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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 13, 2019**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
William Caster
Richard Shovelin

Absentees: David Cain
LeRoy Candelaria
Larry Gomez
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor
Dan Williams

Others Present: Steven Ferguson, NRCS
Donald Serrano, USFS, Mountainair Ranger District
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.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting was convened as a committee meeting.

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:

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2019. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August, 2019 with accounts payable for September, 2019.

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

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager said that the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), Local Division approved the district's final budget and said that the board members needed to reapprove the budget. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the district's DFA approved budget for FY 2019 – 2020. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

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

He pointed out that the deadline for the declaration of candidacy was on August 27. All of the district's candidates submitted their names on time.

Mr. Wanstall pointed out several items in his report.

- He explained the Healthy Soil Program and said that grants are available with the deadline for proposals on October 3, 2019.
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture Ag Day is on October 5, 2019. The district manager will attend and set up a booth.
- The Soil Health Academy will host a Regenerative Farming and Ranching Workshop on October 22, 23 and 24 in Raton.
- Open Meetings Act trainings will be conducted on September 9, 2019 in Taos and on November 13, 2019 in Socorro.
- The New Mexico Vegetation Management Association Conference will be held on November 13 and 14 in Ruidoso.
- The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International and the American Grassfed Association will convene a meeting from November 19 – 22 in Albuquerque to explore the ideas of Health from the Soil Up.
- Forest Plan Revisions are in various stages of completion. November 7 is the deadline to submit comments. A meeting of permittees will be held on September 23 in Magdalena.

Field Office Report:

The NRCS written report dated September 13, 2019 is included in the board packets. Steven Ferguson emphasized the deadline of November 15 for submitting EQIP applications.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager referred board members to her written report included in the board packets.

CORRESPONDANCE:

The district manager pointed out the letter from the Julie Maitland, Division Director of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division. The letter announced the funding allocations for soil and water conservation district operations which is determined annually by a point system.

A Tree Farm Bulletin is included in correspondence which announces the New Mexico Tree Farm Program Fall Field Day to be held on September 28, 2019. The bulletin also announces that Lloyd and Debra Basha were selected as the recipients of the 2018 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award for New Mexico. The Bashas' farm is in the Claunch-Pinto District. The field day will be held on the Basha property.

A flyer is included in the packets that advertises a Forest Restoration Field Day on September 14, 2019 at New Mexico State University.

The "Noticias de las Acequia" newsletter is also in the board packets. The association sent a request to the district manager asking the district to help sponsor its annual meeting.

She also received an invitation to attend a Resilience in New Mexico Agriculture Convening Session on November 12 in Albuquerque. She thinks it is important for ranchers to attend.

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 (WTB):

The district manager is preparing two proposals, one for the Estancia Basin project and the other for the Greater Rio Grande project. The board will need to approve the resolution to sign the documents at the October 4, meeting. She is also preparing reimbursements. She is not allowed to have more than a certain amount of money remaining in the grant as of October 3. For next year \$600,000 was awarded to the Estancia Basin project and \$600,000 was awarded to the Greater Rio Grande project.

The district manager found out yesterday that the district's attorney is closing her legal office, so Pete Domenichi, Jr's law firm will represent the district. She explained the law office's scope of work for the grants and that funding for the work is available in the grants. For the first time, she was required to submit land owner templates for both grants.

The State Forestry Grant:

The district manager said that the work plan for 2018 funding is ready to sign, and she is drawing down money from the 2017 funding. There is about \$600,000 in state forestry funds.

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA) aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

The district manager will conduct contractor site visits next week at the Pueblo of Sandia, Ojo Caliente and Seboyeta.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager said that Vern Kohler has completed inspections on environmental work that was done. A thousand grass plugs need to be planted. The district manager was told that the railroad wants to create a demonstration area where they want the grass to be planted. She also reported on her plans to eradicate salt cedar during the coming winter.

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

The district manager said that all of the final paperwork for the Corona CFRP project has been submitted. Now the Forest Service can turn in its required paperwork and an application for restoration work can be submitted.

Chupadera CFRP:

The Rocky Mountain Ecological Company will start to do field work in the next two months. David Cain reported that contractors had trespassed on his land, so the district manager contacted two contractors to discuss the matter with them. They are required to contact the district when they plan to go onto landowners' property so that the district manager can inform the landowners. She also contacted Pattern Energy to express the same concern about its contractors.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

The district manager reported that she has worked on a coordinated resource plan for the Mt. Taylor district. The cultural resource work will have to be done in the area.

NRCS has put out a request for proposals for 2019.

The district manager will work on a proposal for this 2019 funding. Proposals are due on December 3.

New Mexico State Park Project:

No report.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

The district manager said that all of the NEPA documents have been submitted to FEMA for review, and she was asked to submit the cultural resource documents to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) for approval. The project on the Aceves ranch includes 135 acres.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Capital Outlay, Shop Building - Report:**

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Regular Meeting

The district manager reported that she has issued a request for RFPs.

Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision:

The draft plan of the EIS is available for review. She mailed out copies of the plan to all permittees on the Mountainair Ranger District. The plan can be found on-line or the district manager will email it to board members.

Lincoln County is printing all of the EIS documents, which will be given to the permittees at their meeting at the district office on September 23 at 4:00 p.m. The Mountainair Collaborative will also meet on October 2 and 3 to try to reach a consensus on comments on the plan.

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

The Central New Mexico Co-Op is starting to top some trees. When this work is finished, Vern Kohler will work with the town to cut-stump the elm trees.

Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:

The district manager says that she has heard that SunZia may build its line along side of the Western Spirit line.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy:

Corona Wind Companies:

The district manager said that she is working with the state land office and State Forestry on best practices, trying to ensure that when work is started best practices will be followed.

Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager said that PNM is trying to get the PRC to approve its purchase of the line, but the PRC is imposing more requirements on PNM.

Supervisor Elections:

The district manager reported on this item previously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting:

The district manager would like to work with NCRS staff to come up with some awards to give to ranchers at the board's November 1 or December 6 meeting which will include an open house. She would also like to have some presentations that would draw people.

She reported on wood sales that brought in substantial amounts of money. This money can be used to support future tours of projects or for other uses.

New Noxious Weed Management Area – Santa Fe—Pojoaque and Edgewood SWCDs' Request:

The district has been invited to join a new weed management area that would also include Santa Fe – Pojoaque and Edgewood. The Edgewood District will take the lead. The district manager will find out more during a conference call on October 17. Mr. Shovelin said that members of the board, meeting as a committee, support the request.

Resolution No. 05 – 2020 – WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

The district manager explained that this resolution authorizes and approves submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval for the EBWHRM to the New Mexico Water Trust Board.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2020. William Caster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote: Richard Shovelin, aye; William Caster, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye.

Resolution No. 06 – 2020 – WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2020 authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval for GRGWA to the New Mexico Water Trust Board. William Caster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote: Richard Shovelin, aye; William Caster, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye.

Future Eagle Scout's Request for Assistance:

A young man who is trying to earn his Eagle Scout badge has asked the district to help him in planting trees. Mr. Shovelin suggested that more information regarding the request be obtained for the next meeting.

REPORTS:

Jason Padilla – Mountainair FFA – 3rd place in State – Homesite – short presentation:

No report.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

NMCCD Resolution:

Mr. Lovato reported on the annual meeting. The district manager read a resolution passed by the NMCCD. It resolves that NMCCD supports funding of public monies that enhance the conservation and development of our natural resources and agricultural production in New Mexico directly to local soil and water districts and opposes by-passing local government in favor of direct funding to Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) and entities. The resolution further resolves that NMCCD encourages SWCDs to work with non-government organizations and entities as long as the SWCD controls the public monies awarded and supports the project purpose.

The district manager explained that the NMCCD asked that the resolution be brought to the districts to find out if the districts wanted to pass the same resolution.

Mr. Shovelin asked the district manager to place a resolution on the agenda for the next board meeting in October.

The district manager explained State Representative McQueen's affirmative position on funding NGOs with public monies. She said that when the board passes a resolution like NMCCDs, it can be taken to Mr. McQueen to indicate the board's position.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held that Mr. Lovato was unable to attend.

EBWPC:

The August meeting was cancelled. Another meeting is scheduled for October. One subject of discussion has been the cultivation of hemp and the economic incentive to grow it and the issues regarding water rights.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER: Mr. Shovelin announced that he will resign from NMCCD for health reasons.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 4, 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:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD
September 13, 2019
Regular Meeting

ACTION TAKEN:

Mr. Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am. Mr. Shovelin seconded the motion, which carried.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.