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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
September 8, 2023**

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Wendy Blackwell, SWCA  
Roy Gibson, Associate Supervisor  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Codi Stropki, SWCA  
Ernest Taylor, Mountainair Ranger District  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, both in person and via Zoom at 8:00 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 DRAFT CPSWCD ANNEX TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:**

Wendy Blackwell from SWCA, Environmental Consultants was introduced to cover the highlights of the draft annex of Claunch-Pinto to the Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan. She shared an overview of the plan and said that only what is different from the Lincoln County county-wide document will be included in the annex:

- The planning process includes the role and contribution of Claunch-Pinto in each element of the process, the timeline from the kickoff of the plan to the adoption of the annex by the board.
- Ms. Blackwell covered the annex section on the hazards identified and profiled for each participating jurisdiction including Claunch-Pinto. She described what information is included for each hazard.
- Wildfire hazard maps were included as well as a priority risk index for wildfire, high wind, drought, thunderstorms, winter storms, and floods.
- The goals, objectives, and capabilities were listed for the board's review and input. They could also match what is included in the plan for the county.
- Ms. Blackwell explained the aspects of the mitigation actions for Claunch-Pinto in the annex. She also noted that the actions will be implemented based on available staffing, funding and

leadership support and that a limited number of actions can be accomplished in the coming 5-year planning cycle.

- The timeline includes feedback from stakeholders and the public for the October 6, 2023 board meeting.
- The sections for board review and feedback were listed as a kind of “cheat sheet” for the planning process, the hazard identification and risk assessment, the mitigation strategy and the plan maintenance.

### **The Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the CPSWCD:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the CPSWCD commenced at 8:25.

### **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 by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye; Robin Dunn; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** David Cain moved to approve the minutes. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with two abstentions: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT and APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

#### **Treasurer’s Report for August 2023:**

The board reviewed the treasurer’s report for the month of August, 2023 with accounts payable for September. The district manager reported that \$5400 in wood were sold for the previous month.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to approve the treasurer’s report for August, 2023 and accounts payable for September. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

#### **Approval of FY2023-2024 Budget:**

The district manager reported that she had just received a letter saying that the district’s budget for FY2023 –2024 has been approved by the Department of Finance and Administration. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved approval of the FY2023 – 2024 budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

The NMDA’s written report for September was provided to the board members. The district manager said that the district was awarded the total possible of 105 points on the NM Department of Agriculture point system and therefore will receive the total allocated funding of \$18,375.42.

#### **NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report is included in board member’s packets. Mr. Lujan thanked board members who attended the Local Work Group meeting, which he thought went well. The attendees decided to maintain the status quo. He asked the board members to let him know if they wanted him to submit a watershed proposal. It will be due by the end of September.

He commented on the program updates for EQIP, CSP, RCPP, IRA and PISP. He said that about 1.2 million dollars was funded for the Mountainair office and 4.5 million for the whole team.

The farm bill is not expected to be signed this year, so NRCS will continue to work under the 2018 farm bill. He reported on continued funding for the future. He said that funding for IRA will completely cease in 2031. Therefore, all contracts for this funding will have to be finished by 2031.

Mr. Lovato said that the Local Work Group meeting was successful. He commented on the impact of cannabis farms on water usage in the area. He mentioned properties where the wells were drying up. Mr. Lujan reminded the board that the cannabis farms can't benefit from NRCS. Discussion continued on the amount of water used for growing corn and hay and the comparable benefits to people from farming those crops compared to growing cannabis.

**District Manager's Report:**

The district manager reported on the status of the election of supervisors. She said that Mr. Gomez' name was removed from the ballot because of where he votes. He can be appointed to the board, however, for a two-year term.

The names of Felipe Lovato, Gerald Chavez, and Aubrey Dunn will be on the ballot.

Mr. Gibson suggested that issues with the election process should be brought to the attention of the NM Association of Counties.

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

No Report:

**UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

Due to time restrains for the meeting the update on grants will be given at the October meeting. The updated will include updates for both August and September.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay:**

**FY2022 Capital Outlay Funded – Skid Steer:**

The district manager still hasn't received the agreement for the funding from NMDA. When she has the agreement and the notice to proceed, she will work with Roy Gibson to purchase the equipment.

**FY2023 Capital Outlay Funded:**

No report.

**Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:**

The district manager reported that 1500 additional employees are expected to move into Corona next month and construction will start. Mr. Lockridge mentioned that an article in the Washington Post said that the wind farm in Corona will be the largest in the United States. The district manager added that it will be the largest in North America.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. 05 – 2024 – Submission of Application for EBWHRM:**

Mr. Lockridge moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2024. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**Resolution No. 06 – 2024 – Submission of Application for GRGWA:**

Mr. Lockridge moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2024. Gerald Chavez seconded the motion.

The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Gerald Chavez, aye; David Cain, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**REPORTS:**

**NM Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

No report.

**South Central Mtn. RC&D:**

No report.

**EBWPC:**  
No report

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**OTHER:**

Mr. Lockridge asked whether the district would be taking on more work and responsibility under the district's annex to the Lincoln County multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. The district manager said that mitigation actions would be implemented based on available staffing. Mr. Gomez asked whether there is funding for administration of projects. The district manager explained that there is money in the current FEMA grant which should be adequate for the district. Mr. Lujan said that reassignment of his staff for two years is causing significant problems for him. Further discussion followed on problems with getting money to victims of natural disasters.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 6, 2023, 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, Mr. Lockridge moved to adjourn. David Cain seconded the motion.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY