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. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2019 as amended and ratify the actions of the September 13 board meeting. On page 5 of the minutes, add "for health reasons" at the end of the sentence under OTHER. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September, 2019 with accounts payable for October, 2019.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the treasurer's report for September, 2019 and pay the accounts payable for October, 2019. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that wood sales have brought in \$10,000 plus an additional \$1200 for wood that will be taken to Texas.

The district manager said that the auditor has finished the in-office audit.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

The district manager announced that a Regenerative Farming and Ranching workshop (Healing the Land from Desert to Prairie) will be held on October 23, 2019 in Los Lunas and she will send in registrations and fees for any board member who wants to attend.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS written report dated October 4, 2019 is included in the board packets. Kenneth Lujan went over possible changes in his staff and his plans to fill positions. He announced that his supervisor, Tommy Marshall, is retiring.

Mr. Lujan said that Team 5 spent \$5 million in RCPP funds of the \$22 million that came to the state. He and his team members will be attending an engineering training in the Mountainair office today on projects that they are working on.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager referred board members to her written report included in the board packets. She mentioned that she will go to Las Cruces in the afternoon to attend Ag Day.

She attended the New Mexico Tree Farm Program Fall Field Day on September 28, 2019 at the Basha farm. Lloyd and Debra Basha were selected as the recipients of the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award for New Mexico. The Bashas' farm is in the Claunch-Pinto District. She described the tree farm and the Basha's conservation efforts.

Mr. Shovelin suggested that the district manager display pictures of the farm at the district's annual meeting.

CORRESPONDANCE:

The district manager pointed out the public notice announcing "Groundwater Discharge Permit Applications Submitted for Review, September 26, 2019."

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.

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

The district manager submitted two proposals, one for the Estancia Basin project and the other for the Greater Rio Grande project, each proposal for \$600,000.

She explained that some of the projects were a little behind but will finish up one by one.

The State Forestry Grant:

The district manager said that the work plan for 2018 funding was signed and submitted to State Forestry. The district crew is working on the Deer Canyon Trail defensible space project. Almost six acres have been completed. She said that wood sales plus the State Forestry grant have brought in nearly \$30,000 to the district.

She was asked to re-word parts of the WUI proposal. She was told that the state office was pleased with the revision.

She got an email from Lawrence Crane of the Forest Service saying that the six or eight reimbursements that she had submitted and which were audited were clear and perfect.

Mr. Gomez suggested that the board take up the resolutions under **NEW BUSINESS** before Mr. Candelaria leaves.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 07 – 2020 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant for EBWHRM:

The district manager explained that this resolution authorizes and approves execution and delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant agreement for the EBWHRM to the New Mexico Water Trust Board. The legal counsel has reviewed the proposal and indicated that all was in order.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 07 – 2020. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote: Richard Shovelin, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye.

Resolution No. 08 – 2020 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant for GRGWA:

The district manager explained that this resolution authorizes the execution and delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant agreement for the GRGWA for 2019. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 08 – 2020. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote: Richard Shovelin, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye.

Resolution No. 09 – 2020 – Ensuring Accountability in the Expenditure of Public Funds:

The district manager explained that this resolution resulted from a request by the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts to pass this resolution. The request was introduced at the September 13 board meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 09 – 2020. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote: Richard Shovelin, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye.

Resume: UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA) aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

The district manager went out on a request for proposals (RFP) from contractors. Four contractors responded to the RFP. The Technical Committee will meet to review and rank the proposals on Monday. On Tuesday the GRGWA will meet at the police station at the Pueblo of Sandia to approve the selection of the contractor and then work on projects will begin.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager said that Vern Kohler will go with her to Albuquerque on Tuesday to pick up grass plugs for the railroad project, and they will be planted soon.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Corona CFRP:

The district manager said that the Forest Service is working on its NEPA, and if money is approved then she can apply for a restoration project (the Gallinas Project) to protect the Corona wells.

Chupadera CFRP:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2018 RCPP Funding:

The district manager thinks that NRCS has contracted all of the 2018 funding. There are several projects in the Grants area. There also may be two projects in the Santa Fe area. . Mr. Lujan said that all of money was spent including funds that were held back for modifications. The district manager has not received official notification for cultural resource surveys, but she should receive it by Monday.

Additional RCPP Funding:

NRCS has put out a request for proposals for 2020.

The district manager will work on a proposal for this funding. Proposals are due on December 3. She did submit an extension for the 2015 funding which may enable her to apply for funds from the additional 50 million dollars that is available now. She is restricted to asking for the same amount of money that was received for 2015 – 2.23 million dollars. She extended the projects and has gotten official approval. Brush management is included in the 2015 funding.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager said that all of the NEPA documents have been submitted to FEMA for review, and FEMA was pleased with it as well as the cultural resource documents submitted to the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) for approval. She described the process that still has to take place before work can begin on the Aceves ranch, which includes 135 acres.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building - Report:

The district manager reported that she put out a request for proposals but didn't get any response, so she is going to put it out next week. If there isn't any response, the district can hire a contractor at its discretion.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision:

The district manager attended a meeting of the Mountainair Collaborative regarding making comments. She reported on discussions that took place regarding the Audubon Society's concern about the possible decline of the piñon jay as well as discussion concerning how the objectives of the revision were written and discussion on a section that said that well water would be used to replenish the streams.

The district manager will bring suggested comments to the next board meeting for approval.

She has also met once with the permittees and will meet with them again on October 15.

Next she reported on meetings with contractors who are negatively affected by the injunction against doing work in the public lands. The district manager suggested drafting a letter to legislators expressing concern about the effects of the injunction. Board members were encouraged to send personal letters, too.

ACTION TAKEN:

Dan Williams moved to send a letter to state and national legislators expressing the district's concern about the negative effects of the federal injunction against working on public lands on the livelihood of local residents, on the forest health and on watershed health. David Cain seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

The district manager said that WildEarth Guardians, sponsors of the injunction, were represented at the technical advisories for the Forest Restoration Program. They have a grant from the Forest Restoration Program to do thinning. They are also represented on the multi-party committee for the Southwest Jemez Project.

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

The Central New Mexico Co-Op is supposed to be topping some trees in the alleys but is working on trees on the Co-op property. When the work on trees in the alleys is finished, Vern Kohler will work with the town to cut-stump the elm trees.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

The district manager says that she has heard that SunZia may build its line along side of the Western Spirit line.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager said that she understands that no work can commence on the Corona wind farm until the Public Regulations Commission (PRC) approves the sale to PNM of the Western Spirit line.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager said that PNM is trying to get the PRC to approve its purchase of the line, but the PRC is imposing more requirements on PNM.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager reminded board members to vote. Robin Dunn is a write-in candidate. The supervisors running for re-election are unopposed.

NEW BUSINESS (resume):

Annual Meeting:

The district manager would like to work with NRCS staff to come up with some awards to give to ranchers at the board's December 6 meeting which will include an open house. She would also like to have some presentations that would draw people. She would like the FFA team that went to Scotland to present then.

REPORTS:

Jason Padilla – Mountainair FFA – 3rd place in State – Homesite – short presentation:

Mr. Gomez suggested that Jason might present at the annual meeting.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager will represent the coalition at Ag Day

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was cancelled.

EBWPC:

The district manager suggested that the meeting scheduled for next week be cancelled since the chair couldn't attend.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER: The district manager said that she has a few rain gauges for sale.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 1, 2019 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:

Dan Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 am. Mr. Shovelin seconded the motion, which carried.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.