



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 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
Kenneth Lujan
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 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. David Cain 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: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2021 as read. 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of April, 2021 with accounts payable for May. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for April, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for May, 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 said that she submitted the report and received approval from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).

FY 2021 – 2022 Interim Budget:

Mr. Lockridge reported that the budget committee met and agreed on the interim budget to present to the board. The committee approved the district manager's salary recommendations, and they are included in the interim budget. The district manager asked to add funds for a swamper's position to the budget. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to add the funds for the position to the budget. David Cain seconded the motion. 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.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the interim budget. David Cain seconded the motion. 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.

Auditor Procurement:

The district manager reported on two bids that she received for the district's auditor position. One bid did not include a single fed audit. The second bid did include a single fed audit. **ACTION TAKEN:** Leroy Candelaria moved to select Dan Austin's bid that includes a single fed audit. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. 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.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The department of agriculture's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager said that she would distribute additional information on the district supervisors' training.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The written report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan said that the office is at 50% capacity. Staff can meet with one visitor at a time. Masks are required. However, he cannot have any in-person meetings yet.

The deadline for EQIP applications for FY 2021 is today. The staff is working on ranking the applications. The major change to the EQIP rules is that a practice has to be completed within the first twelve months to be in compliance.

The initial allocation for CSP was 7.8 million dollars. He said that tribes applied for and got a major portion of the funding. The state has asked for an additional four million dollars.

District Manager's Report:

No report

CORRESPONDANCE:

None.

UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Written Report to the Board: May 7, 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. I should get an invoice from the Institute in the next couple of weeks for a portion

of this funding. We have approximately \$27,000.00 to be used for re-sprout treatments on completed projects. The re-sprout treatments are working well if the re-sprouts can be treated 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 most 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 May 2021. We have contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants to continue the monitoring project.

2020 WTB Grants – 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 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 nine projects for a total of 283 acres. The technical committee has reviewed the proposals. The field coordinator and I have to meet with two of the proponents the week of May 10th to review their proposal and the project site. The technical committee can then finalize their recommendations for the GRGWA.

2021 WTB Proposals: The Water Trust Board is meeting on May 14th to finalize the list of WTB applicants for funding. The EBWHRM and GRGWA proposals are sitting at 1 and 2 in the watershed section of the funding. I am hoping both proposals are funded.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2018 NFL Funding – The Ramah Navajo Natural Resource thinning crew should have the Cain State Land project completed in May 2021. They just need to chip approximately 30 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. The district has three applications at this time that we can use this funding for.

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.

Twenty-nine acres have been completed and inspected on the cut, skid and deck portion of the project. The district is working on an area within the lower campground. The area should be

completed by the week of May 10, 2021. The district still has another 10 acres to complete within the area of the lower campground.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district will continue to monitor 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 surveys to complete before the paperwork can be finalized. The crew is surveying this week. Rocky Mountain Ecology will be contracting with a private contractor to write the burn plan, which is a deliverable for the grant. All the deliverables need to be completed by August 1, 2021 so that Claunch-Pinto SWCD can finalize the grant.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal – The project is known as Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains. The district manager is working with a US Forest Service contracting officer to finalize the contract for this project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2017 RCPP Funding – We have one outstanding report that needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department.

2018 RCPP Funding – All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been approved by SHPO. The EZGrants.gov portal for Claunch-Pinto SWCD was set up incorrectly as Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water **Conversation** District. As of May 6, 2021 this has not been corrected. The district manager has submitted all of the financial and written reports to the NRCS RCPP Project Manager who has made sure the reports have been added to the portal so the district doesn't show past due.

Additional RCPP Funding – The district manager is working on the supplemental agreement for this funding. The district manager has met with the area conservationist, the district conservationists and the soil and water conservation district to discuss this project. The district manager has also met with the area conservationist, the NRCS program manager and the NRCS RCPP project manager concerning the ranking criteria for this funding. The district manager will be setting up a ZOOM meeting within the next couple of weeks for the soil and water conservation districts, the area conservationist, and the district conservationist to discuss the ranking criteria so the ranking information can be submitted to NRCS. The supplemental agreement also needs to be completed and reviewed in Washington D.C. before we can move forward.

New Mexico State Park Project:

The district student workers are stacking the wood that came off this project, so we can get the wood ready to sale to the land grant heirs.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Grant No. FEMA-4197-DR-NM-11-01 – We have approximately 45 acres cut and the contractor has a crew chipping slash. We have to have this contract completed by June 30, 2021.

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 to submit to FEMA for approval before the funds can be released for contracting to the district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

Requested Funding for a New Chipper:

The district manager reported that the request for money for a new chipper was funded. The chipper can be bought after July 1, 2021. Mr. Lockridge suggested that work could begin work on an RFP.

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

The district manager reported that she is waiting for Pattern Energy to find time to meet.

Robin Dunn asked about an item in a report from BLM to soil and water conservation districts that included an out-of-date map from 2016. The district manager said that she has asked to be a cooperating agency and will ask for an up-to-dated map.

The district manager said that Pattern Energy has been sold to a pension fund in Canada. Dale Rose said that she understands that business will be conducted as usual by Pattern Energy as though it hadn't been sold.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

The district manager said that she is working on submitting the required paperwork.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Supervisors:

The district manager reported that Mr. Williams would like to step down as a supervisor and that Dale Rose has agreed to become a supervisor. The district manager suggested that Mr. Williams serve as an associate supervisor. He will consider the request.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to re-appoint Jack Lockridge and appoint Dale Rose to positions as supervisors. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

How Much to Charge Per Cord for District Wood:

Discussion followed about possible competition with local wood sellers and what the price of a cord of wood should be.

ACTION TAKEN: Leroy Candelaria moved to charge \$160 per cord of wood. David 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.

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. Dan Williams suggested that wording in the policy can be modified. Discussion followed on possible wording and what resources that could be consulted. Mr. Lockridge suggested that the wording be modified and sent to an attorney who specializes in human resources law.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The district manager said that South Central Mountain canceled its meeting because of the fire that started in the Three Rivers area.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The committee met last month, and the district manager will send out the draft minutes. They are still working on the deep well monitoring project. Brenda Smythe will represent Edgewood on the committee.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager said that the students in the Future Farmers of America from Corona and Mountainair did really well in the state contests. She would like for the board to get gift certificates to recognize the students' achievements.

LeRoy Candelaria presented a plaque thanking the board for its support on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 4, 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 at 9:10 a.m. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

David Cain, SECRETARY