



**FINAL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 01, 2010**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman
William Caster –Vice-Chairman
Richard Shovelin, Sec. - Treasurer
Jerry Melaragno
LeRoy Candelaria
Dan Williams

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, Soil Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
Lee Gamelsky, Lee Gamelsky Architects
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 8:10 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES: J. Brian Greene

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Dan Williams 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 September, 2010 with the accounts payable for October, 2010. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. A copy is attached.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The District Manager reported that the 2010 – 2011 Budget has been certified by the New Mexico Department of Finance. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to officially reapprove the budget. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. A copy is attached. The Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for the District was presented for information.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Report:

Roy Todd, NMDA Field Specialist, presented his report to the Board. He called attention to the new option for mechanical control of woody invasive plants, the EX40 mulcher attachment, which may provide landowners with a new tamarisk and Russian olive biomass removal option. He also mentioned that federal legislation has been introduced clarifying that additional permits are not required for pesticide applications, in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Discussion followed. A copy of the written report is attached.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He pointed out that the Mountainair NRCS Field Office is now officially part of the Northwest Area. He reported that Darren Richardson has been selected as the new Area Conservationist and will start work October 25. He also drew attention to two deadlines: December 3 for applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and December 30 for the Conservation Stewardship Program. A copy of the written report is attached.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager reported that she made a presentation on watershed collaboration at the New Mexico Watershed Forum in Albuquerque on Tuesday, September 28, and that it was well received. She will be asked to make the same presentation to the Forest Service Supervisors meeting for the Cibola. She reported on beneficial information that she had learned. She also reported on the Water Trust Board meeting that she had attended in September. Projects have been approved for funding. The District has been approved for 2010 projects and has received readiness items that will need to be prepared for required paperwork. The District has also been funded through the New Mexico State Forestry for non-federal lands projects for thinning in the Abó, Deer Canyon and Corona areas. She reported that the Claunch-Pinto News – Autumn, 2010 has been published and mailed out and that the invitation to the District Annual Meeting to be held on October 15 at the Ernie Vigil Ranch would be mailed early the following week.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board: a letter from Chairman, Felipe Lovato, Jr. to Ryan Schwebach, Chairman of the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC) asking to be included as a co-sponsor for EBWPC workshops and public meetings concerning water issues in the Estancia Closed Basin and a letter to Kenneth V. Salazar, Chairman, Region II requesting an extension to the deadline for selecting candidates for a position on the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The District Manager reported that the deadline for selecting candidates has been extended to November 15. The District Manager shared a note from the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) expressing appreciation for receipt of District dues to the Association.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

Personnel Committee:

District Personnel Policy: The District Manager is working with Supervisors Dan Williams and Jerry Melaragno to finalize the District's Personnel Policy.

At 8:50, William Caster, Vice-Chairman indicated that he needed to excuse himself from the meeting. A quorum of Board members remained present.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

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

- Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Project – Water Trust Board: The District Manager reported on email correspondence that she had received from JulieAnne Leonard, District Counsel and from John L. Appel, Counsel for the New Mexico Finance Authority regarding, in part, the potential effects of the Incentive Payment Program offered by the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District (ETSWCD) on CPSWCD's Loan-Grant agreement. Discussion followed on the possible impact of this incentive program on future funding for the District. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved that a letter be sent from the CPSWCD Board Chairman to the New Mexico Finance Authority and the New Mexico State Forestry Division requesting clarification regarding the potential impact of the Incentive Payment Program offered by the ETSWCD in conjunction with the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration, and Monitoring Project for which CPSWCD is the fiscal agent on future funding requests. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion continued on whether incentive payment programs are appropriate for cooperative regional projects for which CPSWCD is the fiscal agent. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved that the CPSWCD not support incentive payment programs associated with contracts for any cooperative regional projects for which CPSWCD is the fiscal agent. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In keeping with the Board's lack of support for incentive payment programs connected with cooperative regional projects, discussion continued on whether the Districts' name should appear on ETSWCD contracts. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved that CPSWCD's name be removed on all future contracts for Incentive payment Programs offered by the ETSWCD that are associated with any cooperative regional projects for which the CPSWCD is the fiscal agent. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The District Manager is to take a copy of these motions to a meeting of the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring CORE Steering Committee on Monday, October 4. Further, Chairman Lovato is to write a letter to Ryan Schwebach, Chairman of the ETSWCD expressing concerns regarding the incentive program, indicating lack of support for an incentive program associated with contracts for any cooperative regional projects for which CPSWCD is the fiscal agent, and asking that the ETSWCD remove the CPSWCD's name and references to the District from all future contracts for the incentive payment program offered by the ETSWCD.

The District Manager reported that thinning will begin on the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration, and Monitoring Project site a week from Monday, October 4. She reported that Vernon Kohler, Claunch-Pinto SWCD Field Technician, will supervise the thinning crew. She requested that Mr. Kohler be

paid \$22.00 an hour for supervision. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to pay Vernon Kohler, District Field Technician \$22.00 an hour for supervision on the thinning project to be paid from grant funds. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- State Forestry Grants: Work Plans are in and contracts are being signed.
 - Non Federal Land (NFL) Proposal: The District Manager reminded the Board that the District had received additional funding.
 - Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) Proposal
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:

The District Manager and Chairman Lovato reported on the recent meeting of the Alliance in Cuba. They announced that the District will host the next Alliance meeting on November 5 in Mountainair at 11:00 a.m. following the District Board meeting. The Alliance meeting will likely be held at Alpine Alley and combine lunch with a working meeting.
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative:

The District Manager reported that October 1 and 2, SWCA Environmental Consultants and District Field Technician, Vernon Kohler, constructed erosion structures in the Deer Canyon subdivision. She reported that the District will submit a new proposal for funding for riparian restoration and construction of erosion structures.
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
 - Ojo Peak Restoration: The District Manager reported that tree felling will be completed and that the restoration work will continue in the spring.
 - Red Canyon Project: Brent Racher is working on the 1000 acre Zuni project which has to be finished sometime in late October. When the Zuni project is complete, Mr. Racher will continue with the Red Canyon Project. In the meantime, the workers on the project have been certified.

New Proposals:

- Government Service Fund – DFA
- NM State Forestry – Wildland Urban Interface
- 2010 Proposals to NM Water Trust Board: The District Manager stated that the District will be submitting a new proposal for this project.
- FY2011 Appropriations Request to U.S. Senators Bingaman and Udall

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee – Property:

Architect, Lee Gamelsky presented an update on the District's construction project. He also submitted the redesign of the schematics to separate one large building into three distinct buildings.

Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies

GSA Solicitation Package

Site Preparation work

Report from committee to work on building project

SWCD Mil Levy Authority:

The District Manager pointed out a letter from the Assistant Attorney General saying that the matter of whether a county government has the authority to enter into agreements which affect the taxing authority and that reduce income without the consent of the local public bodies has been reassigned to Justin Woolf for his review. The District Manager sent a text message to State Representative, Rhonda King to find out whether she had followed up with the Attorney General and has received no response. She also said that the District's Counsel will send another letter to Torrance County requesting a meeting on the Mil Levy issue.

District Computer System:

The District Manager reported that three quotes will be obtained. She also reported that gloves and overalls have been purchased for the District Field Technician.

NMACD Annual Conference:

The District Manager reminded the Board that the Annual Conference will be held October 26 – 28, 2010 and that the Taos SWCD had nominated the District for Outstanding District of the Year for which the District was selected. She encouraged Board members to attend the award ceremony on Wednesday evening, October 27.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selection of Voting Delegate to NMACD Annual Conference:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to select Richard Shovelin as the District's voting delegate to the NMACD Conference. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention.

Support and/ or Non-Support of Resolutions and Position Statements for the NMACD Conference:

Richard Shovelin, Voting Delegate, will cast votes in accordance with positions taken by the Board.

Purchase of Additional Property from Sy Sisneros – How to finance:

After discussion of the pros and cons of purchasing property that is contiguous with the District's construction site from Mr. Sisneros, the District Manager was asked to get information from Mr. Sisneros on the terms of a purchase agreement and on his asking price.

Consideration of a Mil Levy Referendum to include municipalities:

Discussion took place on the feasibility of a mil levy referendum to include municipalities and the possible benefits to communities in the District.

Resolution No. 03 – 11—NM Water Trust Board Proposal:

The District Manager stated that this resolution authorizes and approves submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Water Trust Board for the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin -- yea; Dan Williams -- yea; LeRoy Candelaria -- yea; William Caster – absent.

Resolution No. 04 – 11 – NM Water Trust Board Proposal:

The District Manager stated that this resolution authorizes and approves submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Water Trust Board for the Abó Arroyo Watershed Restoration Project Project. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – absent.

REPORTS:

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

William Caster reported that he will attend a meeting in the following week.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Richard Shovelin reported that finances, grant funding, and the RC&D's five-year plan were discussed at the meeting that he attended.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

No report.

National Association of Conservation Districts: (NASCA) Meeting:

No report.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING: Action Plan

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 5, 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

s/s
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.