



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 1, 2019**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
David Cain
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria
Dierdre Tarr, District Manager

Others Present: Stephen Ferguson, NRCS
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CPSWCD

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 8:05 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. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from December 7, 2018:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2018 as read. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of December, 2018 with accounts payable for January 2019.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to accept the treasurer's report for December, 2018 and pay the accounts payable for January, 2019. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Audit:

ACTION TAKEN:

Richard Shovelin moved to table this item. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Jim Wanstall’s written report is included in the board packets.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members’ packets. Kenneth Lujan introduced Stephen Ferguson, the new soil conservation technician. He will be working in the Mountainair office.

Mr. Lujan reported that the Farm Bill has been signed and there are some positive changes in it.

- About twice the amount of money for EQIP is included.
- Now acequias, land grants and ditch associations can apply for EQIP funds. Policy needs to be developed first.
- Stand-alone practices can now be funded if the project meets NRCS standards. Mr. Lujan explained the benefits to the producer.
- Another change is that the producer has to have control of the land when the contract is signed, not in advance, as previously required. He explained the reasons behind the change.
- CSP funding is still in the Farm Bill, which is good for New Mexico because the funding supports NRCS salaries.
- Seven new positions were approved for New Mexico.
- The criteria for ranking projects will remain about the same.

Richard Shovelin congratulated Mr. Lujan on the success of the Estancia FFA livestock judging team, which he coaches. The team placed second in the nation at the Western National Roundup in Denver on January 9. Mr. Lujan’s son Daniel placed first nationally as a livestock judge. The team now has the opportunity to compete in England, Scotland and Ireland. The team will be working to raise the money for the trip. This opportunity is the first time in twenty years that New Mexico has qualified. Mr. Lujan will ask to be on the agenda for the next board meeting to ask the district for support.

Mr. Ferguson told the board about his background: he is from Estancia and earned a degree in wildlife science and agricultural education from New Mexico State; he worked as a government trapper and then taught agriculture.

District Manager’s Report:

The district manager’s written report is included in the board member’s packets.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The “Acequia” newsletter is included in the board members’ binders.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

No report.

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)

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

BNSF Railroad Project:

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Capilla Peak CFRP:

Corona CFRP:

Chupadera CFRP:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

**New Mexico State Park Project:
FEMA Grant Proposal:**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building:

The chairman reported that the district manager was supposed to meet with a representative from the Legislative Counsel Services in Santa Fe yesterday, who was to help her go forward with the request for the reauthorization of the \$85,000 of capital outlay for the shop. Due to illness, she was unable to attend and will reschedule the meeting.

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

Dan Williams reported on the Cibola National Forest plan. He attended a stewardship council meeting on January 23 where an independent speaker made a presentation. The speaker said that any suggestions that various entities have made regarding the draft plan have to be addressed within the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), or they will not be considered. Therefore, the EIS must be studied before comments are submitted on the Forest Plan Revision.

Beautification – Partnership with the town of Mountainair – Elm Trees in Town Right of Ways:

No report.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

No report.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

No report.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from Manzano Spring and Ditch Association:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to table this item. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Richard Shovelin said that the NMCCD met on December 10 in Edgewood.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Felipe Lovato said that a meeting was held which he couldn't attend due to the short notice for the meeting.

EBWPC:

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

Mr. Groom said that meetings that were planned will be rescheduled.

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 1, 2019 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: **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.