



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February, 2022**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
LeRoy Candelaria  
Robin Dunn  
Larry Gomez  
Dale Rose

**Absentees:** Jack Lockridge

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Joshua Archuleta, NRCS  
Ernest Taylor, Mountainair Ranger District  
Arlene Perea, Mountainair Ranger District  
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 8:05 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:** Dale Rose moved to approve the agenda. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

**APPOINTMENT OF POSITION 4 SUPERVISOR:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to appoint LeRoy Candelaria to position 4 board supervisor. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

**APPOINTMENT OF POSITION 5 SUPERVISOR:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to appoint Larry Gomez to position 5 board supervisor. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

Mr. Lovato administered the oath of office to Mr. Candelaria and Mr. Gomez

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** David Cain moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2021 as read. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

The district manager explained why the district hasn’t yet received some of its mil levy income from Torrance and Socorro counties. She also explained the effect on the district of the delay in receiving the funds.

The board reviewed the treasurer’s report for the month of December, 2021 with accounts payable for January, 2022.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to approve the treasurer’s report for December, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for January, 2022. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the treasurer’s report for January, 2022 with accounts payable for February, 2022. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager said approval was received from the DFA for the second quarter report. It is included in board member’s packets for information.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

The NMDA’s written reports for January and February were provided to the board members.

The district manager said that Jim Wanstall, the district’s field specialist is moving to Wisconsin and will work remotely and will continue as the district’s field specialist until sometime during the summer or late fall when he will retire.

**NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written reports for January and February are included in board member’s packets. Joshua Archuleta is attending this board meeting as the acting district conservationist while Kenneth Lujan is serving as the acting north area programs specialist.

Mr. Archuleta pointed out that the Mountainair office can only be staffed with one person in the office. He summarized activities for the Mountainair office of himself, Steven Ferguson, soil conservationist and Jodi Cornwall, soil conservationist. He said that Nadine Lucero, team farm bill specialist, has generated practice reminder letters for all four field offices to remind producers when their practices must be completed.

Mr. Archuleta explained who can participate in the healthy soils program and what practices are supported.

He also reported on a new program, Equip CIC which focuses on forest and crop land. Small producers on the mountain and those with cropland can apply. The deadline to apply is March fourth.

**District Manager’s Report:**

No report.

## **CORRESPONDANCE:**

The district manager said that Christmas cards were received from State Representative McQueen, the Quivira Coalition, the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District, the camp at Capilla Peak owned by Rich and Judith Rigler, on whose place the district crew has worked. The district manager read thank you letters for the district's support from Nora and Brady Encinias and Dalli and Macklee Cain. A letter was received from New Mexico Envirothon requesting for financial support. The district manager will include this request on the next board agenda. A letter was also received from Land Steward Consulting LLC highlighting its background and experiences and offering its services. The public notice of ground water discharge permit applications was also received for December and January.

## **The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board – Update on Grants, February 11, 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 on which work is being completed. Six contracts for cooperators from East Torrance SWCD have been signed. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has signed two contracts. This grant will have to be expended by August 2022.

**2020 GRGWA WTB Funds** - The Rio Puerco project is scheduled for a final inspection on February 18, 2022. The contractor should have 14 acres completed at the time of the inspection. Restoration Solutions has started work on the Pueblo of Sandia projects. 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 August 2022.

**2021 WTB Proposals:** The EBWHRM and GRGWA grant documents have been signed, and the district has been notified that the grants have closed, so new projects can be started.

### **NM State Forestry Grants:**

**2018 NFL Funding** – The district completed this grant on December 31, 2021. We were able to expend all the funding on this grant.

**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. The district manager and field technician are working with NMDOT on this project. The projected start date is 02/22/2022.

**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.

### **Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding:**

NMFIA has one more contract to complete with this funding. The work on Box Canyon should be completed within the next month.

### **BNSF Railroad Project:**

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

### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:**

**Chupadera CFRP** – All of the deliverables have been delivered to the US Forest Service. The final report and final reimbursement request have also been submitted.

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

Romero Wood, LLC has completed at least 41 acres on this project.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**

**2017 RCPP Funding** – One outstanding report needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department before SWCA can be paid on their final invoice. NRCS has re-submitted all of the paperwork associated with the cultural resource survey to the 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 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 is waiting to receive some signed cultural resource reports, so that another reimbursement request can be submitted to pay SWCA for their work.

**2021 RCPP Funding** – The supplemental agreement has been completed and is in review in Washington D.C. before we can move forward.

**Additional RCPP Funding** – The district has received notice that the fiscal year 22 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Renewal proposal in the amount of \$967,000 has tentatively been selected to become a RCPP project.

The district manager and Cody Stropki, SWCA Environmental Consultants will be meeting with Kris Graham Chavez on Monday, February 14, 2022 to discuss the RCPPs.

### **FEMA Grant Proposal:**

**Hazard Mitigation Project - HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement:** The district manager advertised a request for proposal for the NEPA work that will be done on the three projects associated with this funding. The district received two proposals. The district manager has the proposals out to a review team. The comments from the review team should be completed by February 22, 2022. NMDHSEM will need to review the review team's report and the contractor's contract before the project can move forward. The district will be in a time crunch on this project. Until something is received in writing from NMDHSEM phase two of this project will need to be started prior to December 31, 2022 since this is the date the Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan expires.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Capital Outlay:**

##### **New Chipper RFP:**

The district manager reported that RFP for \$75,000 was published in the Albuquerque Journal today.

##### **FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request:**

The district manager submitted a capital outlay request for a tractor that was the FY2023 priority project ICIP for 2023.

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

**Sun Zia Transmission Line:**

The district manager submitted her comments and those of Dale Rose on the Sun Zia line. She explained the Western Spirit Line is online as well as part of the wind farms in the Corona area. The Sun Zia group gave a presentation to the Mountainair collaborative meeting that was initiated to review the forest plan revision. At the meeting, the district manager commented on the condition of bridges that were in danger of collapse and the dangerous condition of the highway 60 west of Mountainair plus the bad condition of highway 55 south of Mountainair. She expects to see much more traffic on the highways resulting in more damage, so she asked the Sun Zia group to address the problem, but the representatives said only that the district should work with state and federal legislators. The Sun Zia group have all their necessary trucking permits in place.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Re-organization of the Board:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to maintain the current slate of officers. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

The district manager reported on information she received from Mr. Candelaria about two resolutions before the county commission and the New Mexico Association of Counties meeting regarding the “30 by 30 land grab.” She will send the information to board members and will put the issue on the next board agenda.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

A meeting was held yesterday, the day before the district board meeting. The district manager will send information to board members regarding the Campbell Ranch subdivision. An in-person meeting is scheduled for April when a discussion is planned on deep well drilling. She will discuss the issue with Cody Stropki, whose expertise is in water use. There may be concerns regarding mixing salt water with fresh water. Mr. Gomez asked that Dr. Stopki be invited to the April board meeting.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 4, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

**OTHER:**

Mr. Taylor said that the controlled burn of slash piles in Box Canyon went well. He should have a new position to announce in about two weeks.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board, Larry Gomez moved to adjourn. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY