



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
August 6, 2021**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
David Cain
Leroy Candelaria
Robin Dunn
Larry Gomez
Dale Rose

Absentees: Jack Lockridge

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Aurelleia Chavez, Mountainair FFA
Lynnelle Chavez, CPSWCD volunteer
Ernest Taylor
Katheryn Taylor, CPSWCD, volunteer
Dan Williams

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 8:00 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.

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ICIP PROJECTS:

The district manager opened the discussion of priorities for 2023 – 2027 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP).

The first item -- a 1500 chipper will fall off the list for 2022.

Item number one for 2023 will be a Skid Steer/Tractor plus attachments and trailer -- \$120,000.

Other items will be advanced to the new ICIP for 2027: for 2024, 4-wheel Drive Vehicle -- \$125,000; for 2025 a new one-ton truck; for 2027, Solar Covered Parking and Re-surfacing.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dylan Greene – Mountainair FFA:

FFA competitor, Dylan Greene's recorded video was played for board members. He is currently working in Ramah. His presentation covered his achievement in the state forestry competition and what his future aspirations are. He has been recognized and supported by a check from the Claunch-Pinto district.

Aurelleia Chavez – Mountainair FFA:

Fourteen year-old Aurelleia Chavez, during her first year in FFA, placed third in the state in the individual judging competition. She made a presentation to the board about what she has learned from

participating in FFA, the components of the state forestry competition that she had to learn, and what her goals are for the coming year. Chairman Lovato presented Miss Chavez with a check from Claunch-Pinto in recognition and support of her achievements.

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; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Dale Rose, aye, Larry Gomez; David Cain.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Dale Rose moved to approve the minutes of August 6, 2021 as read. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn; David Cain: Larry Gomez, aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of July, 2021 with accounts payable for August. The district manager reported that the district's bank will rebate some of past charges, and no fees will be charged going forward.

ACTION TAKEN: Robin Dunn moved to approve the treasurer's report for July, 2021 and pay the accounts payable for August, 2021. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Robin Dunn suggested that district salaries should be revisited and that the district manager find out what other districts of similar sizes are paying different types of employees, including district managers and technicians as well as what their income receipts are.

The district manager reported on an issue with account reconciliations, but the new auditor will work with her to figure out what to do to send in a corrected fourth quarter report.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The Department of Agriculture's written report is included in the board packets. Robin Dunn asked about item 24, "Meeting and Comments on National Forests in NM." She asked about the alternatives for the management plan for the Cibola National Forest for the Mountainair Ranger District and what impacts changes might have on grazing and other uses. Ernest Taylor explained the situations under which no change would be made and those where some change might be merited. He offered to research differences in alternatives and then respond more specifically to Ms. Dunn's questions.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The written report is included in board member's packets. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact Kenneth Lujan.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager reported that she sent out her grant report earlier. She also said that she hasn't received anything from the NM Department of Agriculture that would allow her to go out with an RFP on the chipper.

Report on 1400 chipper:

The district manager reported that the mechanic is waiting to receive a new starter to install, and then the chipper will be ready to go.

CORRESPONDANCE:

The district manager reported on the discharge permit list for Torrance County and the Torrance County Correctional Facility's request to renew its discharge permit.

UPDATE ON GRANTS – the District Manager's Report to the Board: August 6, 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. The Institute has submitted its final invoices. We will be mailing the check in the next few days. 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; 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 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 the district manager 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. The GRGWA met on July 20th by ZOOM. The technical committee recommendations for the approved projects were approved. The district manager will be writing contracts during the first couple of weeks in August 2021.

2021 WTB Proposals:

The EBWHRM and GRGWA proposals were both funded. The district manager is 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:

The district manager has received a draft work plan for this funding to review. She will get the work plan reviewed and back to State Forestry before the end of August.

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA) Funding:

The district has been funded for the Box Canyon Project in the amount of \$375,000.00. The district has completed the 3 acres plus 2 acres of hand thinning on arch. sites to completing the district's portion of the work on Box Canyon.

BNSF Railroad Project:

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

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Chupadera CFRP:

The burn plan has been completed. 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):

2017 RCPP Funding:

We have one outstanding report that needs to be reviewed and approved by a tribal cultural resource department before we can pay SWCA on their final invoice.

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 August 6, 2021, this has not been corrected. The district manager has submitted the financial and written reports to the NRCS RCPP project manager who has made sure the reports have been added to the portal so that the district doesn't show past due.

Additional RCPP Funding:

The supplemental agreement has been completed and has to be 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:

The district manager is working on the final invoice and final reports for this project. All reports and the invoice must be submitted by August 13, 2021.

Hazard Mitigation Project - Sub-grant Application HMGP – 5281:

The district manager understands that Home Land Security has received this funding. We should have an agreement in place sometime in the next month. We will need to have phase 2 of this project started before December 2022 since this is the date the Torrance County Hazardous Mitigation Plan expires.

The district manager reported, in addition, that the district's crew was complimented by the Forest Service on its hand thinning in Box Canyon. The project is complete and inspected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper:

The district manager reported that the request for money for a new chipper was funded, but she is still waiting for acknowledgement from the Department of Agriculture before she can send out a request for proposals on the equipment.

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

Felipe Lovato expressed his concern about the lack of clearing beneath the transmission line under construction. The district manager said that the district has no agreement concerning the Western Spirit line because of Pattern's association with RETA. The district manager will talk to Jeremy Turner, who works with Pattern Energy, regarding this concern.

Sun Zia Transmission Line:

The district manager said that it is very important for district representatives and the district's lawyer to meet with Pattern and its attorney to reach a written agreement on the conservation work that should be done on the Sun Zia Transmission line. She explained that Pattern wants to come to an agreement with the district.

ACTION TAKEN: Dale Rose moved to ask the district manager to contact Pattern Energy to pursue a meeting to start discussions. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

The district manager said that she would bring back a plan for board approval.

Paperwork through the Forest Service for an Incident Command Center:

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

Personnel Handbook:

Jack Lockridge and Larry Gomez are reviewing the handbook and are working on wording for the drug policy and workman's compensation.

NEW BUSINESS:

ICIP – FY 2023 – 2027 Resolution No. 04 - 2022:

ACTION TAKEN: LeRoy Candelaria moved to approve Resolution No. 04 – 2022. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

Consideration of Having a Small Museum for Past Farming and Ranching Activities:

Felipe Lovato spoke in support of having a museum on district property. The district manager explained how she got the idea for a museum. Other board members supported the idea.

Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful, a Resolution:

A discussion followed on a resolution opposing the federal government's "30 by 30" program that the district manager provided to the board for information.

ACTION TAKEN: Dale Rose moved to table the discussion of the resolution until the next meeting. Robin Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; David Cain, aye.

FY 2020 – 2021 Annual Report:

The district manager said that she is working on finalizing the report.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The district manager said that the South Central meeting was canceled.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The district manager will attend the next meeting.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 10, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

OTHER:

Mr. Taylor discussed the efforts by the Forest Service to meet the demand for wood.

The district manager announced that the local work group will meet virtually on September 7, 2021.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board, Dale Rose moved to adjourn at 10:05 a.m. Felipe Lovato seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

David Cain, SECRETARY