



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
June 3, 2011**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman  
Jerry Melaragno  
J. Brian Greene  
Dan Williams  
William Caster

**Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria  
Richard Shovelin

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Louis King, District Conservationist, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture  
(NMDA)  
Cheri Lujan, landowner  
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 8:10 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**Welcome Guests:**

**ABSENTEES:** LeRoy Candelaria, Richard Shovelin

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the minutes as written. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of May, 2011 with the accounts payable for May, 2011. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The District Manager reported that the auditor conducted his exit interview and found that the books were in order. The State auditor will sign off on the audit, and then the process will be complete.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Report:**

Roy Todd pointed out number 2 of his report: Point System Spreadsheet Template and said that changes to the comment section had been made. He also directed attention to number 8. – Rule Changes Affecting Private Pesticide Applicators in which the license duration is proposed to be shortened from 5-year duration to 3 years and the license renewal requirements is proposed to increase the number of CEUs required for recertification from 5 hours of continuing education in 5 years to 6 hours in 3 years. Comments can be submitted on the website: [www.nmdaweb.nmsu.edu/pesticides](http://www.nmdaweb.nmsu.edu/pesticides). (The written report is attached.)

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

Louis King, District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He pointed out a communication from a Cloudcroft company, Remote Well Solutions, that offers a system to provide water to remote locations off the grid. Mr. King also stated that the Local Work Group may meet in June and certainly before September. He also stated that Dan Thomas retired from NRCS after nearly 37 years with NRCS.

(The written report is attached.)

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

The District Manager highlighted the meetings that she had attended.

(The written report is attached.)

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager pointed out a letter from an insurance representative from Insurance One in Albuquerque offering insurance coverage to soil and water conservation districts. She also mentioned a letter from David W. King announcing a new statewide conservation organization – the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts and pointed out newsletters from Veritas New

Mexico, as well as “Noticias de las Acequias,” and “enotes” from the National Association of Conservation Districts.

### **PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

The District Manager indicated that Vern Kohler has accumulated leave days that he will lose if he doesn't take them before July 1, A change in personnel policy needs to be made to conform to state and federal regulations. A meeting of the personnel committee will be held to resolve the issue.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to carry over the leave for Mr. Kohler into the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

After discussion, an additional motion was made. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to ask the Personnel Committee to revise the District's policies to conform to state and federal regulations and to set limitations on leaves. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **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 and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project– Water Trust Board:  
The District Manager reported that the EBWHRM Project had been awarded \$600,000 and that the District's proposal scored first in the watershed category. The District Manager is the fiscal agent for the project. She mentioned that Isleta had been awarded a million dollars for a riparian project on the Rio Grande.
- New Mexico State Forestry Grants:  
The District Manager reported that balances remain on the NFL and WUI projects.
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:  
The District Manager reported that \$360,000 has been awarded to three additional projects to be completed by fall 2012. She has submitted a work plan to spray the salt cedar and Russian olive re-sprouts in the Abo Arroyo. The work plan also includes planting riparian plants in the riparian areas.
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:  
Agreements with landowners which would allow District workers on private land to identify weeds will be sent out soon. Fifteen thousand dollars has been allocated to hire youth to identify the weeds. The Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District is the fiscal agent for this project.

- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:  
The District Manager announced that the forests are closed due to extreme dry conditions.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Future Directions Committee – Property, Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies:**

#### **GSA Solicitation:**

The District Manager said that she had not received any new information.

#### **Site Preparation Work:**

The District Manager reported that the contractor has been paid \$26,000 to pay off subcontractors and liens. He is owed a balance of \$5,000 which he will be paid when the architect notifies the District Manager that subcontractors have been paid and liens have been satisfied.

Student staff members have painted the trellis to prevent rust.

The architect is designing a landscaping project at the entrance of the site that will be built in partnership with the high school youth conservation corps.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cibola National Forest:**

The District Manager reported that the MOU has been reviewed by the Forest Service liaison and the New Mexico Association of Counties. A draft of a participating agreement is in progress.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the MOU with Cibola National Forest. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **Practice Plan for Thinning Project on District Property:**

The District Manager presented a practice plan to thin the site of the District's future education center. It will be a demonstration project to illustrate the difference between woodlands that have been thinned versus those that have not. The project will be completed on a cost share basis with State Forestry. Wood harvested from the project will be offered as prizes at this year's annual meeting.

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the project. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Corps Bypassing Congress:**

The Board discussed an email from the NMACD Executive Director that provides information and suggestions for action on an attempt by the Environmental Protection Agency to expand the EPS's and the Corps of Engineers' oversight over all U.S. waters.

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to send a letter objecting to the proposed regulations. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):**

William Caster reported that a meeting would be held the following week

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

Brian Greene reported that there was nothing new to report.

### **Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

Brian Greene reported on discussions by the EBWPC on the Santa Fe Sustainable Land Development Code.

## **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

### **OTHER:**

Jerry Melaragno reminded the Board of the Mesteño Draw Restoration Saturday Workshops to be held on June 18, August 20 and October 1. The District will contribute plants and herbicide application to this project.

Chairman Lovato mentioned that the railroad would open its new track today.

Roy Todd reminded the Board that District Supervisors' names had to be submitted to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission at its next meeting.

### **MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Dan Williams attended a Pollinators Seminar on natural pollinators other than bees at the New Mexico State Experimental Farms in Los Lunas.

### **PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

The District Manager announced the Board would need to have a conference call later in the month to vote on the names for the appointed supervisors to be approved the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission. She will notify the Board members on the date and time for the conference call.

### **NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, July 8, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair, New Mexico.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.