



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 10, 2020**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
LeRoy Candelaria
Robin Dunn
Larry Gomez

Absentees: David Cain
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Others Present: Steven Ferguson, NRCS
Ernest Taylor, U.S. Forest 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 8:05 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.

SUPERVISOR OATH OF OFFICE:

The district manager, as a notary public, administered the oath of office to supervisors LeRoy Candelaria, Robin Dunn and Felipe Lovato.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2019 as read. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2019 with accounts payable for January, 2020.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the treasurer's report for December, 2019 and pay the accounts payable for January, 2020. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD
January 10, 2020
Regular Meeting

The district manager will prepare a budget report for the board to review at the February meeting.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager pointed out several requirements due in December that are either complete or will be complete by the next meeting: the review and passage of the mileage and per diem policy, the oath of office administered to the elected supervisors, and the reorganization of the district board. Mr. Candelaria asked whether the district was incorporated. Discussion followed regarding protecting board members from individual liability.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

Steven Ferguson referred the board to the NRCS written report, dated January 10, 2020, included in the board packets.

District Manager's Report:

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

No correspondence to report.

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):

Yesterday the district manager submitted eight reimbursements on the Estancia Basin project. On Monday, she will start to work on readiness items for both the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects. Both proposals have been forwarded to the legislature for consideration. Funding for the 2018 Estancia Basin project will be drawn down this month, so the district will be in compliance with requirements and will thus be eligible for the 2020 funds.

One WTB project -- four contracts written for East Torrance -- is in the process of being completed. The district manager has been writing the Estancia Basin contracts for East Torrance, Ciudad, and Edgewood since 2002. Mr. Lovato and the district manager related the history of the district's role in the project.

The State Forestry Grant:

2016 NFL projects are being completed. She reported on the projects in the Claunch-Pinto district: David Cain's state land project, the project at Deer Canyon, and a project for Jennifer Stein. Alamo Navajo is working on a project in Manzano. These projects will draw down the funding and money from the 2018 funding will begin to be spent. The work plan for the 2019 funding hasn't been written yet. The district manager thinks that the Forest Service will fund a project at the Manzano State Park with money that was slated to be spent in areas where there are Mexican Spotted Owls.

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

The district manager said that she writes contracts for 12 soil and water conservation districts for this grant.

Boss Reclamation has one more project at Chimayo to finish to complete its contract. There were contracts at Alcalde, on the Sandia Pueblo, on both Alfredo Roybal's and his sister's private land near Chimayo. These projects are finished.

Both Restoration Solutions and Larry Taylor Services from Grants are working on projects on the Seboyeta land grant. Next Taylor Services will move to a project at Acoma.

BNSF Railroad Project:

Vern Kohler has conducted inspections on the railroad project. A thousand grass plugs need to be planted, and the district manager wants to get some compost from the Bio Reactor to use

where the railroad has finished construction. This effort may become a demonstration project for the district and for the railroad.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Chupadera CFRP:

The district manager will ask for a fourth-year extension on this project. All of the work needs to be finished in the third year, but she will ask for the balance of the funding in the fourth year. The district manager explained an issue with the archaeologist that delayed the work.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal – Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon in the Manzano Mountains:

The district manager said that the Estancia Basin committee reviewed the proposal at its Tuesday meeting and assured that everything was in order. The Forest Service's technical advisory committee needs to be approved in Washington so that proposals can be reviewed and ranked.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2018 RCPP Funding:

The district manager said that an archaeologist has begun the required survey of the project area. She hopes to have a schedule of work next week. SWCA will subcontract some of the projects, saving money in the budget.

Additional RCPP Funding:

An additional 2.3 million dollars will be available. A short proposal will be submitted by January 31 to ask for the funding. Even though the funds have been approved, a proposal is still required.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The NEPA work on the Aceves project is finishing up. The district manager had to submit a proposal to work on the 135-acre hazardous fuel project. She has to complete the budget forms that have to be sent in with it. There is an additional \$800,000 available, so she has to submit a proposal for work on 165 more acres.

She has submitted a proposal for the 2020 funding. There were no other applicants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building - Report:

The district manager reported that she is waiting to receive the funding.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision:

Ernest Taylor said that the Forest Service is in the process of doing its comment analysis. The plan may be out by the end of the fiscal year.

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

The district's work remains at a standstill, waiting for the electrical co-op to do its part.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line, SunZia Transmission Line:

The district manager says that she has heard that work is being done on the line. She reported that Pattern energy has received a letter from the Deer Canyon Preserve saying that they are not allowed to enter the development's property and if they do, will be considered to be trespassing and will be dealt with accordingly.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies, Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager reported the company is preparing to work in the Corona area and then on the line.

An issue has come up with the Western Spirit Transmission Line because the company wants to hold to its 180-foot easement. The district manager insists that 100 feet of defensible space is needed in case of fire caused by a break in the line, especially in remote areas where the piñon-juniper forests are thick. Pattern wants her to find grant money to fund the work.

The district manager is still working on a committee in Corona to establish a 501c.3 so that Pattern can set up a fund that can be used in Torrance, Lincoln and Guadalupe counties. She explained that there is an issue with warning lights for aircraft that may be required that could affect funding.

The district manager reported on the work on best practices. She said that the Forest Services' best practices were not included in the draft yet and she has reported the omission to the company.

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

The district manager will tell Mr. Garcia and Mr. Pauliks that the district will work with them on their project.

Personnel Policy – Absenteeism and Tardiness:

No report yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-organization of the board

Mr. Lovato said that he would like to postpone this item until the full board is present.

A new secretary/treasurer and a vice-president will be needed.

Mr. Lovato mentioned that Robin Dunn, as a board member, should be able to sign checks. The district manager will bring a resolution to the next board meeting to include Robin Dunn as a signatory on the district's checks.

ACTION TAKEN:

Larry Gomez moved to table re-organization of the board until the next meeting. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Capital Outlay Requests:

The district manager will have to submit requests before the next board meeting. After discussion, board members asked the district manager to request two vehicles, a work truck as a priority as well as a vehicle with a shorter wheel base that can be driven to cities with challenging parking.

NMDA – Healthy Soils Program Proposal – Education – Robin Dunn:

Ms. Dunn talked about the healthy soils workshop that covers rangeland, so it will be applicable to ranchers. She said that scholarships may be available. Proposals are due on January 15. The district manager said that she would ask Codi Stropki for help in submitting the proposal.

A demonstration area could be created on the Dunn ranch to show ranchers the effectiveness of the practices. Discussion followed on issues regarding the use of a bioreactor.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

The district manager said that the NMCCD has contracted with a lobbyist, Jason Castile and hopes to also contract with John Thompson. The lobbyists will monitor the thirty-day legislative session for bills that could affect soil and water conservation districts including HB 454, which will be resubmitted in the session. The district manager has had several emails from Representative McQueen, who knows that the NMCCD opposes funding that directly goes to NGOs. Rather the NGOs should be required to work with the soil and water conservation districts.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held, which Felipe Lovato was unable to attend.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

A meeting was held in December, which the district manager was unable to attend due to a conflict with another meeting. She was informed that the committee wants Torrance County to be its fiscal agent. Discussion followed on errors in financial reports that the committee received from the East Torrance district manager. Bernalillo County will take over the secretarial duties formerly performed by the district manager of the East Torrance District.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING: Board reorganization will be on the agenda for the next meeting. A new secretary/ treasurer and a new vice president are needed.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 7, 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:

ACTION TAKEN:

Larry Gomez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 am. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion, which carried.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.