



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
April 5, 2019**

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

**Absentees:** Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor

**Others Present:** Steven Ferguson, NRCS  
Fred Luna  
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 8:10 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 unanimously.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2019 as read. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of March 1, 2019 with accounts payable for April, 2019.

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

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager said that she will go out for bid in April for a district auditor. The current auditor's three-year contract has ended. However, he can re-bid. Nine years is the limit of service.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

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

He called attention to several items:

- The deadline for submitting mil levy rate resolutions and appointed supervisor nominations to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC),
- A reminder of a local election act training on April 30<sup>th</sup>;
- A hemp workshop offered by New Mexico State University to discuss the cultivation of hemp for CBD oil, fiber and food products to be held May 23 and 24;
- A website where information can be found for House Bill 407 that proposes that watershed district elections be moved to November 2019.
- National Forests' websites where meeting times and comment opportunities on Forest Plan Revisions can be found.

#### **Field Office Report:**

Mr. Ferguson said that the NRCS written report is included in the board packets. He reported that there is a new civil engineer for the state – Brad Peterson and a new archaeologist at the state office Molly Murphy. Locally, Estancia will be hiring a new intern.

He and April Luna just finished ranking projects yesterday.

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

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

The district manager reported that she and Dan Williams attended a barbecue put on by Pattern Energy in Corona to update local residents on what was being done regarding the wind farm. Pattern representatives said that they were working with the Claunch-Pinto district on best management practices. After the meeting, she was thanked by several local ranchers for Claunch-Pinto's leadership and interest in monitoring Pattern Energy's restoration practices. Mr. Williams said that he received the same sentiment.

Pattern Energy wants to start a non-profit group in Corona so that funds can be made available for grant requests from the area. The district manager has been asked to serve on a small committee to formulate such a non-profit group -- a 501c3 group.

She was also told that there is a new company lead for the Western Sprit line, Dianne Lanz.

The district manager attended a county planning and zoning meeting on the previous Wednesday where she learned that there will be a new wind farm – the Clines Corner Wind Farm in the Encino area. A second line may tie in to the Western Sprit line. The PRC told Pattern Energy to contact the Claunch-Pinto district to keep the district informed. The district manager is working with best management practices for the Western Spirit line and perhaps SunZia. She gave an example of the fire danger because of the infestation of pinion/juniper that Pattern has not taken into account in its plan. Discussion followed on on-going maintenance of the land under the transmission lines.

The district manager reported that she got her certificate recertified as a public procurement officer.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The district manager has received information regarding requests for information on the district's stance on taxable revenue bonds. Discussion followed on any benefits to the district or other entities.

She distributed a letter of concern regarding the behavior and actions of New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts' (NMACD) executive director, Ms. Debbie Hughes, during the 2019 legislation session, from the Board of Supervisors of Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District to the NMACD Board of Directors, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

The district manager described a contentious legislative discussion over a bill, not supported by the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts that failed to pass.

A discussion then took place on funds that are being assigned to various government entities with differing application processes rather than consolidating the money in one place.

#### **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:**

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The district manager continues to contract 2018 WTB funding. She will find out on the following Wednesday whether the Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects are still at the top of the list for funding for 2019. The Greater Rio Grande project was ranked number two and the Estancia Basin project was number three. She mentioned the importance of getting agreements from landowners in writing for projects on their land.

**The State Forestry Grant:**

The 2016 funding is finishing up.

The district crew has finished the Mojo Trail project in the Deer Canyon development.

Alamo Navajo Natural Resource Department is working on the Lovato state land project. More funding has been approved to work on the Cain 200 acre state land project. Both of these projects have to be finished by the end of December.

The district manager will submit proposals for more State Forestry funds.

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

**BNSF Railroad Project:**

The district manager is still 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 district manager submitted an application to receive restoration funds. The CFRP committee won't meet until June when the proposal will be approved or not.

**Corona CFRP:**

The district manager and SWCA will meet with the Forest Service on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Then the third year of the project will begin. The project is on Forest Service land around village wells.

She met a new land owner whose property is next to the village. Vernon Kohler will go out to assess a possible defensible space project. This project along with the Muncy project will provide good defensible space for Corona.

She hopes that she will be able to submit a proposal for restoration work.

**Chupadera CFRP:**

This project is entering its second year. She is reviewing reports on it and making comments on them.

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

NRCS is ranking proposals for 2018, which includes RCPP applications. The district manager said that some discussion on 2019 funds needs to take place to decide how projects will be handled.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

No report.

**FEMA Grant Proposal:**

The district manager now has a contractor to do the NEPA work on the two pieces of property that are funded through FEMA. She has a meeting with the property owners on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

The funds for the shop building were reauthorized by the legislature. The district manager said that the funds will be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Once a contract with the department is signed, work can begin. The RFP process will have to take place.

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

The district manager thinks that the draft EIS should be out in June. One public meeting per district will be held in July and August. The Mountainair Collaborative will meet on April 29<sup>th</sup> to determine a date for this area's public meeting. On May 21<sup>st</sup> Mark Werkmeister will conduct a training for the Mountainair Collaborative on how to make good comments.

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

Vernon Kohler is meeting with the town's utility department supervisor to look at trees in alleys. They will count the number of trees that are growing into utility lines, and the town will have to contact the power company to get the trees cut away from the lines.

**Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:**

No report.

**Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:**

**Corona Wind Companies:**

The district manager previously reported on this item.

**Western Spirit Transmission Line:**

No further report.

**Request from Estancia FFA – Livestock Team:**

The district manager reported on an amount that she thought that the district could contribute to the team, up to \$2000.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to contribute \$2000 to the FFA team. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The district manager praised Kenneth Lujan for his contributions to local teams.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Supervisor Elections:**

The district manager said that William Caster, Felipe Lovato and LeRoy Candelaria will be up for election on the first Tuesday of November -- November 5th. She explained the timeline and new election process as she understands it.

**REPORTS:**

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

A meeting of the executive committee will take place on April 16.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**EBWPC:**

The district manager said that the committee's membership will be discussed at the next meeting.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 3, 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:**

Larry Gomez moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 am. William Caster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.