



PO Box 129, Mountainair, NM 87036 Ph: 505-847-2243 Fax: 505-847-0615

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
May 13, 2022**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
Larry Gomez  
Jack Lockridge  
Dale Rose

**Absentees:** Leroy Candelaria  
Robin Dunn

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Jody Cornwall, NRCS  
Roy Gibson  
S&W Cons. Spec. Katie Mechenbier, NMDA  
Ernest Taylor, Mountainair Ranger District  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer CPSWCD  
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 8:05 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:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the agenda. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Rose asked for clarification on the zoning of conservation districts to be taken up in the next legislative session, chippers, contact with Jeremy Turner on grounding the gates and fences under the power line and contact with Laura McCarthy regarding the "30 by 30" executive order discussion. The district manager said that no action was needed on the zoning issue yet. Dee will contact Jeremy Turner, and she explained the relationship between the federal and state governments on implementing the executive order. Dee will send out information that she formerly distributed. She also said that Ms. McCarthy was very busy with the fires burning in New Mexico.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2022 as read. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

Mr. Lockridge mentioned that he met with the manager of United Business Bank who said that she would resolve the issue of the bank charges to Claunch-Pinto. The current fees will be reimbursed. The district manager will find out whether the reimbursements have occurred.

## OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

### Third Quarter DFA Report:

The district manager presented the report for board review.

### FY 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget for Review and Comment:

Mr. Lockridge reported that he, Larry Gomez, Dale Rose and the district manager met the previous week to approve a preliminary draft of the budget to present to the board. The board will be asked to approve the final budget in July. The budget committee plans to meet quarterly to review the financials to compare the budget to the actual expenditures and revenue in order to make any needed corrections. Mr. Lockridge talked about the reasons the committee decided to meet quarterly. He explained that "fire days" when no work can be done are not forgiven in respect to extending grant deadlines. He said that at a future board meeting, the district manager will make a presentation on how the district gets grants and what is involved in implementing them.

The district manager said that the district will probably not have as much income next year compared to the past and explained the reasons for the reductions. She plans to apply for another Water Trust Board grant and has already applied for a State Forestry grant. She mentioned that there is a contract for work in the Gallinas near Corona, but it will be delayed because of current fire conditions.

She said that there will be no increases to salaries and that the budget figures are close estimates that could be affected by changes in employee's plans, expensive problems with equipment like those which occurred in the past year and increased costs for fuel, chippers and skid steers. Mr. Lockridge stated that salaries would be reconsidered six months into the year in December. He also said that how much work the district can take on should be considered in view of the possible financial constraints on the budget and the amount of effort that the district manager has to expend to accomplish the work.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Lockridge moved to approve the preliminary budget for FY 2022-2023. Mr. Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

### Audit Contract:

The district manager said that the audit contract has been executed and approved by the state auditor and posted on the state auditor's website. This year there will be a single fed audit because more than \$750,000 has been expended in federal funds.

## REPORTS:

### New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

- 1. Deadline EXTENDED: \$3 Million SWCD Legislative Appropriation: Submit Pre-proposals to NMDA by June 3  
(The district manager said that she is applying for the \$3 million SWCD legislative appropriation. She explained what the funds would be used for.)
- 2. Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations Please submit your Mill Levy Rate Resolutions and Appointed Supervisor Nominations to the SWCC by June

- 1st. Appointed Supervisor nominations should be submitted for each supervisor in positions 6 and 7.
- 4. FY21 Point System Worksheet – All Items Must be Complete for Full Funding
- 5. NMDA accepting FY23 Healthy Soil Program applications until May 12; some SWCDs may seek up to \$100 thousand.
- 7. BLM seeks public input and will host public meetings on the environmental impacts for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project.
- 10. NM Fire Information: Stay Informed about Fires & Fire Restrictions New Mexico Fire Information (<https://nmfireinfo.com/information/>) is an interagency effort by federal and state agencies in New Mexico to provide timely, accurate, fire and restriction information for the entire state.
- 11. River Stewardship Program Request for Proposals Coming Soon.
- 12. \$1 Billion America the Beautiful Challenge to Support & Accelerate Locally Led Conservation & Restoration Projects.
- 13. Public Hearing: Designation of Waters of the Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, East Fork of the Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek as Outstanding National Resource Waters.

**NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report for May is included in board member's packets.

Jody Cornwall amended the written report saying that there are six CSP applications for FY 2022 and all have been funded.

**District Manager's Report:**

No report.

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

A news release states that the BLM is seeking public input and will host public meetings on the environmental impacts for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. The district manager will distribute a list of zoom meetings that will take place.

**UPDATE ON GRANTS, May 13, 2022**

**The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board – Update on Grants:**

**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 are 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:** Taylor Services, LLC has completed a project on the Pueblo of Sandia. The San Cristobal project is on hold because the contractor is having equipment problems. Restoration Solutions has completed all of the Pueblo of Sandia projects. Restoration Solutions has completed the Guicu Acequia Association and Lagunitas Homeowner Association project in the Santa Fe area. We had some interesting problems on this project, but the project is beautiful. 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 sign 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. The District Manager and Field Technician are working with NMDOT on this project. The projected start date is 03/10/2022.

**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.

#### **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: Romero Wood, LLC has completed 85 acres on this project for this funding year.

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

**2017 RCPP Funding:** We are in the process of submitting final reimbursements.

**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 the district doesn't show past due. The district is waiting to receive some signed cultural resource reports so they can submit another reimbursement request to pay SWCA for their work.

**2021 RCPP Funding:** The supplemental agreement has been returned for the second time from the Washington D.C. office. We will rework the deliverables and values and re-submit.

**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 told the board that she is about to submit the methodology and evaluations for the third time because NRCS has changed the requirements and has not provided anything in writing on how to fill out the forms.)

#### **FEMA Grant Proposal:**

**Hazard Mitigation Project:** HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement: SWCA has completed one of the cultural resources surveys and should have the other two completed by May 20, 2022. SWCA should submit the cultural resource survey reports on the projects to NMSHPO by July 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.

(During the board meeting, the district manager commented that she had met with Homeland Security and FEMA and had stressed the importance of FEMA's adhering to its timeline to review reports in order to meet deadlines that affect funding. She reviewed the process of applying for funding and executing the grant. She also explained the effect on funding of the expiration of Torrance County's Hazardous Mitigation Plan on December 31 of 2022 and described her attempts to work with the county on the issue.)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Capital Outlay:**

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

The district manager reported that she is working on getting a new chipper, but there are none available at the present time, so it may take six months to receive one. It may cost more than the amount received from capital outlay funds, too.

**FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request Funded:**

The district manager has been working with NMDA on the district's capital outlay request for a tractor that was the FY2023 priority ICIP project for 2023. The district has been approved in the amount of \$40,000 in capital outlay funds to purchase a new skid steer, but it may cost more than \$40,000.

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

**Sun Zia Transmission Line:**

The district manager said that she needs to contact representatives from Pattern Energy and Sun Zia regarding the importance of clearing the ground beneath the lines because of the possibility of a line going down and causing a fire.

She will also read the final draft of the EIS report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointed Supervisors:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** David Cain moved to re-appoint Dale Rose and Jack Lockridge as supervisors to the Claunch-Pinto board. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

Mr. Lovato expressed his conviction about the importance of serving as a supervisor and said how much he appreciated board members' service to the district.

**Re-appoint the District Manager to the EBWPC for Two Years:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to reappoint the district manager as the board's representative to the EBWPC for two years. Jack Lockridge seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; David Cain, aye.

**ICIP:**

The district manager sent out a list of priority projects that the board established previously for the 2022 ICIP. She said that there will be a public meeting on June 3 preceding the regular board meeting to discuss projects for next year's ICIP list. June 15 is the deadline for the information to be input into the DFA's system.

**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 and the New Mexico Forest Service Guild to send out on information on what to do to be prepared for wildfire.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

Yesterday the district manager participated in a special Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee meeting on Zoom. The members worked on a draft letter to be sent to the Edgewood planning and zoning commission regarding concerns about the new subdivision under discussion. The district manager will send the final letter to Claunch-Pinto's board members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**OTHER:**

Dale Rose expressed her appreciation to the fire fighters combating the forest fires in New Mexico. The district manager said that she is amazed by the work that the fire fighters are doing and hopes residents affected by the fires appreciate the work.

Ernest Taylor announced that his district will close the week of May 23. The closure will affect Sandia, Mountainair, the Gallinas, the Manzanos, and probably Mount Taylor. He is working on exemption letters for people who have to work in these areas. He said that requests have been received for information on obtaining permits for meteorological towers to assess the viability of expanding wind farms in forests in the Gallinas.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, June 3, 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, Jack Lockridge moved to adjourn. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY