



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
December 3, 2010**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman
Jerry Melaragno
Dan Williams
Richard Shovelin
William Caster

Absentees: LeRoy Candelaria
J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
Kenneth Lujan, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
(NMDA)
Katheryn Taylor, District 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, at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street in Mountainair, NM at 8:15 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES:

LeRoy Candelaria
J. Brian Greene

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda as presented. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the agenda. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2010 with the accounts payable for November, 2010. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. A copy is attached.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Report:

The District Manager stated that the Water and Natural Resources Legislative Committee did not support the Soil and Water Conservation Commission's legislative initiatives and that the Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts spoke against the Commission's initiatives. Roy Todd went over the reasons for the Commission's request for a \$500,000 augmentation in the SWCDs basic operations funding: increased expenses due to being forced to pay for annual risk management insurance and for district audits. He also went over the requested changes in how nominees for the Commission would be submitted to the Governor in the Commission request to amend the District Act. Five districts were not notified of the selection process for this year by the NMACD because they hadn't paid dues to the Association. He reported that the Edgewood SWCD voted not to pay dues to the NMACD. A copy of the written report is attached.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Louis King presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He reported that the number of applications for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) had increased since he submitted the written report. He also said that all applications were re-enrollments. He brought the Conservation Plans and Conservation Cover job sheets to review with the Board and to offer the District the opportunity to sign the Conservation Plans, though the District's signature is not mandatory. A copy of the written report is attached. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the Conservation Plans before the end of December. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager pointed out the District's liability for the East Torrance incentives for the State Forestry 2009 Non Federal Land funding (NFL) of \$4,799.64 and the liability for State Forestry 2009 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) funding of \$5,202. She reported that she had paid two land owners the full amounts of their contracts. The District's attorney is determining whether a precedent had been set thus requiring the District to pay other land owners for the total amounts of their contracts or whether the

District would be able to deduct the amount of the incentive payment from the amount owed to the landowner. She explained that approximately \$8,000 is budgeted in the two grants for salaries and wages for the East Torrance SWCD. Another possible solution to reduce the District's liability would be to ask the Core Steering Committee to hold those funds until the District is reimbursed for the incentive liability. A copy of the written report is attached.**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to recommend that the Core Steering Committee be asked to hold back the money budgeted for East Torrance salaries and wages until a judgment is reached on reimbursement to the District for the incentive liability. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager pointed out the financial statements and independent audits for the NMACD.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The District Manager announced that the District bookkeeper, Alice Hennessy, had resigned effective December 31 and that a candidate for the position had been identified.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The District Manager reported on grants listed below, meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies for 2011.

- Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project – Water Trust Board:
- State Forestry Grants:
 - Non Federal Land (NFL) Proposal
 - Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) Proposal
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

The District Manager and Commissioner José Varela López gave a presentation to the State Coordinating Committee.
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area (CNMCWMA):

The District Manager reported that Brenda Smythe, District Manager of the Edgewood SWCD was notified the CNMCWMA will receive an additional \$17,000 for noxious weed control. The funding will be used in the fire areas on the mountain. She and Brenda Smythe will meet on December 13 to develop a work plan and a new budget to reflect the additional funding.
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
 - Ojo Peak Restoration
 - Red Canyon Project

New Proposals:

- Government Service Fund – DFA
- NM State Forestry – Wildland Urban Interface
- 2010 Proposals to NM Water Trust Board:
The District Manager submitted a new proposal for this project.
- FY2011 Appropriations Request to U.S. Senators Bingaman and Udall
The District Manager reported that she had been in touch with Senator Bingaman's and Udall's staff members. They will send applications for 2012 funding that may amount to one million dollars for the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Future Directions Committee –****Property, Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies****GSA Solicitation Package:**

The District Manager distributed the "Proposal to Lease Space for Solicitation for Offers (SFO) No. 9NM2109" and the Commission Agreement between Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. and the District. She explained that she had worked the previous day with Mike Valdez, owner of the building occupied by the USDA in Estancia to establish costs associated with the lease of the building by the National Park Service. The square footage to obtain these costs is reflected in the proposal. She then explained the role of Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. in submitting the proposal, and she said that the proposal could not be submitted without the signed agreement to pay the broker commission to Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc.. This private company will facilitate the submission of the proposal package . **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the proposal package as well as the agreement with Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Site Preparation Work:

The District Manager reported that Padilla Industries, Inc. asserts that the company cannot finish the concrete work at the Claunch Pinto SWCD Resource Conservation Center for the amount of the original bid. Board members requested that Patrick Padilla, President of Padilla Industries, Inc. and architect Lee Gamelsky attend the next Board meeting to answer questions.

Report from committee to work on building project**SWCD Mil Levy Authority:**

The Chairman reported that he, the District Manager, and the District legal counsel met with the Torrance County Manager, the County Attorney and the Assistant Attorney to discuss the mil levy issue. The county representatives agreed to notify the District of future meetings with entities seeking Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) agreements with

the county, but they did not agree to allow the District to take part in negotiations. The Chairman suggested that the District will need to ask the Torrance County Commission to address the loss of mil levy funding to the District. Supervisor Richard Shovelin stated that State Representative Rhonda King should author a bill addressing the issue. The District Manager said that she had not yet received a letter from the Attorney General giving an opinion on the issue. Discussion followed on the Disabled Veteran Exemption.

District Computer System:

The District Manager reported that she expects to receive one more bid on a system.

Consideration of a Mil Levy Referendum to include Municipalities:

Supervisor Richard Shovelin advocated for a mil levy referendum to include municipalities. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 05 – 11 – Open Meetings Act

The District Manager stated that this resolution becomes effective on January 1, 2011 and advertises the location, meeting dates and times, and the process for handling emergency meetings of the District Board. **Action Taken:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea; LeRoy Candelaria and J. Brian Green – absent.

Approve District Board Meeting Dates for 2011.

Action Taken: William Caster moved to approve the Board Meeting dates for 2011 -- Jan 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Dec. 2. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kids, Kows and More – April 28, 2011

The District Manager will prepare to work with the schools for this event.

Purchase of Additional Property from Sy Sisneros

The District Manager reported that no further information is available to date.

REPORTS:

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

Supervisor William Caster reported that a quorum was not present at the last meeting, but members discussed the group's bylaws.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

The District Manager reported that minutes were available in the Board packets.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The District Manager reported that the Core Steering Committee may be asked to take over monitoring of wells through the SWCA contract.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

A discussion was held regarding the role of the NMACD in advocating for the SWCDs.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Plan

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, January 7, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Mountainair, New Mexico.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.