



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 31, 2019**

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

Absentees: Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
Richard Shovelin, Supervisor

Others Present: Anthony Martinez, United States Forestry Service
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 8:10 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:

Minutes of the regular meeting from April 4, 2019 were reviewed:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of April 4, 2019 as read. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to accept the treasurer's report for April, 2019 and pay the accounts payable for May, 2019. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The district manager said that the third quarterly report has been approved.

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

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the treasurer's report for May, 2019 with accounts payable for June, 2019. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

FY 2020 – 2021 Budget:

The district manager said that one change in the budget was a Water Trust Board grant for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. She included the CFRP for Bartolo Canyon, which is still pending approval. She also added some additional money for wood sales.

ACTION TAKEN:

Mr. Gomez moved to approve the FY 2020 – 2021 Budget. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously with Mr. Shovelin voting by telephone.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

Field Office Report:

The NRCS written reports for April and May are included in the board packets. The district manager said that Mr. Lujan asked her to tell the board that Mountainair cooperators were signing 2.2 million in contracts. In addition, two million dollars came out of the RCCP fund that the district manager has been able to bring in to New Mexico for the north central watershed restoration program and that allowed him to take other funding and spread it out among his other offices. Mr. Lujan told her that if it weren’t for the RCCP funds, he would have received only \$150,000 to \$200,000 for work on the ground.

Review of the MOU between the district and NRCS:

The item will remain on the agenda until Mr. Lujan is available to attend a meeting.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No new correspondence.

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):

Both the Estancia Basin project and the Greater Rio Grande projects were funded for the coming year. Each grant is for \$600,000. The district manager went over changes to conditions for the projects including the requirement to get agreements from landowners in writing for projects on their land. All readiness items will be due by September 30. She has met with the Estancia Basin committee the Greater Rio Grande technical committee to explain the landowner agreements. She then related the history of the agreements.

The district manager said that she has started to pay out on the 2018 WTB projects. She has received permission from the New Mexico Finance Authority to pay for some cultural resource surveys on private land for RCCP projects.

The State Forestry Grant:

The Lovato state land project is finished and has been checked out by State Forestry and the State Land Office. There are 70 to 100 cords of wood that need to be removed from the project by September 30.

State Forestry funds are supporting several projects on the Deer Canyon Preserve development. Most of the work is being done by the district’s work crew. Wood will be removed from these projects and will benefit the district. The district manager is carefully monitoring the costs for the projects. Three projects are planned on private land and one defensible space project on Deer Canyon Trail.

Projects are also going on in the Corona area.

State Forestry has also provided \$272,000 in additional funding. The district manager is working on the work plan.

A 200 acre project has been approved on David Cain’s leased state land that borders Deer Canyon on the south side.

The district manager submitted one new proposal for Non-Federal Lands funds and one for the Wild Land Urban Interface funds.

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

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager said that the drive through has been done. She reported on the growth of vegetation that will help with erosion. Grass plugs will be planted. A larger water tank will be bought so that the grass can be watered.

Discussion followed on the requirements that have to be followed before work can be done and reports that have to be made. She reminded the board on the amount to be earned from the project.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Capilla Peak CFRP:

The district manager submitted an application to receive restoration funds. The CFRP committee won't meet until June when the proposal will be approved or not.

Corona CFRP:

The district manager said that a pre-work meeting has been held and SWCA has started to work this week. The project is costing more than expected because of the relics that have been found.

She hopes that she will be able to submit a proposal for restoration work.

She reported on a request from landowner Sanchez, a permittee, for work in the area.

Chupadera CFRP:

One more survey has been conducted south of Mountainair. All of the cultural resource work will be done in the third year. An extension will be filed for one more year in which to draw down the money and write up the final report and submit it.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP):

The district manager explained how money was allocated to technical assistance in the contract signed with NRCS in September last year as well as uncertainties that affected budgeting the funds. For the 2017 RCCP funding, 15 % was allotted -- a little over \$500,000 to do cultural resource surveys (CRSs) on the project areas. Adding to costs of doing the CRSs, are the strict guidelines on how historical sites are designated and reported. In addition, relics unearthed by previous work also have to be included in reports.

For 2017, the district manager got permission from the WTB to use its funds to pay for costs for CRSs that were impossible to anticipate during the budgeting process.

There are two million dollars in contracts for 2018. The district manager explained how she expects to deal with CRS costs for 2018. She also indicated how she thinks funds will be allocated in the future.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

A contract has been signed with SWCA. The CRSs and tree surveys will be done on 135 acres on the Aceves property. The district manager is working with Edgewood and Chilili to fund defensible space around the village of Chillili.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building:

A memorandum of agreement has been signed with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, but the district manager received a request for information about the severance bond sale, which she has sent in. She expects that she will receive the agreement and a notice to proceed after the bonds are sold probably sometime after the first of July.

The district manager saw Senator Stefaniks and Representative McQueen at the Mountainair FFA Banquet. Ms. Stefaniks asked her to submit a proposal for a project for the coming year and wants to meet with her in the fall, so the district manager will add the item to the next agenda.

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

The district manager said that she received an email from Sara Brown, the Cibola forest planner, which said that the date to release the draft documents will be changed to between July 19 and July 26. They will be posted on the website between July 5th and 12th. A ninety-day comment period will follow. A public meeting for the Mountainair district will be held on August 27 in the Mountainair community building. It will be the only public meeting. Mr. Martinez added that the Collaborative will get together before the meeting to review comments on the draft. They will also be available to review on the internet.

Lincoln County has requested that the district manager set up a meeting with all of the permittees in the Mountainair Ranger District. At the meeting, the permittees will have the opportunity to submit their own comments.

The district manager attended another training recently on how to make substantive comments.

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

Mountainair's utility department supervisor, Daniel Archuleta is working with the power company to get the company to cut trees away from the power lines that the trees have encroached on.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

The company is working on a new application to submit to the PRC.

SunZia, the Corona Wind farm and the Western Spirit line were discussed at the State Land Advisory Board meeting. The district manager met with the board's staff when she said that best management practices need to be set up that they all agree on. The Surface Division of the State Land Office will meet with State Forestry and the Claunch-Pinto district regarding best management practices so that they will be consistent for all of the energy projects.

The district manager is working with Pattern on best management practices and she is serving on a committee to develop a 501 C3 application so that the company can contribute money to area community organizations. She has met with the committee once and will meet again on June 10 to start work on gathering the required legal documents plus a mission statement.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager previously reported on this item.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

A new person has replaced Lisa Dobbs to work on this project.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager reported on an email from Jim Wanstall reminding her of the process of electing new supervisors. The first deadline is from June 8 to July 8. A proclamation from the district needs to be sent to the New Mexico secretary of state and to local election officials regarding positions that are subject to election. She clarified the qualifications that prospective supervisors have to fill. She will disseminate the election act to four counties involved in the district supervisor election and to district board members.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve a district proclamation naming the open supervisor positions that will be sent to the New Mexico Secretary of State and to local election officials. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The district manager explained differing understandings of mil levy referendums between NMDA and NMACD that were brought up at the training on the election act which she attended. Clarification was requested on the issue as well as a legal opinion from the Secretary of State's office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Supervisors:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

May 31, 2019

Regular Meeting

The district has two appointed supervisors, Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to submit the names of Dan Williams and Richard Shovelin to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for approval to continue to fill the positions. David Cain seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Agreement with NMDA – Shop Building:

This item was discussed previously.

Audit Services:

The district manager said that three individuals submitted proposals to carry out the district's audit. Discussion followed on the qualifications of the candidates and on proposed prices for the audit.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to select Eric Robinson as the district's auditor. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

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

The district manager explained that Jason Padilla was unable to attend the meeting. He won third place in the homesite competition at the State FFA state contest.

Torrance County Commission – Javier Sanchez, Commissioner – District 3:

Mr. Sanchez was unable to attend the meeting. He is planning to attend the next meeting.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The coalition's annual meeting will be held at ten o'clock on July 18 at the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation office. Some of the country clerks have been invited to talk about supervisor elections.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held on Thursday, May 30.

EBWPC:

The next meeting of the EBWPC will be held on June 12 in Estancia. Brenda Garland, who works for the county told committee members before the meeting started that their line item was overdrawn.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

The district manager reported on Mr. Groom's condition.

Vern Kohler is almost finished with his practice plan and maps for the work along Deer Canyon Trail in Deer Canyon, so when this work is finished, it will be sent to Mr. Groom for his input.

The district manager suggested that board members try to recruit individuals to serve as associate supervisors.

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Mr. Williams reported on a conference on hemp growing that he attended at New Mexico State University. He told about what he learned about the favorable characteristics of hemp as a crop and the risks and limitations involved in growing it. He also described potential costs and proceeds and the process of refining in several states. Mr. Williams sees hemp as a viable crop for New Mexico. It is used for its medicinal benefits and for the production of fiber for cloth, rope and paper. However, growing it here is only in the beginning stages.

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The district manager said that a board conference call meeting will be held to discuss a draft work plan for 2020.

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 12, 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 10:10 am. David Cain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.