



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
August 7, 2020**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
Robin Dunn  
Larry Gomez  
Jack Lockridge  
Dan Williams

**Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria

**Others Present:** Diedre Tarr, District Manager  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Dale Rose  
Jim Wanstall, NMDA  
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, 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, via Zoom at 8:10 a.m.

**Welcome Attendees:**

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the Zoom meeting.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2020 as read. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **Fourth Quarter DFA Report:**

The district manager provided the Fourth Quarter Report for review

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

The written report is included in the board packet. Mr. Wanstall mentioned the NMDA's Healthy Soil Program. He said that a second year of grant funding has been provided and that the applications are easy to use. The deadline for individual applicants to submit an application to their eligible entities -- SWCD boards is August 31, 2020. The SWCD boards or other eligible entities can review and rank the applications and submit the qualifying ones to NMDA by the deadline for eligible entities of October 8, 2020.

Mr. Wanstall has been working with others on updating the noxious weed list.

### **NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan said that NRCS can see people in the office by appointment only.

### **District Manager's Report:**

The district manager reported that she has been attending some trainings via Zoom and conference calls.

## **CORRESPONDANCE:**

The district manager submitted the audit to state auditor's office.

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

### **Watershed Health Grant -- Water Trust Board:**

#### **2018 WTB Funds –**

All of the funding has been spent. We have requested reimbursements for all the funding except for \$3,105.36. I am waiting to request this amount until my NMFA Project Manager and I can decide how we are going to show the NRCS – RCPP match for the grant. We may have to wait until we can have an in-person meeting to go over the figures I have received from Kristin Graham Chavez. I am sure if we will need to have some type of letter from NRCS to confirm the match.

**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.

**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 3 - 5 years.

**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/ea. I am working on the readiness to proceed items to submit to NM Finance Authority for review.

### **New Mexico State Forestry Grant:**

**NM State Forestry Grants 2017 NFL Funding –** The funds have been drawn down to zero on this funding. **2018 NFL Funding –** The Ramah Navajo crew has not been working on the Cain State Land project for four months. The Navajo Nation has a curfew and we are not sure

currently how this effects the Ramah Navajo crew. We received an extension from the NM State Land Office to complete the project. We have until December 31, 2020 to complete the project. The Ramah Navajo crew has cut several acres, but we still need to chip the slash and haul the wood from the project area.

**2019 NFL Funding** – I have a draft work plan to review 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 1 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 fire wood for the local residents.

**BNSF Railroad Project:**

Vern Kohler has conducted inspections on the railroad project. Our grass plugs are starting to green up. We hope to be able to plan these within the next month.

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

**Chupadera CFRP** – I worked with Aaron Johnson, CFRP Coordinator for the Cibola National Forest, to complete the paperwork for an addendum to move the project into the 4th year. We have a signed addendum to extend the project into the 4th year. I have forwarded the first draft NEPA document to BLM and NM State Land Office for their review and comments. I should receive their comments back by August 15th, so Rocky Mountain Ecological can start working on the final documents, which will be due no later than August 1, 2021. **New 2019 CFRP Proposal – Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains proposal** – we are still waiting for Federal approval of a CFRP Technical Advisory Committee so the proposal can be reviewed and ranked for funding.

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**Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant:**

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) 2018 RCPP Funding – All of the Field work for the cultural resource surveys and reports has been completed. Several of the reports have been completed and approved by NRCS, NM State Land Office and NRCS. **Additional RCPP Funding** – I will be working with Kris Graham Chavez on the negotiations for this funding in the next week or so. I received the 2016 RCPP reports. Unfortunately, \$120,000 to \$150,000 had to be returned to the government.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

New Mexico State Park Project NM State Forestry started the thinning project at the state park on August 4th.

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

The district advertised a “request for proposals” for the Aceves project. The proposals are due on Monday, August 10th. I am working on a reimbursement request.

**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 district manager described progress on finishing the shop building: electrical is not finished yet, but should be done soon; the plumber is almost finished; the doors have been installed.

**Purchasing a ¾ Ton Vehicle for the District:**

NMDA is waiting on authorization to go ahead with the agreement, but the money is still available to buy the vehicle.

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

The district manager reported that Adam Renz emailed her that a construction yard has been established so that work can start on the Western Spirit Line. Work is ready to start on the Corona Wind Farm. The district manager will set up a meeting with the Forest Service, Pattern Energy and the district to begin discussions on a fire plan as soon as Lawrence Crane from the Forest Service is available.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:**

The district manager explained that this agenda item should be postponed until the board can meet in person because members have to sign the oath.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jack Lockridge moved to table the agenda item. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

**FY 2022 – 2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP):**

The district manager sent out the ICIP to board members to review and reprioritize if necessary. She listed the entities who receive the district's ICIP.

**NRCS Memorandum of Agreement – Signature Authorization:**

Mr. Lujan offered to go over the plan with any board members with questions. The agreement is a new agreement that has to be signed every five years. The district manager had questions about some items in the agreement.

**ACTION ITEM:** Robin Dunn moved to table the item. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

No report.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

No report.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:** Mr. Williams thanked Dale Rose for attending the meeting. The Mr. Lovato welcomed Ms. Rose to the meeting.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 04, 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, Jack Lockridge moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 am. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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SEC. – TREAS.