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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2022**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
David Cain
Leroy Candelaria
Jack Lockridge
Dale Rose

Absentees: Larry Gomez
Robin Dunn

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Aurelleia Chavez, Claunch-Pinto
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Katie Mechenbier, S&W Cons. Spec. NMDA
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer CPSWCD

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) preceded by a public meeting was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, both in person and via Zoom at 8:25 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.

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ICIP):

The list of ICIP projects, priorities, and costs in the previous FY 2022 – 2026 plan was reviewed to establish priorities and requests for funds for FY 2024 – 2028. A discussion was held on whether the \$40,000 that was funded from the previous plan to buy a skid steer in 2023 is going to be enough to buy it plus any needed attachments. The district manager will call the Kubota company to find out information concerning costs.

The following requests were agreed on for the FY 2024 –2028 ICIP.

- 2024 -- a 4-wheel drive vehicle for the district manager's use -- priority number one.
- 2025 – a 4-wheel drive vehicle -- priority number one.
- 2026 – a new 1-ton truck – priority number one.
- 2027 – resurfacing driveway and parking area.
- 2028 – office furniture and computer upgrades.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLAUNCH-PINTO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) got underway at 9:15 a.m..

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to approve the agenda. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of May 13, 2022, as read. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer’s report for the month of May 2022 with accounts payable for June, 2022.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer’s report for May 2022 and pay the accounts payable for June 2022. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

FY 2022 – 2023 Interim Budget – DFA Approval on 06/06/2022:

The district manager reported that the Department of Finance and Administration approved the district’s FY 2022 – 2023 interim budget on June 6, 2022.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The NMDA’s written report for June was provided to the board members. Soil &Water Conservation Specialist, Katie Mechenbier commented on several items that affect SWCDs:

- Ms. Mechenbier said that the district’s pre-proposal for the legislative appropriation of three million dollars was received and ranked through. She said that it was an excellent proposal.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Commission will meet on June 22 via Zoom.
- On July 21, the NMDA will host a mandatory grantee training for SWCDs which are implementing or supporting Healthy Soil Program grants in FY23.
- The Agricultural Workforce Development Program to provide incentives to agricultural businesses to hire interns opened on June 10, 2022, and will continue until funds are fully allocated or by March 31, 2023.
- Livestock owners missing animals due to wildfires should call the New Mexico Livestock Board or their county sheriff.
- The FY21 point system worksheet must be complete to receive full funding and is due on or before July 15.
- The NM Environment Department issued a request for information regarding PFAS contamination stemming from the contamination of and destruction of almost an entire herd of dairy cattle.
- The River Stewardship Program funds projects that enhance the health of rivers by addressing the root causes of poor water quality and stream habitat. The request for proposals opened on May 26 and will close on July 26.
- The public hearing on the designation of waters including the Rio Grande will be held on June 14.
- The Youth Ranch Management Camp hosted by NMSU Extension was canceled due to the fires.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report for June is included in board member’s packets. Mr. Lujan reported that Team five ended up with 70% of all CSP contracts and about

35% of contracts in the entire state this year. The other teams were about equal in the number of contracts.

Regarding EQIP, about 1.8 million dollars has been awarded to the team. Mr. Lujan commented on the variation in how the funds are distributed to the members of the team from year to year. He also explained factors that affect the funding.

Josh Archuleta from the Estancia field office will be working on the Calf Canyon Fire. There are other staff shortages in team offices – Fort Sumner, Santa Rosa, and Estancia.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager reported on Anita Ortiz' training and employment as a radiology technician and the extent to which she can still work in the district office. She introduced Aurelleia Chavez to the board. Miss Chavez is now helping out in the office.

Ms. Rose said that she and the district manager have been involved in the Tri County Community Group which is charged with awarding funds from Pattern Energy. An RFP has just been issued regarding water issues. She asked board members' help in getting people to apply.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No report.

Update on Grants, June 10, 2022:

The district manager pointed out that the district has three Water Trust Board projects that have been contracted, but work has been delayed because of fire restrictions. Also, there are three more projects ready to contract, and there are 11 pending projects. Vern Kohler has been in the field, working with landowners and then writing up practice plans and sending them to State Forestry for approval. Landowners' fear of fire has brought many projects to the district. Because of delays on projects caused by fire restrictions, it may not be possible to apply for WTB 2023 funding. An RFP will come out in October.

The district manager is working on both the GRGWA and EBWHRM projects, but the only project currently in progress is on the last 15 acres of the highway 42 project. However, the crew can only cut from 6:00 to 10:00 a.m., they then chip and spend two hours on a fire watch. Mr. Candelaria said that he has received good reports on the project.

Regarding the State Forestry grants, the district manager said that there are from seven to ten projects in the offing for Department of Transportation due to the success of the highway 42 project. Practice plans are ready to go for most of these projects. There are also two state land projects. The practice plan for one of them has been sent to the State Land Office for approval.

The district manager said that she applied for and has been approved for the 2022 NFL funding.

Regarding the Collaborative Forest Restoration project, the district manager said that several high school students will work with SWCA on a monitoring team. The monitoring work should be complete in mid – July, depending on weather conditions.

The district manager said that RCPP funding has finally been received for the cultural resource survey reports that were conducted at the pueblo of Acoma. She still has to submit requests for reimbursements to receive the balance of the funding. She is working on reports to submit for the 2018 funds.

Regarding the 2021 RCPP funding, the supplemental agreement has been returned for the third time. She and Cody Stropki will be working again on the agreement on Monday. They have received further examples of how to edit the agreement, which will be reviewed by a representative of the national committee before it is input to the RCPP portal. There is nothing in writing nor have there been trainings on how to submit the required information.

The district manager said SWCA has completed two of the required cultural resource surveys, one on Aceves' property and one on the Swenka ranch for the FEMA grant and are working on the Deer Canyon survey. Four sites have been found on the area planned for a helipad.

The district manager will send a copy of the pre-proposal which she submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to the CPSWCD board members. If funded, a planning document will be created to guide the Claunch-Pinto district over the next decade and beyond. This document will not only guide Claunch-Pinto current and future board members but might also be of use to other partner districts in all three of the watershed projects being worked on. The district manager described the components of the project and the amount of funding.

Mr. Lockridge asked whether the current fires will negatively affect future funding to the state, but the district manager said that even more funds are apparently coming to the state. There are concerns about actually getting work done.

The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board, June 10, 2022:

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2020 EBWHRM WTB Funds – The District is preparing thinning contracts for signature. Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance have a couple of projects that work is being completed on. Six contracts for cooperators from East Torrance SWCD have been signed. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has signed two contracts. Claunch-Pinto has three projects ready to contract and 11 pending projects. This grant will have to be expended by September 2022.

2020 GRGWA WTB Funds – The San Cristobal, Seboyeta-Moquino Creek, and Glorieta projects are all on hold because of fire restrictions. The District Manager is in the process of preparing a contract with Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD to complete a project that was started with their State Forestry grant. This grant will have to be expended by September 2022.

2021 WTB Proposals: The EBWHRM and GRGWA grant documents have been signed, and the district has been notified the grants have closed, so we can proceed to start projects.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2019 NFL Funding – The District has a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2022. This first project for this funding will be the HWY 42 project which will cost approximately \$85,000. We have 39.8 acres completed on the HWY 42 project. This project should be completed by June 30, 2022. The second project is the Chilili Land Grant project in the amount of 40 acres.

2020 NFL Funding – The District has just signed a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2023.

2022 NFL Funding – The District has been notified that its FY2022 NFL proposal has been funded.

BNSF Railroad Project:

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

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains:

The District has three or four High School students to work with SWCA Environmental Consultants and NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute to complete the monitoring for the first year on this project. Tentatively the monitoring will be completed in mid-July 2022, if weather conditions have improved.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

June 10, 2022

Regular Meeting

2017 RCPP Funding – We have submitted the reimbursement for the outstanding cultural resource report for the Pueblo of Acoma. This is the final reimbursement. All of the technical assistance funding has been drawn down on this project.

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 today, this has not been corrected. The District Manager is submitting the financial and written reports to the NM NRCS RCPP Project Manager who makes sure the reports are added to the portal so that the district doesn't show past due. The District has finally located the final signed authorization from the State Historical Preservation Office for the last cultural resource survey report completed with this funding. The District will be submitting the reimbursement request in the next few days.

2021 RCPP Funding – The supplemental agreement has been returned for the third time from the Washington D.C. office. We are in the process of reworking the deliverables and values required for the supplemental agreement. NRCS staff will review our work before we upload the information in the portal and re-submit for final approval.

Additional RCPP Funding – The District has received notice that the fiscal year 2022 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Renewal proposal in the amount of \$967,000 has tentatively been selected to become an RCPP project.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Hazard Mitigation Project - HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement:

SWCA has completed two of the cultural resource surveys. They should be working on the third survey within the next week or so. SWCA should submit the cultural resource survey reports on the projects to NMSHPO by August 1, 2022, for a 30-day review. The draft NEPA document will be ready to submit to NMEMHS and FEMA by August 1, 2022, for their review. If we can keep to this schedule, we should have the funding for phase 2 secured before the end of the year.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Pre-Proposal:

The District submitted a pre-proposal for the SWCC request for pre-proposal. This grant proposal if funded would develop a planning document to guide the CPSWCD over the next decade and beyond looking at the changing climate and watershed conservation dynamics in prioritized areas for treatment. The document would not only benefit the future managers of CPSWCD but also benefit all SWCDs across New Mexico.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper RFP:

The district manager reported that she is just waiting until she can go forward on buying a chipper.

FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request Funded:

The district manager has been working with NMDA on the district's capital outlay approved request for a new skid steer in the amount of \$40,000. An NMDA representative called to find out in which bond issue she wanted to put the funding. She chose the September bond issue. Therefore, an agreement will not be signed with NMDA until after the bonds are issued and the money comes in.

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

The district manager reminded the board that two years ago, Pattern Energy offered some funding to the district which it has never paid. She has asked the district's lawyer to review the agreement between Pattern and the district to determine what funds could be recovered for expenses that the district incurred.

Mr. Lockridge expressed his concern about the lack of clearing of vegetation on the right of ways under the power lines. The lines have been turned over to PNM, so now the district manager has to find a contact there to discuss the issue with.

Sun Zia Transmission Line:

The district manager said that the NEPA is available for review. She will attend a Zoom meeting today regarding the document.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 09 – 2022 – ICIP:

The district manager asked the board to delay addressing the resolution until the next board meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to table the resolution until the July meeting. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

FY 2022 –2023 Annual Work Plan:

The district manager explained that she has to submit the work plan to NMDA for the new fiscal year starting July 1. She will amend the plan to include the purchase of the skid steer. **ACTION TAKEN:**

Dale Rose moved to approve the plan. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

As a representative of the coalition, the district manager is working with public relations staff from the Forest Service, NM State Forestry and the Forest Stewards Guild to send out information on being preparing for wildfire in New Mexico. She has been posting the information on the district's Facebook page, which has been temporarily disabled; the issue is being investigated. The information on fire safety is disseminated to board members and is also posted on the district's web site.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The district manager said that a meeting will occur next week.

When a letter to be sent to the Edgewood planning and zoning commission regarding concerns about the new Campbell Ranch subdivision is available, the district manager will send it to Claunch-Pinto's board members. She reported on committee members who will rotate off the planning committee, including the chair. She said that the board needs to continue to be vigilant concerning attempts to take the Estancia Basin water.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OTHER:

The district manager has been working with the Western Collaborative from the Colorado State University at Fort Collins for more than three years. She will ask to attend a meeting in Montana at the end of September. She is serving on the group's leadership team and on its natural resource team.

Mr. Lockridge reminded budget committee members that the committee will convene before the next board meeting.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD
June 10, 2022
Regular Meeting

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 15, 2022, 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, David Cain moved to adjourn. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY