



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

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Robin Dunn
Larry Gomez
Dan Williams

Absentees: David Cain
LeRoy Candelaria
Jack Lockridge

Others Present: Diedre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Dale Rose
Ernie Taylor, U.S Forest Service
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, 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, both in person and via Zoom at 8:14 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the meeting.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the agenda. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2020 as read. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August, 2020 with accounts payable for September, 2020. The district manager explained the costs for equipment repairs and maintenance. She also said that the crew is going over the equipment every Friday afternoon, and they are performing maintenance as needed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the treasurer's report for August, 2020 and pay the accounts payable for September, 2020. Dan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Approval of FY2020 – 2021 Budget:

The district manager explained that the FY2020 - 2021 budget had to be re-approved by the board after the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) approves it, which it did on August 20, 2020.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the FY2020 – .2021 budget. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

No report.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan went over several items. He said that this year's Local Work Group meeting, hosted by the Guadalupe SWCD, will take place on September 30, 2020 via teleconference. The district manager explained how she has advertised the meeting. People who want to attend the meeting can get information to access the meeting from NRCS or the district manager.

Mr. Lujan said that the team had its Quality Assurance Review the previous week and that the review was a good one with perhaps some minor corrections that would need to be addressed.

Mr. Lujan went over circumstances surrounding the NRCS Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement concerns equipment or space that the Claunch-Pinto District and NRCS share. He also explained that there were no consequences if the board decides not to sign the agreement.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager reported that she has been attending some trainings via Zoom as well as conference calls: the Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Monitoring multi-party monitoring meeting; several Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) trainings; two Forest Service teams meetings; an Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee meeting; a New Mexico First Land and Water Action Team meeting; a State Land Office Advisory Board meeting; a Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA) Technical Committee meeting; a GRGWA meeting; and a Western Regional Partnership (WRP) tribal meeting.

CORRESPONDANCE:

No report.

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

Watershed Health Grant -- Water Trust Board:

The district manager has written a few contracts at Edgewood. Their contractor started work on the private land either yesterday or today. We are trying to get projects completed. Claunch-Pinto is waiting for the Ramah Navajo crew to return to work. We may ask for a waiver request from the Water Trust Board because new proposals are due next month.

New Mexico State Forestry Grant:

State Forest is writing up work plans, one for the FAWRA proposal and the other for 2019 funding we received. State Forestry will still have to write a work plan for the 2020 money that we received. Yesterday a representative called the district manager to ask Claunch-Pinto to handle another

\$150,000 through a work plan through the Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. This will be on the Zuni at \$1000 an acre for 150 acres on private land. They are trying to keep the mill in Reserve in business until December when it is supposed to be closed since no work can take place on Forest Service land because of the Mexican Spotted Owl injunction. Other funding will pay for work between Datil and Reserve which will also be for the Reserve mill. We have already lost Boss Reclamation, the best contractor that the district manager has worked with on Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance projects.

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding:

See Information Above.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district manager is working on the paperwork to release the SWPPP Compliance through the Environmental Protection Agency. Vern Kohler will take pictures of the project area.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):

Chupadera CFRP –

The cultural resource survey crew from Adam Okum's office is working on cultural resource surveys on Shawn Cain and Wayne Connell's state land went onto the wrong land. The crew camped on David Cain's state land where they had been driving on the grass. The district manager had a long talk with the owner of the company encouraging him to take corrective actions with his survey crews.

New 2019 CFRP Proposal –

A technical advisory committee has finally been formed, so the district manager will present the new proposal to the committee on September 17. She will meet with Aaron Johnson at the forest supervisor's office to make sure that she can answer any questions that he thinks the Federal Technical Advisory Plan will have.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant:

We are almost finished with the cultural resource surveys for the 2018 RCPP funds. The field work is done, but we are waiting for the reports. The district manager sent in a request for reimbursements in July, 2020 for \$131,000, but the reimbursement has not be approved as of today.

Regarding the additional funding, the district manager did the negotiation paperwork two weeks ago. She received a question from Kris Graham Chavez that she has to submit an answer for. She will have to track all of our match and get letters that confirm the match from our partners.

New Mexico State Park Project:

The district manager talked to the Bernalillo office yesterday afternoon and was told that 35 acres on Manzano State Park have been cut. They are planning to bring the wood down to the park entrance. We will pull the wood to the district property. The wood will be sold to land grant heirs for \$30/cord.

FEMA Projects:

The district advertised a second "request for proposals" because we only received one proposal. Proposals are due on Tuesday, September 8th, and the district manager expects a second proposal to be submitted. We can then choose a contractor and get the work done on the Aceves 135 acres before it snows too much. The district manager has not heard anything on the second proposal that she submitted to FEMA and probably won't hear anything until after the beginning of the new fiscal year, the first of October.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

Shop Building - Report:

The chairman commented that the shop building is outstanding. The district manager described progress on finishing the shop building: the tankless water heater needs a part before the plumber can finish installing it and get an inspection. The electrical work has been inspected and passed. When the plumbing inspection is finished, the contractor, Mike Valdez, can ask for an overall inspection, and then a certificate of occupancy will be issued at which time the shop building can be used. The water catchment system works very well. There is a pump when water is needed. The ten thousand gallons of water from the catchment system tanks can be used by the town of Mountainair as backup. However, the town has never hooked up its own catchment tanks that the district installed at the fire station. The district manager gave permission to 14 firefighters fighting a fire on state land south of Mountainair to take showers in the district's building. Because of this cooperation, Lawrence Crane from State Forestry will request that the district become a small incident command center. Then the district can be paid for the fire fighters to take showers and for cleaning up the showers afterward. Also, fire crews could camp on district property. Mr. Taylor of the US Forestry Service has also been asked to look into a similar arrangement with the district.

Mr. Williams asked whether the shop building project was finished within the budget, and the district manager said that it was.

Purchasing a ¾ Ton Vehicle for the District:

The district received \$60,000 to buy a ¾ ton vehicle, and the paperwork has been signed with the NMDA. When the district manager receives the purchase vouchers, the district can buy a vehicle.

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

The district manager will set up a meeting this month with her and with representatives from State Forestry and Pattern Energy. They will work on a fire plan for the Corona wind farm. Work will start on the wind farm at the beginning of October. Work has already started on the Western Spirit transmission line. The district manager doesn't think that the district can get Pattern Energy to work on a fire plan for the transmission line because the company went through Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA). PNM will buy the transmission line after it is built. The SunZia line will parallel Western Spirit, so when the company takes it to the PRC, the district can become an intervener again and therefore have more influence on developing a fire plan. Mr. Williams suggested contacting RETA to find out what is being done to protect the environment from fire along the line.

NRCS Memorandum of Agreement – Signature Authorization:

Mr. Gomez and Mr. Lockridge met with the district manager to go through the plan. Mr. Gomez said that he thinks that the agreement is a good, workable operational plan regarding the relationship of the district and NRCS. It is a national agreement and provides guidance on aspects of districts' relationships with NRCS. He supports signing the agreement. He and Mr. Lockridge also met with the district manager and Mr. Lovato, who feels comfortable signing the agreement now. The district manager praised the NRCS staff in this office and hopes that the good relationship between the district and NRCS will continue. She commented that the agreement does not make her job more burdensome. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to authorize the chairman to sign the NRCS Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:

This item remains tabled.

FY 2022 – 2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP):

The district manager sent out the ICIP to board members to review and reprioritize if necessary. She went over the priorities for each of the years in the ICIP.

Resolution No. 04 – 2021 – FY 2022 – 2026 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan:

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to adopt Resolution No. 04 – 2021 – FY 2022 -- FY 2026. Mr. Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

Resolution No. 05 – 2021 – WTB Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve Resolution No. 05 – 2021. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

Resolution No. 06 – 2021 – WTB Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2021. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote: Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

The district manager covered this topic in an earlier item.

FY 2020 – 2021 Work Plan:

The district manager reported on items she included in the plan. She said that she was going to meet with the mayor and town clerk of Mountainair regarding cooperation on ridding town rights-of-way of elms as well as on other matters of concern.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

A meeting was held, but the chairman didn't attend.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

Officers were elected. Brian Green has resigned as a member-at-large, so his place needs to be filled. The district manager will be in charge of deep well exploration. Dee has been a member of the committee longer than anyone else.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 2, 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, Robin Dunn moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

SEC. – TREAS.