



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
July 16, 2021**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Leroy Candelaria
Robin Dunn
Jack Lockridge
Dale Rose

Absentees: David Cain
Larry Gomez

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, volunteer
Dan Williams

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 8:15 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. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Dale Rose, aye.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2021 as read. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention: Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Dale Rose, aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of June, 2021 with accounts payable for July. Mr. Lockridge reported that the district's bank will rebate some of past charges, and no fees will be charged going forward.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for June, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for July, 2021. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Review Fourth Quarter Report for FY 2020 -- 2021:

The Fourth Quarter Report is included in board members' packets for review.

Quarterly Report Resolution No. 01 – 2022:

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve Quarterly Report Resolution No. 01 – 2022. Mr. Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye.

Budget Revision Resolution No. 02 – 2022:

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve Budget Revision Resolution No. 02 – 2022. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye.

FY 2021 – 2022 Budget:

The district manager compared the FY 2021 – 2022 budget to the year-end report. Those areas which were over budget last year have been increased in this year's budget.

Budget Resolution No. 03 – 2022:

ACTION TAKEN: Dale Rose moved to approve Budget Resolution No. 03 – 2022. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The Department of Agriculture's written report is included in the board packets.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The written report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan said his team did really well on CSP with the Mountainair office having the most renewals and sign-ups in the state.

On the other hand, EQIP did not do as well. Only two range applications were obligated by the Mountainair field office. He has received complaints from producers that the funding isn't getting spread out enough. He explained how much less funding was received and how the money was allocated. He is hopeful that his team will receive an additional \$400,000. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact him.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager has certificates for Robin Dunn and Dale Rose for attending the supervisor certification training. She will distribute information that was available at the training to the other board members.

There may be a forest workers safety certification training at the district office next Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

CORRESPONDANCE:

None.

UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Report to the Board: July 16, 2021

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:

2019 Projects -- We have a small balance, which will come down.

2020 WTB Grants – This week, I hope to begin drawing down on the money for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project. We will be meeting via Zoom to approve the contractors to do the work approved a year ago on the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project.

2021 WTB Proposals -- I will be working on the readiness items for both the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande grants in order to submit them by the first part of August.

NM State Forestry Grants:

We have three grants.

2019 Funding – We will be using a substantial amount of this grant to finish the Aceves project.

2020 Funding – We haven't started using any of the 2020 funds.

2021 Funding – I just received the work plan for this funding yesterday and have to review it.

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding -- Brent Racher has about 32 acres to finish on the Box Canyon project, and we have about an acre and a half to finish on our portion of the project. Our crew will finish work on it next week.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district will continue to monitor the area for any erosion issues.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Chupadero CFRP – I received an email from the archaeologist who is doing the cultural resource surveys on the Chupadero CFRP. I reminded him that the surveys and reports are due by August 31. New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts has some RCPP money that will be used in the Chupadero. Mastication may be used to thin in the area, which means that there will be less wood available.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal – The project is known as Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains. All of the paperwork with the Forest Service has been completed. I have a contracting officer in Washington D.C. on this grant. I have a contract with Romero Firewood, LLC who will be doing the work on the project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

I am finishing up reports on the 2015, 2017, and 2018 funds, and then I can submit for reimbursement. We have one outstanding report that needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department for 2017 funding at the Pueblo of Acoma. A two-year-old invoice can't be paid until the work is approved. NRCS has asked if we want to renew the 2017 RCPP, so we will be working on that application next week. That funding is for a little over \$900,000.

Additional RCPP Funding – I submitted all of the information for the supplemental agreement with NRCS in Washington D.C. After it is reviewed and signed, we can advertise for cooperators to apply for funding. The project area is much larger, so it is unclear how much money may come to this area.

New Mexico State Park Project:

This project is complete except for selling the wood. I received a complaint from the Manzano Land Grant president regarding how much wood is designated to sell to the land grant heirs. I was also told that heirs may not be able to afford \$80 a cord.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

I had a final inspection on the Aceves project on Wednesday. We only got part of the planned acres completed; however, FEMA representatives were pleased with the project. Unfortunately, we will have to turn back a large amount of money, but it will not affect the new money we will get. We may get a sub-grant agreement to sign in the next month on this new funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper:

The district manager reported that the request for money for a new chipper was funded. Agreements have to be made with the New Mexico State University and the Department of Agriculture on the funding. Then the district manager will send out a request for proposals on the equipment.

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

The district manager reported that she met with Adam Clark from Pattern Energy who said that they will ask permission to enlarge the Corona Wind Farm. He also said that they were happy with the progress on the Western Spirit Transmission Line and that they are working on a fire plan. Mr. Lovato expressed a concern about clearing the right of way for the line.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

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

Personnel Handbook:

Mr. Lockridge said that he and Larry Gomez are reviewing the handbook and are working on wording for the drug policy and workman's compensation.

Contract with Ferranti Natural Resources, LLC – 1400 Chipper:

The district manager said that the district has no money in the chipper yet. She explained what is wrong with the chipper and said that only Ferranti Natural Resources, LLC has spent any money so far. A mechanic who used to work for Vermeer has the chipper, has diagnosed its problems, and has ordered parts. A new engine was already installed by a different mechanic. Mr. Lockridge explained how valuable the chipper will be to the district even though repairs are made. Ms. Dunn expressed concerns about work on the chipper that has gone on without a signed contract and about the district's continuing financial obligation whether the chipper ever works or not. She also explained her reservations about the integrity of the whole process of coming to an agreement on becoming partners on the chipper with Ferranti Natural Resource, LLC. Mr. Lovato explained why work was done on the chipper and why he thinks that the district should move forward.

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to proceed with signing the contract. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one nay: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOU Between BLM and CPSWCD – SunZia Southwest Transmission Project:

The district manager said that she sent the agreement to board members to review and now needs permission for the chairman to sign the MOU. She attended the first meeting of cooperating agencies which will give input on the development of the NEPA. She explained what her role will be for giving input. Public meetings have already been held. She explained the possible routes for the project. Ms. Rose volunteered to attend meetings with the district manager whenever she is available.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the MOU between BLM and CPSWCD. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye.

Annual Work Plan:

The district manager sent out the work plan to board members.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the annual work plan. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye.

FY 2020 – 2021 Annual Report:

The district manager said that the report is a work in progress.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The chairman said that the South Central meeting was canceled.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The committee will meet again, and the district manager will send out information to board members.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

The district manager explained that Adam Clark wants the district's lawyer, the district's representative, Pattern's representative and Pattern's lawyer to discuss and come to an agreement on several items so that the district will not need to be an intervener when Pattern's projects come before the PRC. She explained two options: become an intervener or meet with Pattern Energy in advance and reach an agreement before meetings of the PRC. She explained what might be gained from reaching a written agreement on several items. She urged board members to seriously consider this issue before the next board meeting.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 6, 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, Jack Lockridge moved to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

David Cain, SECRETARY