



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 2020**

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

Absentees: Robin Dunn

Others Present: Diedre Tarr, District Manager
Dale Rose
Ernie Taylor, U.S Forest Service
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, volunteer
Jim Wanstall, NMDA

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, both in person and via Zoom at 8:10 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the meeting. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the agenda. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to re-approve the minutes of August 7, 2020 as amended. On page 3, under BNSF Railroad Project, change “plan” to “plant.” David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer’s report for the month of September, 2020 with accounts payable for October, 2020. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer’s report for September, 2020 and pay the accounts payable for October, 2020. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

The district manager reported that the auditor spent one day in the district office in September to carry out his field work. No report is available yet.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The department of agriculture's report is included in the board packets.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lovato reported that the local work group meeting was held via teleconference call the previous Thursday. He attended along with the district manager, Mr. Cain, Mr. Candelaria, Dale Rose and Ernie Taylor.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager reported that she attended the Estancia Basin Watershed Health meeting on September 15. She and the chairman met with Ramah Navajo at the district office. She participated in a number of calls and reported those on the Update on Grants report. She has been busy with paperwork involved with projects of the Water Trust Board and Homeland Security.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No report.

UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's report to the board:

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2018 WTB Funds: All of the funding has been spent. We have requested reimbursements for all the funding except for \$3,105.36. I have received a letter from NRCS showing the RCPP match. I am working on the remainder of the match.

2019 GRGWA Projects: We have completed all the current projects. We have a contract with NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute for monitoring with a balance of \$43,812.69. We have approximately \$27,000.00 to be used for re-sprout treatments on completed projects. The re-sprout treatments are working well if we can keep treating the re-sprouts for three - five years. Vern Kohler and Fred Rossbach will start the re-sprout treatments next week.

2019 WTB Funds: EBWHRM Projects: East Torrance SWCD has completed three projects. Edgewood SWCD has contracted the majority of their portion of the funding. Edgewood SWCD will be contracting the remaining portion of their funding in the next couple of weeks. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has the Cain State Land Project, Deer Canyon Gate Project and a couple of small projects they have contracted. We have contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants to continue the monitoring project.

2020 WTB Proposal: We have been funded for both the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project and the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project. Both proposals were for \$600,000 each. I am working on the readiness to proceed items to submit to NM Finance Authority for review. We are working on a request for proposals for this funding. We are planning on conducting contractor field tours the last week of October, 2020.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2018 NFL Funding: The Ramah Navajo crew has not been working on the Cain State Land project for five months. The district met with the executive director, the natural resource director and the assistant natural resource director from Ramah Navajo to look at the restrooms and showers in the shop building. They were impressed. The executive director said the crew would be able to come to Mountainair to start working on the project. We are expecting the crew on Monday, October 5, 2020.

2019 NFL Funding: I have reviewed the draft work plan for this funding in the amount of \$276,500.00.

2020 NFL Funding: We have been notified we have received funding in the amount of \$276,500.00. Our proposal ranked number one in the proposal rankings.

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding:

The district has been funded for the Box Canyon Project in the amount of \$375,000.00. The district has agreed to enter into an agreement with New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA) with this funding. NMFIA will help select the contractor/contractors to complete the fuel work in Box Canyon. NMFIA will then use the funding as match on their stewardship agreement with Cibola National Forest. NMFIA is currently working on fuel reduction projects on the Sandia Ranger District with this stewardship funding. The work in Box Canyon will give the Mountainair Ranger District firewood for the local residents.

BNSF Railroad Project:

We have sent a Notice of Termination of Coverage under a NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Industrial Activity into EPA in Washington, D. C. We are waiting for concurrence from EPA. After we receive the concurrence and do some work on the project, the railroad will release the final payment of \$47,500 to the district.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Project:

Chupadera CFRP: We have now moved into the fourth year on this project. All documents have to be submitted and approved for this project prior to August 31, 2020.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal: I gave a presentation to the CFRP Federal Advisory Panel on September 17, 2020. The proposal was rated number one by the panel at the end of their 2019 project reviews.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2018 RCPP Funding – All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been sent to NRCS for review. NRCS only has a couple to review before they are sent to SHPO. The remaining reports are either on SHPO's desk or have been approved. We have two outstanding reports for the Grants/Gallup Field Office. One of the reports has been submitted to the Forest Service for review and concurrence. The second report is being drafted and should be submitted soon.

Additional RCPP Funding:

I have been working with Kris Graham Chavez on the negotiations for this funding. I have submitted everything she has requested. I am waiting to see if there are any comments or changes that need to be made.

New Mexico State Park Project

The thinning portion of the Manzano State Park project has been completed. State Forestry is working with a contractor to cut the wood in two and four-foot lengths and haul it to a staging area. The district will then haul the wood to the district wood yard to sell to Land Grant heirs.

FEMA Grant Proposal

Grant No. FEMA-4197-DR-NM-11-01:

The contractor's contract has been sent to Home Land Security for review and approval.

Hazard Mitigation Project - Sub-grant Application HMGP – 5281:

The district submitted a proposal for this funding on July 24, 2020 in the amount of \$451,043.00. This funding is planned to complete projects on the Aceves Ranch, Swenka Ranch, and Deer Canyon Preserve. The project on Deer Canyon Preserve will include a clearing for a helicopter pad and also a staging area in case of a large wildfire.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

Shop Building - Report:

The plumbing inspector is expected today, and as soon as the plumbing passes final inspection, Mike Valdez can ask for an overall inspection, and when that is approved, a certificate of occupancy will be issued and the shop can be used. The district manager expects the Ramah crew on Monday.

Purchasing a $\frac{3}{4}$ Ton Vehicle for the District:

The district has yet to receive the purchase vouchers from NMDA allowing the district to buy the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton vehicle, which has been approved.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies, Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager reported that an RV park has been built in Corona, the Turner Inn in Mountainair has expanded its hook-ups, and construction work is occurring on both highway 55 and 60 where equipment and material will be staged, all of this in preparation for work on the wind energy projects.

The district manager was asked by the PRC to set up a meeting with State Forestry, the US Forest Service, Pattern Energy and Claunch-Pinto to develop a fire plan for the Corona area. The action is the result of Claunch-Pinto's intervention with the PRC. Developing a fire plan for south of Mountainair is problematic because Pattern has gone through the Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA.) Discussion continued on what influence the district can have on developing an additional fire plan. The district manager wants a wider corridor along the line so that if the line fell, it wouldn't fall on trees, thereby igniting a fire. It was suggested that Claunch-Pinto should go on record insisting that an adequate fire plan be developed. The district manager detailed the damage that a serious fire could cause.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:

This item remains tabled.

Purchase a Used Heavy Duty $\frac{3}{4}$ Ton or one Ton Truck:

The district manager described the circumstances when one of the Claunch-Pinto trucks broke down. She explained how much money can be spent to buy a used heavy duty ¾ or one-ton truck. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of buying a used truck, considering the amount of money available. Wood has to be removed from Manzano State Park by October 31, and a truck is a necessity in order to pull a loaded trailer.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to authorize the district manager to purchase a used heavy duty ¾ ton or one-ton truck within the district budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

The district manager is still working on this item.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The committee is looking for a new at-large member. The district manager is in charge of investigating a location for a deep well.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The district manager will participate in a Teams meeting on Thursday. She will send out approved minutes to the board.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 6, 2020 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, Larry Gomez moved to adjourn. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion at 9:20.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

SEC. – TREAS.