



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 1, 2019**

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

Absentees: David Cain
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Robin Dunn
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Codi Stropki, SWCA
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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2019 as read. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the treasurer's report for October, 2019 and pay the accounts payable for November, 2019. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that wood sales have brought in about \$12,000.

She also said that the district's First Quarterly Report has been approved by the Department of Finance and Administration.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

Field Office Report:

The NRCS written report dated November 1, 2019 is included in the board packets. Kenneth Lujan said that April Luna was selected for a position in Los Lunas, and he praised her work in the Mountainair office. He then went over his plans to fill positions.

He described the possibility that NRCS employees may be furloughed.

He pointed out the deadline of November 15 to submit EQIP applications.

Then he explained a new program called GCI and its relationship to CSP. He said that he didn't think that anyone from this area is eligible, but he will carefully double check eligibilities.

He said that anyone with concerns about CSP and GCI should call him.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager referred board members to her written report included in the board packets.

CORRESPONDANCE:

The district manager read a flyer announcing three community meetings that will take place to discuss an economic development plan in Torrance County.

She also passed around a picture of the young people who participated in the Lincoln County Fair. She makes sure that the board is represented in their Buyer's Club.

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 will give short presentations on each proposal to the WTB next Tuesday.

She said that she has met the requirement to spend down current grants to below \$180,000.

The State Forestry Grant:

The district crew is working on the Deer Canyon Trail defensible space project.

Ramah Navajo will start work on state land leased by David Cain that borders Deer Canyon Preserve on the south side. It is a 250 acre project. Both Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo will camp on the district's property while here working on projects.

There is third grant which has been approved, but State Forestry hasn't received funds for it yet.

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

The district manager said that she is contracting with Boss Reclamation, Restoration Solutions and Taylor Services. The projects will take place at Ojo Caliente, the Truchas area, the Sandia and Acoma Pueblos and the Seboyeta land grant. A 60 acre project will also take place on the Stein ranch.

BNSF Railroad Project:

A thousand grass plugs will be planted, and the district manager wants to get some compost from the Bio Reactor to find out how well it works. This effort may become a demonstration project for the district and for the railroad.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Corona CFRP:

The district manager said that she thinks that this project is finished. Codi Stropki is still working to submit his lengthy report of several thousand pages; three copies must be submitted.

The costs on this project have exceeded planned expenses because of the unexpected number of cultural sites and the copying expense. The district manager said that the Forest Service is

working on a decision notice for this project concerning new funding. A CFRP workshop will be held in Albuquerque on September 17 and 18.

Chupadera CFRP:

The cultural resource survey crew has been working on this project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):

This week the district manager was asked to sign an extension for the 2015 funding, though there is no assurance that she will get the money.

2018 RCP Funding:

The district manager will meet with Kenneth Lujan today about the cultural resource surveys that will be needed.

Additional RCP Funding:

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager said she participated in a conference call with Homeland Security to find out what paperwork needed to be submitted to close out phase one and start phase two. She said that \$800,000 was turned back which may be used in the area of the original proposal. She thought that around \$200,000 of that money could be used on projects that are in the original proposal. She met with the Edgewood district, which can add another 165 acres to the project on or around the Aceves property. She hopes to meet with the Aceves' this afternoon. She described the work that will take place.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building - Report:

The district manager reported that she will put out a second request for proposals this weekend. If there isn't any response, the district can hire a contractor at its discretion.

Mr. Lujan received permission to park a small flat bed trailer in the shop.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision:

The district manager sent the comments of the Mountainair Collaborative to the board. The district manager is working on comments from Claunch-Pinto regarding certain sections of the plan which do not contain any goals, for example. She read a comment from Lincoln County concerning the wilderness. She will also add her comment. She mentioned the possible problematic effects of the recommendation in the plan on the wilderness. On a Forest Service map, she pointed out an area that is private land, but which the Forest Service has designated on the map as wilderness. She will make a comment on this problem. She has tried several times since 2016 to get the Forest Service to correct this error on the map. Discussion followed. She will email a draft of the comments for the board members' response.

Jay Turner has been reassigned to Albuquerque, so there is now an acting district ranger in the Mountainair.

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, so the district's work is delayed.

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 reported on progress on receiving permission from the PRC to begin work. A draft of best practices has been distributed and is being reviewed.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager said that Lawrence Crane has been asked to make sure that there is enough defensible space under the transmission line.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager commented on some issues with the supervisor elections in the Grants and Doña Ana SWCD districts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting:

The district manager asked to change the date of the next board meeting to December 13, 2019. She wants to high light the achievements of the Estancia high school students who qualified to go to an international livestock judging competition in Scotland.

Resolution No. 10 – 2020 Open Meetings Resolution:

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve Resolution No. 10 – 2020 Open Meetings Resolution. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; William Caster, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

The district manager went over the meeting dates for 2020. She explained why two dates, the one in January and the one in July were on the second Friday of the month instead of the first Friday.

NMDA – Healthy Soils Program Proposal – Rodney Garcia and Janis Pauliks:

The district manager explained the proposal and said that the district would be the project manager for this proposal. A small amount of money is being requested. **ACTION TAKEN;** Dan Williams moved to approve the administration of the Healthy Soils program proposal. William Caster seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

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

No report.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The district manager represented the coalition at Ag Day.

An executive board meeting will be held in November to discuss Senate bill 454. She explained the plans to distribute the funding requested in the bill. The funds to be allocated to NMDA would go to the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. (NMACD), which will then distribute the funds to member districts. The district manager explained why the bill is controversial. A lobbyist will represent the NMCCD this year. She mentioned that Representative McQueen supports the bill.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held.

EBWPC:

The district manager said that information was included in the board packet.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Lovato reported on the healthy soils workshop that he and Robin Dunn attended and distributed material that he received. He described workshop demonstrations and presentations, including one by a rancher from North Dakota and another from Chihuahua, Mexico. He said that a main message was to plant protective covering on the land. Robin Dunn commented that the presentations were very eye opening. There will be a three-day workshop in February. Mr. Lovato thanked the board for supporting his attendance at the workshop and said that it was the best presentation that he has attended in a long

time. Robin Dunn said that the workshop was wonderful. Mr. Lovato commented that in the past, the Mexican rancher was only able to support 200 head of cattle on 30,000 acres, but now he can support 600 head with the possibility of raising the number to 1000 cows. Mr. Lujan mentioned that by following the principles supported in this workshop, the productivity of his gardening area has increased considerably. He also said that if producers implement these principles, funding may be available to support these efforts.

The district manager distributed a report on the matching funding that the district has brought in since 2014 on the Greater Rio Grande and Estancia basin projects.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 13, 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:

LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am. Dan Williams seconded the motion, which carried.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.