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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
April 9, 2021**

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Dale Rose, CPSWCD  
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, both in person and via conference call at 8:45 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:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2021 as read. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of March, 2021 with accounts payable for April. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the treasurer's report for March, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for April, 2021. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; David Cain, aye.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**DFA Quarterly Report for Third Quarter:**

The district manager explained that the report was a draft and didn't need board approval.

**REPORTS:****New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

The department of agriculture's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager submitted the mil levy rate to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for approval.

**NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The written report is included in board member's packets.

**District Manager's Report:**

The district manager said that she emailed the grant report to board members. She reported that an archaeology crew plus the Ramah Navajo crew camped on the district's grounds the previous week. The district manager had a conference call on the Highway 42 project the previous day. She has to prepare an RFP for a contractor. She hopes the project can begin by the first of June. The work needs to be finished by the end of July due to upcoming road work. Wood from the project will be stacked near the fence line for area residents to pick up.

She reported on difficulties reporting on RCPP due to new features of the portal and to the district, misnamed as the Claunch-Pinto "Conversation" district. NRCS is ready to do the supplemental agreement with the district for the new RCPP funds.

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

None.

**UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Written Report to the Board: April 9, 2021****Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):****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 \$27,122.71. 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. We have not been able to get the remaining re-sprout treatments completed for various equipment problems and the weather. Hopefully, we will be able to work on some of these treatments in the spring.

**2019 WTB Funds – EBWHRM Projects --**

East Torrance SWCD has completed three projects. Edgewood SWCD has contracted the majority of their portion of the funding. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has the Cain State Land Project, Deer Canyon Gate Project and a couple of small projects they have contracted. Ferranti Natural Resources, LLC and Ramah Navajo Natural Resource Department are working on the Cain State Land Project. They are chipping the slash. This project should be completed in April, 2021. 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/ea. Both of these grants closed on December 18, 2020. East Torrance SWCD has started planning their portion of this EBWHRM grant. Edgewood and Claunch-Pinto SWCD will be working on a defensible space project in Chilili. The district manager advertised a request for proposals for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. There are a total of nine projects for a total of 283 acres. The contractor proposals are due on April 14, 2021.

**NM State Forestry Grants:****2018 NFL Funding –**

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The Ramah Navajo Natural Resource thinning crew should have the Cain State Land project completed in April 2021. They just need to chip approximately 100 acres of slash.

**2019 NFL Funding –**

The work plan for this project has been signed by the district and State Forestry. The district has received a notice to proceed on this funding. The district has met with NM Department of Transportation to design a thinning project on highway right of way on NM HWY 42 on the north side of Cedarvale. This project will be approximately 56.5 acres. The slash will be chipped, and the wood will be stacked on the right of way for locals to pick up.

**2020 NFL Funding –**

We have been notified that 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 cut, skid and deck portion of the project has been delayed because of weather issues. The equipment cannot be used when the project area is muddy. The district is working on an area within the lower campground. We hope to have it completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>. We still have a couple of other areas to thin in the Box Canyon area.

**BNSF Railroad Project:**

The district has removed all the erosion structures that were constructed for the railroad project. The district will continue to watch the area for any erosion issues.

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:**

**Chupadera CFRP –**

We have now moved into the fourth year on this project. The cultural resource survey crew has cultural resource surveys to complete before the paperwork can be finalized. The crew was out the week of March 30 – April 3. They reported they found over 300 sites on one State land area that had been selected for the survey. Rocky Mountain Ecology will be contracting with a private contractor to write the burn plan which is a deliverable for the grant. All of the deliverables need to be completed by August 1, 2021 so that Claunch-Pinto SWCD can finalize the grant.

**New 2019 CFRP Proposal –**

The district manager has been told this project should be funded in September 2021. The project is known as Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains. The district manager has prepared the federal forms needed for this project and submitted them to the CFRP grant manager. After the district's paperwork with the Forest Service has been signed, we will be signing a contract with Romero Wood Sales in Manzano, NM.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP):**

**2017 RCP Funding –**

We have one outstanding report that needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department. We have just found out the tribe is advertising to fill a position in that department. We have an outstanding invoice to SWCA on this project waiting for their report to be approved.

**2018 RCP Funding –**

All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been sent to NRCS for review. NRCS only has a couple of these reports to review before they are sent to SHPO. We have one outstanding report for the Grants/Gallup Field Office. The reimbursement process has been changed. We now have to go through a portal called EZGrants.gov. This portal has a different set of reports that have to be submitted before a payment can be made on the invoices SWCA has submitted. The portal for Claunch-Pinto SWCD was set up incorrectly as Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water **Conversation** District. I am waiting for the corrections to be made, so I can complete all of the necessary reports.

**Additional RCP Funding:**

NRCS is ready to work with the district on the Supplementary Agreement. This agreement needs to be completed, so we can move forward with the funding.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

State Forestry has contracted a contractor to cut and move the wood from the 35-acre project to a staging area for the district field crew to load and move to the district's property. We have been moving wood since March 12<sup>th</sup>. The field crew has moved 68 loads of wood to the district property. Each load is approximately two cords of wood. This project should be completed by April 9, 2021. The wood will be sold by the cord for a small fee to Manzano, Torreon and Tajique land grant heirs. A percentage of the wood will go to each land grant. A discussion took place on what to charge for the wood.

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to charge land grant heirs \$80.00 per cord of wood. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

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

The contractor has started the work on this FEMA project. The Ramah crew has approximately 25 acres cut. A crew from Ferranti Natural Resources, LLC has cut another 10 acres. This project must be completed by May 31, 2021. The mitigation specialist and the sub-grant analyst will inspect the Aceves project on April 21, 2021. We hope to have half of the project completed by April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

The BCA (Benefit-Cost Analysis) for this project was submitted and approved by FEMA. NM Department of Home Land Security has to complete a management plan for the department for FEMA to approve before the funds can be released for contracting to the district.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Capital Outlay:****Request for a new chipper:**

The district manager reported that she submitted the request for capital outlay funds to buy a new chipper, but the request was not granted for lack of funds.

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

The district manager reported that the towers are being erected in Corona, and work is being done on the Western Sprit Transmission Line.

**Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:**

The district manager said that she now working on submitting the required paperwork. She mentioned that the Forest Service will do a prescribed burn on Thunderbird next week. Discussion followed on the safety of a prescribed burn under the present conditions.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Lockridge moved to write a letter of concern to the Forest Service and other appropriate entities regarding the prescribed burn. Mr. Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**Work on 1400 Chipper:**

Mr. Lockridge said that the current draft lease agreement under review by the board is incomplete and detail needs to be added.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to table action on the lease agreement. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

Ms. Dunn asked to discuss changes that might be made to the agreement. Mr. Lockridge said that the original intent of the agreement needs to be compared with the language in the draft. He also said that

amounts of money referred to in the agreement need to be specified. He asked that any input from board members should be submitted to the district manager. Mr. Williams mentioned some concerns on wording that he has. Ms. Dunn asked for clarification of language regarding fixing the engine in case of damage, especially concerning who is responsible for the repairs. The edited draft will be re-submitted to the board.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Purchase a Diesel Fuel Tank for District:**

Mr. Lovato explained issues about maintaining a fuel supply. Discussion followed on buying a fuel tank.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to buy a 500-gallon tank with a stand. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **Appointed Supervisors:**

The district manager will talk to the supervisors who need to be appointed on their willingness to serve.

**ACTION TAKEN:** David Cain moved to table the appointment of appointed supervisors. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **Personnel Handbook – Needs to be revised to add a no tolerance drug policy and added information on workman’s compensation:**

Mr. Lovato explained the need for possible revisions. Discussion followed on whether the wording on no tolerance drug policy is strong enough and on whether it takes into account current legislation on recreational marijuana. The district manager will send the current personnel handbook to board members to review the wording on the drug policy, on workman’s compensation and on who to report injuries to.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Robin Dunn moved that the district manager send out the current personnel handbook to board members for review. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

No report.

### **South Central Mountain RC&D:**

The district manager said that the committee is working on projects in Timberon, Ruidoso and Cloudcroft.

### **Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

The committee is still discussing the deep well project.

## **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

### **OTHER:**

The district manager said that she expects the next meeting on May 7 to be held in person.

## **MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

## **PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

## **NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 7, 2021 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, LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn. David Cain seconded the motion.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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David Cain, SECRETARY