



PO Box 129, Mountainair, NM 87036 Ph: 505-847-2243 Fax: 505-847-0615

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING June 4, 2021

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
Larry Gomez  
Jack Lockridge  
Dan Williams

**Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria  
Robin Dunn

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Roy Gibson  
Kenneth Lujan  
Dale Rose, CPSWCD  
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 8:10 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:** David Cain moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2021 as read. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of May, 2021 with accounts payable for June. Discussion occurred on whether the bank should charge fees to the district. It was suggested to look into the possibility of finding a bank that would not charge the district fees due to the size of its account. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for May, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for June, 2021. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge aye; David Cain, aye.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

### **FY 2021 – 2022 Interim Budget:**

The district manager reported that she submitted the budget. The board will review the budget again in July.

### **Auditor Procurement:**

The district manager said that a contract is in place between the district and Dan Austin, whom the board selected as its auditor.

## **REPORTS:**

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

The Department of Agriculture's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager said that she would distribute additional information on the online district supervisors' training. Mr. Gomez asked whether there might be someone who would like to attend the youth ranch. Discussion followed on whom to contact regarding a possible candidate.

The district manager pointed out the schedule of elections. Mr. Cain and Mr. Gomez are up for election.

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

The written report is included in board member's packets. Mr. Lujan said that the office is at 50% capacity. Staff can meet with one visitor at a time. Masks are required. However, he cannot have any in-person meetings yet.

Mr. Lujan said that the EQIP allocation for Team 5 is a lot less than previously received. He has asked for an additional \$400,000.

June 11 is the deadline for obligations for CSP. Team 5 had the most contracts, and Mountainair had the most contracts for Team 5.

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

No report

## **CORRESPONDANCE:**

None.

## **UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Written Report to the Board: June 4, 2021**

### **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 \$18,578.02. We have approximately \$27,000.00 to be used for re-sprout treatments on completed projects. The re-sprout treatments are working well if the re-sprouts can be treated for 3 - 5 years. We have not been able to get the remaining re-sprout treatments completed for various equipment problems and the weather. Hopefully we will be able to work on some of these treatments in the spring.

**2019 WTB Funds – EBWHRM Projects** -- East Torrance SWCD has completed three projects. Edgewood SWCD has contracted most of their portion of the funding. They have one project completed and ready for inspection. Claunch-Pinto SWCD has the Cain State Land Project which has been completed as well as the 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 Grants** – 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. Both grants closed on December 18, 2020. East Torrance SWCD has started planning their portion of this EBWHRM grant. Edgewood and Claunch-Pinto SWCD will be working on a

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

June 4, 2021

Regular Meeting

defensible space project in Chilili. The district manager advertised a request for proposals for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. There are nine projects for a total of 283 acres. The technical committee has reviewed the proposals. The field coordinator and I have met with two of the proponents during the week of May 10th to review their proposal and the project site. The technical committee has finalized their recommendations for the GRGWA. We will have a GRGWA meeting in the next couple of weeks

**2021 WTB Proposals** -- The Water Trust Board is meeting on May 14th to finalize the list of WTB applicants for funding. The EBWHRM and GRGWA proposals were both funded. The district manager will be working on the readiness items so the NM Finance Authority's lawyer can draw the paperwork for signatures on both grants.

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

**2018 and 2019 NFL Funding** – The work plan for this project has been signed by the district and State Forestry. The district has received a notice to proceed on this funding. The district has met with NM Department of Transportation to design a thinning project on highway right of way on NM HWY 42 on the north side of Cedarvale. This project will be approximately 56.5 acres. The slash will be chipped, and the wood will be stacked on the right of way for locals to pick up. The district has three applications at this time we can use this funding for.

**2020 NFL Funding** – We have been notified that we have received funding in the amount of \$276,500.00. Our proposal ranked number one 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. 53.5 acres have been completed and inspected on the cut, skid and deck portion of the project. The district has completed 5 acres within the lower Red Canyon Campground. They have also completed 4.5 acres of cut, skid and deck. They have 3.5 acres to complete plus two acres of hand thinning on arch sites to complete the district's portion of the work.

#### **BNSF Railroad Project:**

The district will continue to monitor the area for any erosion issues.

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

**Chupadera CFRP** – We have now moved into the fourth year on this project. The cultural resource survey crew has been out surveying the focal areas for cultural resource sites. This work needs to be completed before the paperwork can be finalized. Rocky Mountain Ecology will be contracting with a private contractor to write the burn plan which is a deliverable for the grant. All the deliverables need to be completed by August 1, 2021 so that Claunch-Pinto SWCD can finalize the grant.

**New 2019 CFRP Proposal** – The project is known as Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains. The district manager will be signing the agreement with the Forest Service in the next week. When the district receives the notice to proceed the district manager will be preparing a contract for Romero Firewood, LLC who will be doing the work on the project.

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

The district manager is working on the final agreement with NRCS. She is also working on some reports on line for the other three RCPP grants. She will meet on Zoom with the other soil and water conservation districts next Friday to work on the ranking criteria. The districts are all involved in the north central New Mexico RCPP. There is a concern that the smaller ranchers are not getting funded.

There will be another RCPP in this area. The Chupadero area has been designated by the State Land Office as a local area, so there is RCPP funding for that area through the New Mexico Restoration Initiative for Rangeland, Forestland, and Wildlife on Ranches with Federal Land. The district manager wasn't informed by the State Land Office of this new funding despite her recognized interest and

participation in meetings of the Estancia Basin Watershed Restoration Monitoring, which has a multiparty monitoring team that includes representatives from the State Land Office.

**2017 RCPP Funding** – We have one outstanding report that needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department.

**2018 RCPP Funding** – All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been approved by SHPO. The EZGrants.gov portal for Claunch-Pinto SWCD was set up incorrectly as Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water “Conversation” District. As of June 4, 2021, this error has not been corrected. The district manager has submitted all of the financial and written reports to the NRCS RCPP project manager who has made sure the reports have been added to the portal so the district doesn’t show past due.

**Additional RCPP Funding** – The district manager is working on the supplemental agreement for this funding. The district manager has met with the area conservationist, the district conservationists and the soil and water conservation districts to discuss the ranking criteria for this project. The district manager will be setting up a ZOOM meeting on June 11th for the soil and water conservation districts, the area conservationist, and the district conservationist to continue discussing the ranking criteria so the ranking information can be submitted to NRCS. The supplemental agreement also needs to be completed and reviewed in Washington D.C. before we can move forward.

#### **New Mexico State Park Project:**

The district student workers are stacking the wood that came off this project so we can get the wood ready to sell to the land grant heirs.

#### **FEMA Grant Proposal:**

**Grant No. FEMA-4197-DR-NM-11-01** – We have approximately 45 acres cut and the contractor has a crew chipping slash. We will need to have this contract completed by June 30, 2021.

**Hazard Mitigation Project - Sub-grant Application HMGP – 5281:** The BCA (Benefit-Cost Analysis) for this project was submitted and approved by FEMA. NM Department of Home Land Security has to complete a management plan for the department to submit to FEMA for approval before the funds can be released for contracting to the district.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Capital Outlay:**

###### **New Chipper:**

The district manager reported that the request for money for a new chipper was funded. Agreements have to be made with the New Mexico State University and the Department of Agriculture on the funding. Then the district manager will send out a request for proposals.

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

The district manager reported that she will meet with Pattern Energy the following week for an update on a fire plan, the Western Spirit line and the wind energy project in Corona. She will pass on information to Pattern regarding a grass seed and wild flower seed mixture that can be planted under the wind towers. It can also be planted under solar arrays.

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

The district manager said that she is working on submitting the required paperwork.

##### **Personnel Handbook:**

No report.

##### **Contract with Ferranti Natural Resources, LLC – 1400 Chipper:**

The district manager reported that the drums won't pull the brush into the machine. Vern Kohler will try to repair it. Mr. Ferranti has provided some new parts, and the district bought a new radiator.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **How Much to Charge Per Cord for District Wood:**

The district manager asked for a decision on the price the district should charge for the ponderosa pine wood.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to charge \$100 per cord of ponderosa pine. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

### **State Forestry and State Land's Price Agreement:**

The district manager asked the board for approval to write a letter to the State Land Office and New Mexico State Forestry asking permission to use their price agreements when she is contracting for fuel reduction or herbicide spraying.

**ACTION TAKEN:** David Cain moved to give permission to the district manager to write a letter to the State Land Office and New Mexico State Forestry asking permission to use their price agreements. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dan Williams, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:**

No report.

### **South Central Mountain RC&D:**

The district manager said that a meeting was held, but no one was able to call in.

### **Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:**

The committee will meet next month, and the district manager will send out information to board members. The committee is still working on the deep well monitoring project.

## **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

## **OTHER:**

## **MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

## **PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

## **NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 16, 2021 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, David Cain moved to adjourn at 8:55 a.m. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

David Cain, SECRETARY