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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

June 3, 2016

**Supervisors Present:** William Caster  
Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
LeRoy Candelaria  
Jerry Melaragno  
Richard Shovelin  
Dan Williams

**Absentees:** Larry Gomez

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Joshua Archuleta, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD)  
Erica Luna, Forest Service  
Tom Perkins, New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO)  
Cody Stropki, SWCA  
Katheryn Taylor, 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, at the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 8:25 a.m.

#### Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. 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:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING:

Minutes of the regular meeting from May 6, 2016 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of May, 2016 with accounts payable for June, 2016. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report for May, 2016 and pay the accounts payable for June, 2016. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. Jerry Melaragno distributed his summary budget report. His report provides a summary of the treasurer's report, giving board members a look at the bigger financial picture. He pointed out that the district received revenue from the mil levy and he explained the outreach expenses.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **Approval of FY2017 Budget:**

The district manager said that she couldn't understand why the mil levy for Torrance County doesn't grow in spite of all the development that is occurring in the county. Also, the mil levies from Lincoln and Socorro County have grown. Following discussion, Mr. Candelaria said that he will contact Betty Caber and invite her to come to a board meeting to explain how revenue from the mil levy changes. Kim Kostelnick suggested that the assessor explain whether the tax rolls are up to date and whether new homes have been added to the tax rolls. Mr. Melaragno suggested talking with Lincoln and Socorro Counties to find out how they keep their tax rolls up to date.

The district manager added Edgewood Green Waste Day and Chipping Days as well as Wood Sales of 88 cords to the revenue budget. She explained that the district's crew and chippers would be used for certain projects for the Edgewood district, which would bring in some revenue. She also explained that the district can buy the wood from a project on state land for a low price and sell it for what wood sells for locally.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the FY2016--2017 Budget. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **Audit Contract:**

The district manager explained the process of preparing an audit contract.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):**

Jim Wanstall's report is included in board members' packets.

### **Field Office Report:**

Joshua Archuleta's report was emailed to board members. He went over the status of the EQIP, CSP, RCCP programs. The district manager said that \$308,000 is available to go on the ground for the RCCP program. Mr. Archuleta has received eight applications and is expecting seven or eight more applications on the Isleta project. Kim Kostelnick praised the board and district manager for participating with other entities and for getting the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements going with the Forest Service, thus bringing funding into this area. She said that the district is a model for what should be going on in the state. A discussion followed on the projects and their location adjacent to one another. Mr. Archuleta also reported on his, Kenneth Lujan's and April Luna's activities during the previous month. He mentioned the nut ball work shop. The chairman said that some people who couldn't attend were interested in the information. A discussion followed on how people can get access to the power point presentation. The district manager will get the power point presentation put up on the district's web site.

### **District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's report is included in board members' packets. In addition, the district manager said that she received a call from Torrance County notifying her that the county has received funding for a re-leaf grant and needs to finish it by June 30. The district manager was asked to send the district's crew to Estancia to do the work. Vern Kohler met with Joy Ansley yesterday to plan the work. Aaron Kaufman will plan the drip system. Kim Kostelnick suggested that the state urban forester be contacted for advice on what to do with big trees at the administrative buildings.

Jerry Melaragno pointed out that Richard Shovelin served on the budget committee, not Dan Williams and that "Erin" Kaufman should be spelled "Aaron."

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence is included in the board packet.

The district manager also distributed a news release by the U.S. Forest Service announcing a series of collaborative public workshops which have been scheduled in order to present the preliminary Draft of the Forest Plan Revision. One will be held on August 2 in Corona in the Corona Recreation Room at the Corona Schools from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and another will meet on August 3, 2016 in Mountainair at the Dr. Saul Community Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meetings may be extended until 9:00 p.m.

## **UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies.

### **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA):**

The district manager reported that the district's proposals for WTB funding both for the GRGWA and EBWHRM projects were awarded \$600,000 each. She has received information on the readiness items that she needs to provide to the Finance Authority so that the legal paperwork can be started on both grants. Some GRGWA funding from 2015 remains, and participating districts have been asked to submit projects that are being considered by the Technical Committee during the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned projects that will be undertaken in the East Rio Arriba with 19 landowners and the Santa Fe Pojoaque districts. She also talked about a project in the Santo Domingo pueblo. There are two projects from the Ciudad district. Several projects from the Lava district and projects from the Acoma pueblo will be considered. The district manager asked for permission to buy wood from the state land project and then to sell it. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to purchase the wood, bring it to the district property and then sell it. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The district manager reported on a call she received from New Mexico Game and Fish regarding a cooperator in the western part of the district who has dammed up water in the Abó that affects the birthing area of the big horn sheep because no water now flows into that area because of the dam. Approximately \$400,000 remains of the 2015 Greater Rio Grande project. NM Game and Fish has asked the district to purchase a drinker for the sheep. Game and Fish will bring in the water. Discussion followed on the drinker. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to give the district manager permission to investigate details and buy an appropriate drinker for big horn sheep for up to \$1500 as per the Game and Fish specifications. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The district manager has a meeting scheduled with the Acoma tribe, which will be the fourth tribe to bring into the Greater Rio Grande and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program project areas.

### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

#### **Romero Wood, LLC:**

The district manager explained that she is working with Pablo Romero, and Vern will walk the whole project area with him.

#### **New Proposals:**

The CFRP Technical Committee has not yet been convened and may not meet until July. One of the proposals that was submitted was for the Corona area and the other was for the area above where Pablo Romero is working.

### **Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

The district manager talked to Bill Ferranti on Wednesday morning. Rahma is almost finished with one of their projects and is working on another. Mr. Ferranti said that work will be finished in the Zunis on schedule. The participating agreement expires in September. The district manager said that the district and the Forest Service will be working on a new agreement. There is some money in the agreement for noxious weeds, but she is not sure yet what needs to be accomplished with the funds.

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

The district manager is working with districts to get them to do personal outreach activities to encourage participation. Mr. Archuleta said that screening criteria would be key and that two large projects may consume the funding. The district manager said that a pre-proposal has been submitted for 2017 requesting 2.7 million dollars. She will find out in July whether a full proposal may be submitted. She sent a copy of the proposal to the BLM.

**Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:**

The district manager said that 10 or 12 cords of wood have been sold so far to land grant heirs on the district's property for \$30 a cord. Funds will be designated for state park projects. She explained which entities will receive portions of wood. Knights of Columbus will take at least 15 cords from the Red Canyon project to distribute to people who can't afford to buy their own wood.

**New Mexico Association of Counties Grant – Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):**

The district manager reported on the progress of a survey being distributed in Manzano, Tajiue and Corona as well as on several list serves. Public meetings will eventually be held. Codi Stropki reported that response has been high so far.

The district manager said that construction of a traveling display on fire wise information was also funded by the Association of Counties grant. She is planning to take the display to several events in the near future.

**Water Quality Grant through New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission:**

The district manager reported on the water catchment and one rock dam workshop held on June 14 that was led by Cody Stropki and Aaron Kaufman. She reported on the work that was accomplished. Ten people attended and several participants returned home to promptly build their own systems. She said that the district's hoop house project had the same effect with participants building their own hoop houses and raising vegetables.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Capital Outlay -- shop building:**

The chairman and the district manager reported that the capital outlay funds were approved for \$85,000, but no further information is available. The district's building will be completed, but work will wait for paperwork authorizing spending.

**Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:**

The chairman reported that he, Dan Williams and Jerry Melaragno visited La Ciénega, a unique area of approximately 60 acres. It is very spongy, lush, green and delicate. Mr. Williams said that the Forest Service wants to work with the permittee to protect the area. If this area can be included as a special management area, it will be fenced off, but the permittee will have limited access and will still benefit from the water there. Mr. Williams said that this place needs to be carefully protected. No vehicles would be allowed. The district manager said that she needs permission from the board to write a letter to the Forest Service from the district requesting that La Ciénega be designated as a special management area. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved that a letter be sent to the Forest Service requesting that La Ciénega be designated as a special management area. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The district manager reported on a meeting of a collaborative team of a number of private and government entities held the previous Monday attended by 25 people. This group will help plan public meetings on the forest plan during July and August.

The district manager announced that the new district ranger, Jay Turner, has begun his duties.

**Annual Meeting Plans, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPSWCD – September 2016:**

The chairman reminded the board members about the 2016 annual meeting. Denise Williams has offered to help with plans.

**Update Land Use Plan – (discussion only) Kim Kostelnik:**

Kim Kostelnik went over edits to wording, updates, additions and revisions that she has made to the district's Land Use Plan. She will add a section on acequias that exist within the district. She read a section that she added on an objective third party peer review. She emphasized the information that she added on water resources. She mentioned what she added a section on wildlife and livestock and listed species of concern with a focus on the big picture in respect to the ecosystem. The board is to review the changes, and she will return to discuss the plan in July.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Resolution No. 10 – 2016 – FY2017 Budget:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 10 – 2016 – 2017 Budget. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

### **Resolution No. 10 –2016 -- Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY 2018 -- 2022: .**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 10 – 2016 – Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) FY 2018 – 2022 with the changes approved by the board. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Dan Williams – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Felipe Lovato – yea.

### **Approval to Contract with the Edgewood SWCD for Green Waste Days:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve a contract with the Edgewood SWCD for Green Waste Days. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

The district manager distributed the NMCCD report of June 3, 2016 to board members. She said that Marsha Wright will give the report at the Soil and Water Conservation Commission today in Las Cruces. Richard Shovelin mentioned that the comments on BLM proposed rule changes were excellent. Kim Kostelnick said that the coalition coordinated a response to the proposals from the western states. The district manager will send the comments to board members.

### **South Central RC&D:**

Dan Williams attended a meeting of the South Central RC&D the previous day. He noted that there was nothing new going on regarding this local area. A prescribed burn in this area was cancelled. A discussion followed on the need for a prescribed burn in bean fields. Mr. Williams said that the group was doing work in this area with a CFRP grant, but it has not coordinated with the district and that better coordination and communication is needed. He also said that the group applied for and received funding for an air curtain incinerator but administration of the equipment has not yet been worked out. Mr. Williams summarized the options being considered. He mentioned that the group is working on a beaver study project in Taos County.

### **Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

The district manager reported on four goals that are included in the group's draft plan update. She said that she has discussed the goals with Art Swenka, and they recommend that a fifth goal be added on watershed health restoration work. The goal is needed to support grant applications. A letter will be sent from the board recommending this goal.

## **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

### **OTHER:**

Mr. Candelaria talked about the Torreon acequia and the help given by the county to clean out and brace a spring. He said that water output has noticeably improved just by cleaning out the spring.

Erica Luna, representing the Forest Service, commented on the large landscape scale projects. She said that the Forest Service will be working as a part of a joint panel with state forestry and Game and Fish on agriculture and natural resources as a part of the large scale landscape projects. They are working on mapping the projects to show where the funds are going and where there are places where people are "doing it right." It will be an opportunity for the state and federal agencies to show where the good work is going on. Ms. Kostelnick suggested that it would be a good opportunity to show case the

work by local government – soil and water conservation districts. The district manager suggested that Joe Zabroski at Highlands University can assist with mapping.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

The district manager will invite Paul Montoya, who contracts with NMACD, to the next board meeting to inform the board on an acequia project being done in Manzano with RCPP funds. Discussion followed on getting cooperation and information from other entities which are doing work within the district's boundaries so that funds can be leveraged to accomplish work efficiently and to avoid wasting time and money.

Erica Luna thanked the district manager for her participation in an event sponsored by the Forest Service as a part of its efforts to work with local communities.

Chairman Lovato spoke of a visit that he and the district manager made to the former Comanche Ranch on the west side of Los Lunas that encompasses about 100,000 acres. This land has been purchased by the Isleta Pueblo which has a conservation plan to improve the land and protect resources and the fragile irreplaceable ecosystem.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 8, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55, Mountainair, NM.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.