



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

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Larry Gomez
Dan Williams

Absentees: David Cain
Richard Shovelin

Others Present: Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS

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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from February 1, 2019 were reviewed:

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2019 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 February 1, 2019 with accounts payable for March, 2019.

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to accept the treasurer's report for February, 2019 and pay the accounts payable for March, 2019. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Second Quarter Department of Finance:

The district is spending within its budget. Expenses are under 50%, and Supplies is the only line item that is at 50%. The district manager said that due to using the district's saw crews on State Forestry projects, \$25,000 has been generated and \$5,000 has come in from wood sales.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD
March 1, 2019
Regular Meeting

Jim Wanstall's report was not received in time for the board meeting.

Field Office Report:

Mr. Lujan reported that a workload analysis of NRCS New Mexico was conducted and Team 5 was found to be third in the State. Santa Rosa has the highest workload in Team 5 followed by Mountainair. Mr. Lujan has been asked to get more work done in the districts with the lightest workloads. Danny Branch, who is working through the ACES program, has been assigned to the Mountainair office and will be work here three days a week. The north central RCPP has really helped Team 5. It brings in a great deal of money that makes it possible to do a lot of work on the ground.

A new farm bill has been passed, but all the rules governing it will not be available for up to a year and a half, so the rules under the old bill will be in effect for the time being. CSP is still in the farm bill. Rules like the one that required the use of consultants reduced the incentive for producer participation. It seems that these restrictions were reviewed in Washington and may be lifted making CSP better and more producer friendly. Some contracts due to expire were renewed so that producers could take advantage of provisions in the new farm bill.

Mr. Lujan said that EQIP is strong and CSP may be strong in the new bill.

Review of the MOU between the district and NRCS:

Mr. Lujan postponed his review of the MOU between the district and NRCS until the April meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to table the review of the MOU until the April meeting. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

District Manager's Report:

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

The district manager reported that thieves broke into the district grounds on January 10 during the night. The chain saws, 3 weed eaters, containers of fuel, a sharpener and Manual Lopez' grinder were stolen. A red backpack with emergency supplies was taken from the NRCS truck.

The three weed eaters were recovered, and the district's insurance paid \$1216 for the losses.

The district manager said that she bought cameras for the district which are in place on the outside of the building and the shop building. The pictures are transmitted to Vern Kohler's district telephone as well as the district manager's phone.

The district manager reported that the district has been approached by High Lonesome Wind to rent space for their vehicles in the district compound to protect them from vandalism that has been occurring.

Mr. Lujan said that the district can use the NRCS trailer for storage as he is going to get a small flat bed trailer for NRCS to use.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The "Acequia" newsletters are included in the board members' binders.

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.

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:

Reimbursements are starting to come in from the 2018 funds. Claunch-Pinto is on the legislative list for both the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects for funding for 2019. The Water Trust Board (WTB) will meet on April 10. The Greater Rio Grande project is ranked number 2 and the Estancia Basin project is number 3, and the WTB wants to fund four projects, so prospects are good for funding. An Estancia Basin meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning, March 5, and the district manager will write more contracts on that funding.

The State Forestry Grant:

The district crew is somewhat behind on the Mojo Trail project because of the weather and illness, but now fast progress is being made.

The district manager will go with Jim Groom and Robin Beatty today to look at a possible defensible space project on Deer Canyon Trail.

The district is working with the state land office and Alamo Navajo Natural Resource Department on a project on the Lovato state land and a project has been approved on the Cain's state land. Both projects will help protect the Deer Canyon Preserve on the southwest corner and west side in case of fire coming from those directions.

The district manager attended a fire meeting held by the Torrance County Emergency Management Team where she talked to the fire chief in Corona about trying to get to a Corona council meeting to propose a defensible space project, but the mayor in Corona is opposed to cutting down trees.

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

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager is waiting for security clearances before work on that project can begin.

She described plans for the work and what has been accomplished already. With some of the first draw on the funds, she hopes to buy a big storage unit.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP)

Capilla Peak CFRP:

The NEPA work is finished and an application for receiving restoration funds is being planned.

The proposal is due on Friday following this board meeting.

The district manager reported that she has learned that although there are some Mountainair FFA students interested in participating in the Envirothon, if there is a conflict with a sports event, the students will be required to participate in the sports event. The FFA advisor met with the principal and superintendent to try to affect the requirement, but they support the athletics director's decision to make players play their sport if another event conflicts. She also reported on the accomplishments of Caleb Gustin in Moriarty due to his participation in FAA. He became the state FFA president as well as an officer at the national level.

She also visited the school at Corona. The first time she met with the high school principal and the superintendent. The second time she went with Cody Stropki, one of his colleagues and Anita Ortiz. They met with the principal and the FFA advisor. She felt that the meetings were not productive, but she described how help could be provided to the school and plans to make continued efforts.

Corona CFRP:

When the NEPA project starts, Corona students may be able to participate.

Chupadera CFRP:

Documents are being written for the NEPA that the district manager will have to submit. She said that the Western Spirit line will go through part of that area if the route isn't changed.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

SWCA has finished all of the cultural surveys except for the one on Acoma. The district manager needs to talk with Kris Graham Chavez about funding because the surveys have been costly because of what was found. The surveys are being submitted to the state office as they are finished.

NRCS has completed its application period for 2018 funding. The district manager thinks that she will be able to work with NRCS to get work done on the basis of previous proposals instead of submitting a new proposal. Mr. Lujan commented that the 2018 funds will be spent in 2019. He said that the funds will certainly be spent and reported on the number of applications that have been received in Mountainair and Estancia. Further discussion took place of locations (Taos, Santa Fe for instance) where other applications have been received. She said that her biggest accomplishment was that the Castillo Land Association in Taos applied and that the applications from Taos and Santa Fe were due to her role in recruiting.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager has put out a bid for the NEPA work on the 135 acres that are funded through FEMA. She asked the board for permission to have the chairman sign the contract for the NEPA work when it is ready.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved that the chairman be approved to sign the contract for the NEPA work between Claunch-Pinto and the contractor. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay, Shop Building:

The district manager submitted the reauthorization forms to the secretaries of the state legislators. The request should have been in the reauthorization bill. She asked that the funds be administered by the Department of Agriculture.

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

The district manager thinks that the draft EIS should be out in June. Dan Williams attended the training on responding to the draft. There will be an additional training with the Mountainair Collaborative closer to June.

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

The district manager is working with Vern to ensure that he works with the new utility department supervisor.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

No report.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager has met with Adam Clark and the environmental representative of Pattern Energy to work on a best management practices plan. She is including Lawrence Crane of State Forestry because the work will be on state land and private land. The Pattern Energy representatives want to use the best practices for the Corona Wind Farm as well as the Western Spirit Transmission Line and SunZia. The district manager also discussed how trees need to be removed taking into account the possibility that a line might go down and cause a disastrous fire. Other elements of the plan were also discussed.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

No further report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mill Levy Rate Resolution No. 09 – 2019:

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Williams moved to accept Mill Levy Rate Resolution No. 09 – 2019 as written. Mr. Caster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote: William Caster, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Mr. Candelaria, aye; Mr. Williams, aye; Mr. Lovato, aye.

Request from Estancia FFA – Livestock Team:

Mr. Lujan provided some background on the team and the team members introduced themselves, Heze Ortiz and Andrew Lujan who said that there were two other team members, Jonathan Aday and Daniel Lujan. Daniel won high individual and is currently judging in Oklahoma. Andrew said that livestock judging has really benefitted Daniel, helping him to earn a full ride scholarship to Connors State College in Oklahoma. Daniel and Heze are thinking about judging in college, too. Andrew explained that the team qualified for the Western National Roundup and was the Reserve National Champion, and that achievement qualified the team to go to an international judging contest in Ireland and Scotland, so the team will go to Ireland and Scotland this summer where they will judge in two international competitions, one in Ireland and one in Scotland. They will also learn about how culture affects livestock judging in different countries. Andrew explained that they judge cattle, sheep, hogs and goats. They judge four animals from best to worst. In addition, they have to give oral reasons why they placed the animals as they did. The teams are also provided with performance data on the animals on their genetics and visual appraisal, so they can judge the animals on these criteria. Andrew and Heze then explained what the team is doing to raise money: fund raising, a raffle etc. Support from Claunch-Pinto would be appreciated. The chairman expressed his pride in the team with Mr. Candelaria expressing his belief in their current and future leadership abilities.

Mr. Lujan described the range of activities that members of the team participate in in the community. Mr. Lujan said that fund raising activities will support the team members in addition to two sponsors. The school board is extensively supporting the team. He also reported on other entities with whom team

members have met to get support. Mr. Lujan said that he was confident that sufficient money will be raised. Mr. Candelaria commended the commitment of the team. Mr. Lujan lauded the FFA programs that have supported many youth who have so succeeded in their lives in part due to their support of the FFA. Mr. Gomez expressed his support for the ag industry and. Board members also supported the participation of the team's coach Kenneth Lujan in the trip. Mr. Williams said that the FFA supports youth in a phenomenal way. He said that because of FFA, students showed that they have the discipline and commitment to succeed. A discussion followed on the value of FFA to youth. Mr. Gomez applauded the team's accomplishment. Then the board discussed supporting the team financially. Mr. Lujan said that there has been substantial support from the ag community and that support has greatly impressed Estancia school board members.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Candelaria moved to table the item until the next board meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Request from Manzano Spring and Ditch Association:

Discussion took place on many questions that should be answered, and the district manager was asked to request that a written proposal be submitted by the end of March.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Candelaria moved to table the motion. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Budget Committee:

The district manager said that the committee will meet during April. The three members of the budget committee will be Jim Groom, Richard Shovelin and LeRoy Candelaria.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The coalition had a booth at Agfest. Many participants went to it, and next week on Wednesday, 300 bags will be distributed to legislators and their staff.

There are two new members to the Coalition.

An annual meeting is planned for May when a tour of the Healy ranch in Taos area is to take place.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting will be held in March. The district manager will attend.

EBWPC:

A meeting was held where a discussion of membership in the committee took place. The district manager will ask to be reappointed to the committee. She feels that the district needs to pay attention to the issue of possible demands by outside entities on the water of the Estancia Basin.

A discussion was held about deep wells that are drying up, water use from the aquifers and interest in more development in several counties that will require water.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 5, 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.