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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 1, 2021**

- Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
David Cain
Leroy Candelaria
Jack Lockridge
- Absentees:** Robin Dunn
Larry Gomez
Dale Rose
- Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan
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 8:20 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, followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the agenda. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Leroy Candelaria moved to approve the minutes of September 10, 2021 as read. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September, 2021 with accounts payable for October.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for September, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for October, 2021. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager reported on the cost to pay for extensive repairs needed on one of the district's trucks. She also said that she learned that the truck had been in a wreck, information which was not disclosed by the dealer. Mr. Lockridge said that the district paid the dealer to for a bumper-to-bumper inspection to uncover any potential problems. The district manager will ask the district's attorney to

write a letter of complaint to the dealer regarding this matter. She also mentioned that Doug Foster, a mechanic, will inspect the district's trucks every 5000 miles.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

No report.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

Mr. Lujan pointed out that he was present in person to make his report only because Zoom wasn't working.

The written report will be sent to board members on Monday. Mr. Lujan covered the following.

- CSP renewals are due on November 12.
- COVID -- the president issued an executive order requiring all federal employees to be vaccinated. A lot of confusion and resistance exists. Deadlines to be vaccinated are in mid-October. Several employees have not been vaccinated and will submit requests for a medical or religious accommodation. Mr. Lujan may lose staff members and will have to plan how to adjust. He said that district employees who are not vaccinated will have to produce a negative test result within three days to go into the NRCS side of the building. Masks are required. The circumstances require common sense behavior. As Mr. Lujan gets clarification on the rules, he will inform the district.

District Manager's Report:

No report.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No report.

UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Written Report to the Board: October 1, 2021:

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2019 GRGWA Projects: Approximately \$27,000.00 is available to use 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. The remaining re-sprout treatments have not been completed for various equipment problems and the weather. The re-sprout treatments have been started. Vern has been working in Seboyeta this past week.

2019 WTB Funds – These funds will be expended in the first week of October. All projects have been completed.

2020 WTB Grants – Both the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project and the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project have been funded. 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 prepared two contracts for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance projects. There are nine projects for a total of 283 acres. Larry Taylor has signed his contract and will be starting the projects October 4, 2021. The contract to Restoration Solutions is being reviewed by the contractor. It should be signed next week.

2021 WTB Proposals: The EBWHRM and GRGWA proposals were both funded. The district manager is working on the readiness items so the NM Finance Authority's lawyer can draw the paperwork for signatures on both grants.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2018 and 2019 NFL Funding – The work plan for these projects 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 highway project will begin after January 1, 2022. The district has three applications at this time that this funding can be used for.

2020 NFL Funding – The district manager has received a draft work plan for this funding to review. She will get the work plan reviewed and sent back to State Forestry.

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding:

NMFIA has one more contract to complete with this funding. The contractor should complete the project by the end of late Fall, 2021.

BNSF Railroad Project:

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

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Chupadera CFRP – The burn plan has been completed. The district manager has received all of the deliverables for this grant. She is now finalizing the final report and reimbursement request.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal – The project is known as Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains. The district has a signed contract with Romero Wood, LLC for this project. The district manager, field technician, Pablo Romero (Romero Wood, LLC) and Aaron Johnson, US Forest Service – Forester met on the project area for a pre-work meeting on September 20, 2021. Romero Wood, LLC has been given a notice to proceed on the project.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2017 RCPP Funding – One report from Acoma is outstanding that needs to be reviewed and approved by the tribal cultural resource department before SWCA can be paid on its final invoice. A tribal consultation officer has been hired, so hopefully the report will be sent to the district manager soon. NRCS will not pay out \$69,000 due until these reports are received.

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 August 6, 2021, this has not been corrected. The district manager has submitted 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. On September 30, 2021 the district received payment for the reimbursement request submitted to NRCS on August 25, 2021. The district manager will now pay SWCA Environmental Consultants \$241,000 due for several cultural resource survey reports. Some reports from the archaeologist are still due before the district manager can submit a reimbursement request.

2021 RCPP Funding – The supplemental agreement has been completed and is in review in Washington D.C.

Additional RCPP Funding – A proposal was submitted for an additional \$967,000 in renewal funding for 2017 for the RCPP.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Grant No. FEMA-4197-DR-NM-11-01 – This grant is complete.

Hazard Mitigation Project - Sub-grant Application HMGP – 5281: The district manager understands that Home Land Security has received this funding. An agreement should be in place sometime in the next month. Phase 2 of this project needs to be started before December 2022 since this is the date the Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan expires.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper:

The district manager reported that the RFP for \$75,000 will go out next week.

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

The district manager reported that she went on a tour of the Dripping Springs Ranch and Spa, which Pattern Energy has bought. Many of the senior personnel from Houston were present because they were came to attend the state fair to which the company had donated large sums. They viewed the Clines Corners Wind Energy project that was about to go online. She took pictures of some of the rehab that has been done. They also visited a training location as well as a transmission site where the Western Spirit line will tie into the Clines Corners line.

Sun Zia Transmission Line:

The district manager said that she is arranging for a meeting between the district's representatives and attorney and Pattern Energy's attorney to reach an agreement about conservation measures on the transmission line.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

No report.

Personnel Handbook:

Jack Lockridge plans to meet with Larry Gomez to review the handbook and to work on wording for the drug policy and workman's compensation for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY 2020 – 2021 Annual Report:

No report

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The district manager said that a meeting will be held the following Thursday

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

October 1, 2021

Regular Meeting

The district manager said that a meeting is scheduled in two weeks.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

OTHER:

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board, Jack Lockridge moved to adjourn. David Cain seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

David Cain, SECRETARY