



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 9, 2022**

- Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Larry Gomez
Jack Lockridge
Dale Rose
- Absentees:** David Cain
Leroy Candelaria
Robin Dunn
- Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Roy Gibson
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS
Ernest Taylor, Mountainair Ranger District

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, both in person and via Zoom at 8:05 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, followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dale Rose moved to approve the agenda. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action on the August minutes will be deferred until the October board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of August 2022 with accounts payable for September, 2022.

ACTION TAKEN: Jack Lockridge moved to approve the treasurer's report for August 2022 and pay the accounts payable for September 2022. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Approval of FY 2022 – 2023 Budget:

The district manager explained that the budget must be re-approved after the Department of Finance and Administration approves it. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jack Lockridge moved to approve the FY 2022 – 2023 budget. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The NMDA's written report for September was provided to the board members.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report for September is included in board member's packets.

Mr. Lujan highlighted the information about the Local Work Group meeting. It will be held on September 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. hosted by the East Torrance SWCD. The district manager said that Jody Cornwall will conduct a CSP training at the Claunch-Pinto office following the Local Work Group meeting.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager said that the district participated in the buyers' club at Corona for the Lincoln County Fair to support young people from the Corona area. She also went to the Torrance County Fair. Five students in all made the sale. Each student had an add-on, so she paid out \$950.00. David Cain's oldest daughter helped a participant show her steer, and district summer employee Aurelia Chavez's steer won third place.

CORRESPONDANCE:

The district manager received a letter from Torrance County concerning the industrial revenue bonds for the El Corazon LLC Wind project and the Mesa Canyon LLC. The county commissioners approved an inducement resolution for these two projects.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board Plus Comments – Update on Grants, September 9, 2022:

[The district manager reported that she received a call from the cultural resource department of the Department of Transportation regarding projects that the district will be working on. It is a very large area that will need to be defined by GPS.

She also mentioned an objection to removing piñon trees along side roads north of Chilili because people pick piñons from the trees. She explained that the trees are a hazard because they impede drivers' visibility, and the narrow verges are a danger to "pickers" because the area where they stop their cars is too narrow for safety.

The district manager is working with State Forestry, the State Land Office, the Edgewood SWCA, and the inmate work crew to complete a project and to get the wood to the Land Grant Council to disperse to land grant heirs.

The Nepa document on the FEMA funding will be advertised to the public before the end of the month. The schedule is on time to get the FEMA agreement signed before the end of the year.

The district manager will submit an RCCP proposal today to renew 2018 funding for 3.2 million dollars with a priority to serve minority land owners, veterans and other underserved land owners.]

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2020 EBWHRM WTB Funds – The District is preparing thinning contracts for signature. Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance have a couple of projects that work is being completed on. Claunch-Pinto has 3 projects ready to contract and 11 pending projects. Ken Leiting, East Torrance SWCD has contacted his landowners who have contracts to find out the progress on their projects. We are working with Edgewood SWCD, NM State Land and NM State Forestry on the Bear Cat 50-acre project. The wood from the Bear Cat project will be delivered to Chilili Land Grant by the NM State Forestry Inmate Work Crew. The Land Grant Counsel will then distribute the wood to the area land grants. Edgewood SWCD has 300-acre project to be contracted as soon as the landowner approves the practice plan. This grant will have to be expended by December 18, 2022.

2020 GRGWA WTB Funds – We are working with the landowners of the San Cristobal, Seboyeta-Moquino Creek, and Glorieta projects and the contractors to get these projects completed before December 2022. This grant will have to be expended by December 18, 2022. The district is working on resprout treatments for the previously completed GRGWA projects. The first resprout treatment on the San Cristobal Ranch will take place on 09/09/2022.

2021 WTB Funds: The EBWHRM and GRGWA grant documents have been signed and the district has been notified the grants have closed, so we can proceed to start projects.

2023 WTB Proposals: Proposals are due for this funding on September 23, 2022.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2019 NFL Funding – The balance on this funding is \$137,861. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2022. The second project is the Chilili Land Grant project in the amount of 40 acres. Vern will be meeting with the contractor for the Chilili Project soon. If we can get the two Edgewood SWCD projects started and our three on-going projects completed, we should be able to expend this funding before the deadline.

2020 NFL Funding – The District has just signed a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2023.

2022 NFL Funding – The District has been notified that the FY2022 NFL proposal has been funded.

BNSF Railroad Project:

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

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains:

We hope to have a report ready to present to the Board on the monitoring that took place this past July within the next couple of months. We should be able to start the second-year thinning on this project soon.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2017 RCPP Funding – The District's technical assistance work has been completed.

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 today, this has not been

corrected. The District Manager is submitting the financial and written reports to the NM NRCS RCPP Project Manager who makes sure the reports are added to the portal so that the district doesn't show past due. The District has finally located the final signed authorization from the State Historical Preservation Office for the last cultural resource survey report completed with this funding.

2021 RCPP Funding – The supplemental agreement has been returned for the fourth time to the Washington D.C. office for approval.

Additional RCPP Funding – The District has received notice that the fiscal year 22 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Renewal proposal in the amount of \$967,000 has tentatively been selected to become an RCPP project. We have also been notified the 2018 RCPP can be renewed. We are submitting a proposal on 09/09/2022 to request funding to renew the 2018 RCPP in the amount of 3.2 million dollars

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Hazard Mitigation Project - HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement:

SWCA delivered the cultural resource survey reports on the projects to FEMA on August 9, 2022. FEMA sent the reports on to SHPO for their review shortly after the 9th of August. SHPO has reviewed the reports and asked FEMA to have the district only conduct hand-thinning in the areas SHPO has highlighted in the report back to FEMA. The NEPA document is being prepared to send to FEMA so that FEMA can let the District know when we can advertise a 30-day comment period on the project. The District should be able to advertise the comment period by the end of September or the first part of October. At the same time the district will be preparing the 2nd phase proposal to submit to FEMA for funding.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Pre-Proposal:

The District was approved to submit a full proposal to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission on this project by September 13, 2022. We are working on the proposal so it can be submitted on time.

New Mexico State Land Projects:

The Edgewood SWCD will be using some of the Water Trust Board allocation to complete a 50-acre State Land Project known as the Bear Cat Project. Claunch-Pinto SWCD will match the funding with their State Forest NFL funding. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD is working with the supervisor of the State Forestry In-Mate Work Crew to get a new memorandum of understanding so that this crew can be used to move the wood on the Bear Cat Project. The District has three additional State Land projects we are working on with the State Land Office.

The district has \$775,406.55 in project either contracted or ready to contract as we have the funding and contractor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper RFP:

A new chipper will be available and delivered soon.

FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request Funded – Skid Steer:

The district manager said that an agreement has not been signed yet with NMDA to buy a skid steer, and discussions will be delayed until after the elections.

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

The district manager said that she expects more windmills will be placed in the Corona area. Lights on the windmills are meant to come on only when an aircraft is in the area.

Ms. Rose reported on the Tri County Community Group funding. She explained that \$750,000 was granted to the group by Pattern Energy to be spent over 10 years. Five \$25,000 grants were made available for this year. She said that another RFP will be advertised for 2023.

The district manager briefly described the only proposal funded for 2022; it was submitted by a teacher from the Santa Rosa school district. A two-week conservation camp is proposed to bring in students to learn about the environment and conserving water. A plan to build a trail in cooperation with state parks will also be developed.

Sun Zia Transmission –Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

Comments on the draft were due August 1, 2022, but as far as the district manager knows, no comments were received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 06—2023—Water Trust Board Submission of Application for EBWHRM:

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Lockridge moved to approve Resolution No. 06 – 2023. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dale Rose, aye.

Resolution No. 07 – 2023 – Water Trust Board Submission of Application for GRGWA:

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Lockridge moved to approve Resolution No. 07 -- 2023. Ms. Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Dale Rose, aye; Jack Lockridge, aye; Larry Gomez, 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 at the next meeting in October, a chairman will be chosen. She has received the letter that was sent to the Edgewood planning and zoning committee regarding concerns about the new Campbell Ranch subdivision. She will send it to Claunch-Pinto's board members. No response to the letter has been received.

New Building on Fair Grounds:

The district manager said that she added this item to the agenda at the request of the chair of the Torrance County Fair Board. The county has the funds to build a new building on the fair grounds. The district manager said that Mr. Candelaria will report on the building at subsequent meetings.

Hearth, Wind & Sol Field Day – September 30, 2022:

A workshop on high density grazing on range land will be held on September 30 at a cost of \$20 which includes lunch. Reservations are required; September 27 is the deadline.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ernie Taylor said that a meeting was held to discuss changes in the prescribed fire program. A press release is forthcoming.

Mr. Taylor reported on the moth infestation. Almost all fir trees in the Manzanos have been affected, and the infestation may continue for three or four more years. However, on a positive note, trees that look dead are expected to recover. Also, younger trees may be impacted more than the older trees but should recover.

OTHER:

The district manager met with the Manzano state park director who said that two 500-gallon rainwater wildlife drinkers plus blinds near the drinkers are going in at Manzano State Park so that visitors can watch for wildlife at the drinkers. Wildlife fencing will be built at the back of the park. The district manager said that the district has funding from sales of wood from the park that is intended for conservation projects in the park. This money could be used for materials for the projects. Approval of the funds will be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, October 7, 2022, 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. Larry Gomez seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY