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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
December 4, 2020**

- Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
LeRoy Candelaria  
Jack Lockridge  
Dan Williams
- Absentees:** Robin Dunn  
Larry Gomez
- Others Present:** Diedre Tarr, District Manager  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Dale Rose  
Ernie Taylor, U.S. Forestry Service  
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, volunteer  
Jim Wanstall, NMDA

**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, both in person and via Zoom at 8:10 a.m.

**Welcome Attendees:**

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the meeting. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Leroy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of November, 2020 as read. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of November, 2020 with accounts payable for December, 2020. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for November, 2020 and pay the accounts payable for December, 2020. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye, LeRoy Candelaria, aye.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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This district manager has a draft of the audit and is waiting for approval from the state auditor.

## REPORTS:

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

The department of agriculture's report is included in the board packets.

Mr. Wanstall reported on several items:

Item 1: Review your Mileage and Per Diem Policy: This item indicates that the board can vote to pay the full IRS rate from the previous year if it is approved and is written into its policy and procedure. Otherwise, only 80 % of the rate can be paid.

Item 7: Point System Worksheet: The district will receive full points if the first five items on the worksheet are reported, as required by law, but the NMDA wants to review all items.

Item 12: The 2020 Joint Stockmen's Convention will be held via Zoom from December 4-18.

Item 13: 2021 Annual Hay Conference: The 2021 Hay Conference will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center January 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:**

The report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan said that there is no deadline yet for EQIP, but producers should apply as soon as possible. He said that the Team 5 staff is working with producers of existing CSP contracts and renewals. There are 170 applications, 39 have been funded in the state, and Team 5 has 11 approved.

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

The district manager reported that she has participated in ten Zoom meetings.

## CORRESPONDANCE:

None.

## UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's report to the board:

### **Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):**

**2019 GRGWA Projects:** We have completed all the current projects. We have a contract with NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute for monitoring with a balance of \$43,812.69. We have approximately \$27,000.00 to be used for re-sprout treatments on completed projects. The re-sprout treatments are working well if we can keep treating the re-sprouts for 3 - 5 years. Vern Kohler and Fred Rossbach completed the re-sprout treatments on the Seboyeta projects and a portion of the San Cristobal project. Vern was able to complete the re-sprout treatments on the Anna Price project and the Ranchos las Lagunas project. Hopefully we will be able to start the Ojo Caliente project in the next week or so.

**2019 WTB Funds – EBWHRM Projects:** East Torrance SWCD has completed three projects. Edgewood SWCD has contracted the majority of their portion of the funding. Edgewood SWCD will be contracting the remaining portion of theirs soon. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has the Cain State Land Project; Deer Canyon Gate project and a couple of small projects they have contracted. We have contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants to continue the monitoring project.

**2020 WTB Proposal –** We have been funded for both the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project and the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project. Both proposals were for \$600,000/ea. All of the readiness items have been submitted and approved. The Water Trust Board legal team is planning to close both of these grants on December 18, 2020. The Board will pass resolutions at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to authorize the Board Chairman to sign all of the documents.

### **NM State Forestry Grants:**

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**2018 NFL Funding** – The Ramah Navajo Natural Resource Thinning Crew has worked on the Cain State Land project once during the month of November. They come in for eight days at a time. They appreciate the restrooms with showers that we have been able to provide for them. All of the saw work has been completed. They just need to chip approximately 150 acres of slash

**2019 NFL Funding** – I have reviewed the draft work plan for this funding in the amount of \$276,500.00.

**2020 NFL Funding** – We have been notified we have received funding in the amount of \$276,500.00. Our proposal ranked number 1 in the proposal rankings.

### **Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding**

The district has been funded for the Box Canyon Project in the amount of \$375,000.00. Box Canyon is in the Mexican Spotted Owl habitat area which was included in the Wild Earth Guardian Injunction against the Forest Service. This injunction has now been released by the Federal Court after the Forest Service and Wild Earth Guardians came to an agreement. The district is working with State Forestry to complete this work plan. The district is also working with NM Forest Industry Association on a \$375,000 agreement for the work in Box Canyon. The district will be responsible for completing all of the hand work for this project.

### **BNSF Railroad Project**

We have sent Notice of Termination of Coverage under a NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Industrial Activity into EPA in Washington, D. C. We are waiting for concurrence from EPA. I have placed a call to EPA to find out why we have not received the notice of termination back from them. After we receive the concurrence and do some work on the project the railroad will release the final payment of \$47,500 to the district.

### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:**

**Chupadera CFRP** – We have now moved into the fourth year on this project. All documents have to be submitted and approved for this project prior to August 31, 2020. The cultural resource survey crew has been out twice in the last month to work on the surveys for this project.

**New 2019 CFRP Proposal** – Ian Fox, Collaborative Forest Restoration and Forest Product Modernization Program Manager sent the following update: “I am working with the Washington Office (WO) to route the recommendations and report through the Washington Office to get signed off by the Chief and her Staff. Once that is complete the WO will route to the Dept. of Ag. for the Secretary’s review and approval. We cannot award any new projects until the Secretary approval process is completed. At this time, I have no ETA on how long this process will take. In addition, the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution. I will continue to keep you posted on the progress for this proposal.”

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

**2018 RCPP Funding** – All of the cultural resource survey reports for the Mountainair have been sent to NRCS for review. NRCS only has a couple to review before are sent to SHPO the remaining reports are either on SHPO’s desk or have been approved. We have two outstanding reports for the Grants/Gallup Field Office. One of the reports has been submitted to the Forest Service for their review and concurrence. The second report is being drafted and should be submitted soon.

**Additional RCPP Funding** – All of the negotiations have been sent to the Washington, DC office for approval. When New Mexico receives the approval on these negotiations, an agreement will be prepared between the district and NRCS.

The district has been invited to participate in the ZOOM meeting with NMACD concerning the RCPP projects.

**New Mexico State Park Project**

The thinning portion of the Manzano State Park project has been completed. State Forestry is working with a contractor to cut the wood in two and four-foot lengths and haul to a staging area. The district will then haul the wood to the district wood yard to sell to Land Grant heirs.

**FEMA Grant Proposal**

**Grant No. FEMA-4197-DR-NM-11-01** – The contractor’s contract has been signed. A copy is being sent to the financial office of NM Home Land Security and Emergency Management. The work will be completed by the Ramah Navajo Natural Resource thinning crew after they have completed the Cain State Land Project.

**Hazard Mitigation Project - Sub-grant Application HMGP – 5281** – The district submitted a proposal for this funding on July 24, 2020 in the amount of \$451,043.00. This funding is planned to complete projects on the Aceves Ranch, Swenka Ranch, and Deer Canyon Preserve. The project on Deer Canyon Preserve will include a clearing for a helicopter pad and also a staging area in case of a large wildfire. We have received the first round of comments and questions from FEMA. The answers have been re-submitted to FEMA. We probably will not hear anything on this proposal until after the first of the year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay:**

**Shop Building - Report:**

The district manager reported that the Ramah crew has enjoyed the shop building facilities.

**Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies, Western Spirit Transmission Line:**

The district manager reported that there hasn’t been a meeting, so there is nothing new to report. However, concerns were raised that there is no fire mitigation plan yet, and on whether there is any leverage that citizens can apply to move a plan forward. The district manager said that she would find out whether there is a draft plan yet.

**Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:**

Contact will be made with the Forest Service for information on this item.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. 08 – 2021 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Grant Agreement for the EBWHRM:**

Mr. Candelaria pointed out that the phrase “acting District Manager” was used on page 12 in item number one, whereas “District Manager” was used otherwise throughout the document.

The district manager will confirm that “acting” can be deleted.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the resolution with the appropriate change in wording. Mr. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**Resolution No.09—2021 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Grant Agreement for the GRGWA Project:**

The district manager pointed out that the same use of “acting” occurred on page 12 of Resolution No. 09. She said that she would confirm the correct wording and delete “acting” if appropriate.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the resolution with the deletion of the word “acting.” David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**Authorization to Purchase a Used Chipper:**

A discussion took place on the availability and cost of a used chipper at Vermeer in El Paso, Texas. In addition, the district’s aging and failing equipment were discussed. Mr. Lockridge suggested requesting funds from the state in the next fiscal year to buy a new chipper. He also suggested that a plan for replacement of all fixed assets should be developed. Mr. Candelaria suggested that an equipment maintenance category should be added to the district budget.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to lay the groundwork to buy a used chipper and proceed with the purchase. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**Authorization to Sell the 2004 F350 Ford:**

The district manager explained how little value the pickup still has, and she explained the process that she has to follow in order to sell the truck. There may be a buyer for the truck after she completes the process.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to authorize the district manager to proceed with the sale of the truck. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; LeRoy Candelaria, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

No report.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

The district manager said that a meeting will take place on the following Thursday.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The district manager reported that Robin Dunn has asked that the board consider a change in the time of board meetings at the next meeting. The district manager will ask Ms. Dunn what her proposal is.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 8, 2020 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, Jack Lockridge moved to adjourn. David Cain seconded the motion at 9:10.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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David Cain, SECRETARY