



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
July 12, 2019**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Dan Williams

Absentees: Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
David Cain
LeRoy Candelaria
Larry Gomez
Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Orlando Lopez, Manzano Spring and Ditch Association
Jose R. Nuñez, Manzano Spring and Ditch Association
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.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting was convened as a committee meeting.

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:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from May 31, 2019 were reviewed:

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes of May 31, 2019 as read. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of the special meeting from June 27, 2019 were reviewed:

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes of June 27, 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 June, 2019 with accounts payable for July, 2019.

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

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Review of FY2019 4th Quarter Report:

The district manager explained the differences between the actual income and expenses and the budgeted amounts. She also mentioned the items which were both under and over budget.

FY 2020 – 2021 Budget:

The district manager reminded the board members that the budget hasn't changed since it was approved in May. She included the budget for information.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in the board packets. He mentioned items which were of special interest to the district. He reminded the members of the cycle of terms office for both elected and appointed supervisors. He pointed out the date when the point system score sheet and supporting documentation are due to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He also explained an overview of the worksheet's requirements. Then he explained how reorganization of boards is to take place. Finally, Mr. Wanstall indicated the list of water quality and conservation grant awardees included in his report.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS written report for June is included in the board packets. The district manager said that six million dollars in contracts were written for on-the-ground work in the four offices, Mountainair, Estancia, Santa Rosa and Fort Sumner. She praised Kenneth Lujan for this accomplishment. Two million dollars will be distributed from the Mountainair office.

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.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager's report is included in the board packets. She also reported on the elections. She sent letters to the clerks of Valencia, Lincoln, and Socorro counties as well as to the New Mexico Secretary of State saying that the Claunch- Pinto board passed a proclamation to give notice of the board supervisor positions that are up for election in 2019. The positions were named. A letter was previously sent to Torrance County. She talked about challenges confronting the counties as they implement new rules about conducting elections. The New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts is having its annual meeting on August 15 and intends to include someone from the Secretary of State's office and the county clerks. Discussion followed on issues confronting the implementation of the new election rules.

Point System Report:

The district manager distributed the point system report form.

CORRESPONDANCE:

Included in correspondence is a copy of the letter sent to Melvin Johnson, chairman of the Carrizozo Soil and Water Conservation District regarding its request to cost-share on a pipeline on the Scott Schaffer Ranch which is located in both the Carrizozo and Claunch-Pinto districts. The letter stated that the project was unanimously approved.

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.

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

July 12, 2019

Regular Meeting

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

On Wednesday, July 10, the district manager attended a training on the new WTB 2019 grant. The readiness to proceed items will be submitted by next week. The district will have to sign a contract, and the board will need to pass a resolution in either September or October on both the Rio Grande and Estancia Basin grants.

The district manager is working on WTB grants now and they are progressing.

As reported at the last board meeting, the technical assistance for cultural resource surveys went over budget due to the number of artifacts discovered, but the district manager received permission from the Water Trust Board to charge the overage to her WTB funds. She was informed that the national office of NRCS has more money than expected so she applied for additional RCCP funding, including 20 % for technical fees, which is the actual cost of doing the surveys.

The State Forestry Grant:

There is approximately \$100,000 left in a grant that is in progress and here are more than enough projects on which to expend the funds. The David Cain state land project alone is a \$200,000 project if all 200 acres are completed. There is another \$80,000 of thinning and treatment in the Deer Canyon Preserve development, a defensible space project along Deer Canyon Trail .plus an area at the extreme south end of the development.

The district manager is working on a work plan for the 2018 NFL grant that was funded. Also, she was notified that the 2019 NFL grant was funded for \$285,000, but she was asked to share this funding with the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District. She described Ciudad's project. Discussion followed. A decision on the issue will be postponed until the district manager receives more information.

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

The district manager said that scopes of work are being finished on Greater Rio Grande projects. There are projects in Taos, Española, Santa Fe, Pueblo of Sandia, Grants, and Acoma Pueblo. She will bring the list of projects that the GRGWA Board approves to the August meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board..

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager said that Vern Kohler and Anita will do the walk through to be sure that there aren't any erosion issues. She described the plants that are coming up now, and grass plugs will be planted toward the end of July.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Corona CFRP:

The district manager said that all of the field work has been done on the project and reports should be finished and ready to submit to the Forest Service. Then a categorical exclusion will be done. She will then write a new proposal for restoration work if there is a CFRP next year.

Chupadera CFRP:

Work should be started in the next two weeks and will finish the second year. The district manager mentioned that the Western Spirit line will go through the area.

She explained that it is unknown what will happen to the CFRPs.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager explained NRCS is working on the contracts. There is about \$500,000 in the technical assistance budget to complete cultural resource surveys. SWCA will subcontract the cultural resource surveys if it is necessary to stay within budget.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager hopes to submit a new document to Homeland Security next week to review and approve. 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.

Presentation to the District and District Manager:

The chairman introduced Tom Carroll, president of the Deer Canyon Preserve Homeowners Association. Mr. Carroll expressed the homeowners' appreciation for everything that the district does for Deer Canyon and presented a crystal plaque inscribed with words of appreciation to the district and a small personal token of appreciation to the district manager.

The district manager told Mr. Carroll that she will meet with C.J.McElroy, a Deer Canyon HOA board member, on the planned thinning work. She also said that work will be starting on a two-acre area at the south end of Deer Canyon. She and Mr. Carroll will meet to discuss thinning plans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building - Report:

The district manager has written an addendum to change the scope of work to a memorandum of agreement with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. She explained the content.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Williams moved to approve the addendum to the memorandum of agreement with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

Anthony Martinez of the U.S. Forest Service said that a public meeting on the revision will be held on August 27 in the Mountainair community building.. The forest plan will be available for review soon. A meeting of representatives from all three forests will be held on August 20. Mr. Martinez said that Jay Turner will move to the Albuquerque office, so his position in Mountainair will be open. He also reported that so far there have been no significant fires, so the forest service has been doing other project work across the forest.

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

Vern Kohler met with the town of Mountainair and the Central New Mexico Co-Op. He was told that when the power company has some down time, the trees will be cut back from the power lines, and then the town can cut the trees down, and the district crew can treat the stumps and clean up the alleys.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

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

The district manager said that a portion of the electricity generated by the Corona Wind farm will be transmitted by the Western Spirit line.

The district manager explained what a re-boot of the wind generators entails The re-boot is required every 10 years. Evidently, a re-boot is taking place at the High Lonesome wind farm.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager reported on the Corona Wind Company under the previous agenda item.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

P and M has bought the Western Spirit line, Pattern will construct it.

She met again with the committee whose task it is to develop a 501 c3 application so that local entities can apply to a Pattern foundation for grants. A facilitator will be brought in to guide the meetings. She named the other members of the committee.

The district manager has received a rough draft of best management practices that was discussed during a conference call recently. She another meeting is scheduled to discuss the draft in Santa Fe on the sixteenth of August. She explained the emphasis that she is placing on the challenges of the local environment. Noxious weeds were another topic of discussion.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager reported on this item previously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Organization of the Board:

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Williams moved to postpone the re-organization of the Board until January. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 01 2020 – FY2019 – 2020 Budget:

The district manager read the resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Caster moved to adopt the FY2019 – 2020 budget. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Mr. Williams, aye; Mr. Caster, aye; Mr. Lovato, aye.

Resolution No. 02 – 2020 – 4th Quarter DFA Report:

The district manager read the resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Williams moved to adopt the 2020 4th Quarter Report. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Mr. Williams, aye; Mr. Caster, aye; Mr. Lovato, aye.

Resolution No. 03 – 2020 – Inter-budgetary Transfers:

The district manager read the resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Caster moved to adopt the 2020 Inter-budgetary Transfers. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Mr. Williams, aye; Mr. Caster, aye; Mr. Lovato, aye.

Request from Manzano Spring and Ditch Association:

Mr. Orlando Lopez, the president of the Manzano Spring and Ditch Association introduced his colleague, Jose Nuñez, the secretary of the association. Mr. Lopez explained that he was present to ask the district to support the association in the in-kind amount of \$8,717.82, the Manzano Acequia portion of the costs for the Manzano Spring and Ditch project, totaling \$174,356.38. Mr. Lopez explained how the association supports the Forest Service and how the flow of water is bettered as a result of this first phase of renovations to the acequia.

Discussion followed on how on-going maintenance is provided for the acequia, on how extensive this first phase of work was and the number of users and number of acres that could be irrigated.

The district manager explained what information the board has to consider in order to make a decision.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Williams moved to table this item until the next meeting on August 2. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion on Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for FY2021 – 2025:

The district manager listed some of the items that are on the current plan and other needs. She mentioned that Senator Stefanic's asked her to submit a new request. Discussion followed on the need for a truck. A decision on requests will have to be made at the August 2 board meeting.

REPORTS:

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

No report.

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

No report.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The annual meeting will be held on August 15 at the Edgewood SWCD office. A representative from the Secretary of State's office, as well as the county clerks are being invited.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

EBWPC:

A meeting was held and the main topic of discussion concerned the committee's funding.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Planning:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 2, 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:

Mr. Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 am. Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.