



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February 2, 2007**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
William Caster, Vice-Chairman  
J. Brian Greene, Sec. – Treasurer  
Richard Shovelin  
LeRoy Candelaria

**Supervisors Absent:** Randy Simmons

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Louis King, District Conservationist  
Melissa Kayser, Administrative Assistant  
Russ Bennett, NMDA  
Pete Kopczuk  
Joan Bybee  
Linda Kayser, Torrance County Clerk  
Brent Racher  
Joseph Fluder, SWCA  
Leif Bang, SWCA

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, Mountainair, NM at 8:20 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**ABSENTEES:** The Absentee was excused.

**APPROVAL/AGENDA:**

- Brian moved to accept the agenda as presented. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Richard moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting as amended. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February. A copy is attached. She also presented the Accounts Payable, in the approximate amount of **\$3,233.09**. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to accept the report and pay all accounts payable. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

- Dee read a Fax from Chan Kim from the State of New Mexico Office of the State Auditor. Mr. Chan Kim has not set up a date yet for the Claunch-Pinto SWCD FY06 Audit. He will give us a two week notice, so we can get everything on Mr. Kim's list ready for him.

- Russ Bennett from NMDA asked the Chairman to sign an Acknowledgement concerning last years FY05 audit exceptions. This will be kept in NMDA's file.

**PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

**NMDA REPORT:**

- Russ Bennett, NMDA Field Specialist, reviewed his monthly report. Discussion followed.

**FO REPORT:**

- Louis King, District Conservationist, reviewed his monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Dee reviewed the District Manager's report with Board. Discussion followed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Correspondence was reviewed with the Board. See attached list.

**UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

Watershed Health Grant –

Brent reported to the Board the Steering Committee Meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Stan Bulsterbaum is still the Interim Coordinator.

The Steering Committee is working on the draft RFP for approval by Claunch-Pinto SWCD for a Project Coordinator. The Steering Committee is working on a process of paying the landowner 100% of the project cost and in turn the landowner will pay the District 15% of the cost of the project for technical fees. Dee has contacted a lawyer to work on legal paperwork for this process.

First Year Funding–

Second Year Funding –

Third Year Funding –

Fourth Year Funding – Brian Greene explained to the Board he understood from discussions he had had in Santa Fe that there is a permanent waiver for the FY2006 grants coming from the New Mexico Water Trust Board.

Dee read an excerpt from the minutes of the April, 2006 New Mexico Water Trust Board Meeting concerning the loan portion of the grants. She also

read a letter from Marquita Russel, Chief of Programs, New Mexico Finance Authority concerning the loan portion of the grant. If the District asked for a waiver it will only defer payments for one year. The District will still be responsible for paying the entire loan at the end of a ten year period.

Fifth Year Funding – Is going to the Legislature for approval for funding.

Special Funding –Dee reported to the Board Lawrence Crane, Jeremy Couger, and Susan Rich worked on revision to the Work Plan with State Forestry. A copy of the addendum is attached. The projects in DeBaca SWCD are running good despite the weather. The Abo Project is going along very well and should be completed by the end of April as planned. The projects in the Estancia Basin Watershed are progressing although some of the projects are experiencing difficult weather conditions.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation –

Melissa reported to the board she attended the CNMCWMA Steering Committee Meeting on January 16, 2007. Tom reported on his monthly report. The Committee worked on the NM EMNRD grant. Jim Berlier appointed Brenda Smythe, Kelly Archuleta and Tom Perkins to the grant subcommittee. They are to develop a draft copy and e-mail to all members to evaluate by January 31<sup>st</sup>. They also worked on a scope of work for the renewal of Tom Perkins contract as the weed coordinator.

State Forestry Noxious Weed Grant

State Forestry Grant – FY03 Funding

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project -

There was no report at this time.

New Grant Opportunities

Dee needs the Boards approval to continue on with the CFRP, Soil & Water Conservation Commission, and NFWF -5 Star Program Grants. Dee

will prepare proposals for these grants. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy moved to allow Dee to continue with the process of new grant opportunities. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Dee reported she had met with State Senator Campos and State Representative Rhonda King and the District's capital outlay request has been submitted. State Representative King wanted some more information on the building and Dee is working with the architect to get the information for Representative King. Richard Shovelin, LeRoy Candelaria and Dee met with staff from the Governor's office concerning the building project. They will work with the District's senators and representatives to try to secure funding for the project. Dee talked to Joanna Prukop, Cabinet Secretary of Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department about the building project. She liked the plans for our project and will keep in touch. Dee gave a packet to Susie Marbury from EMNRD. The Board was encouraged to attend the legislative session, meet with the representatives from our area, and discuss our capital outlay request for our building.
- Dee read a letter from Los Amigos de Valles Caldera concerning membership. The Board decided not to become members at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dee read a letter from the NM Association of Conservation Districts concerning recommendations from the Districts on names to be presented to the Governor's office to represent Region II on the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to appoint Brian Greene to the Soil & Water Conservation Commission. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Felipe appointed William Caster and Richard Shovelin to the Annual Work Plan Committee.

Felipe appointed Brian Greene, LeRoy Candelaria and Richard Shovelin to the Budget Committee.

Dee reported to the Board on the Participating Agreement with the Forest Service with Claunch-Pinto SWCD. The agreement will be a 5 year plan to remove salt cedar out of landowner's areas along or on the Forest Service land. The Forest Service has a six wheel vehicle to go and spray more acres than originally planned. The District's contractor planned to spray 10 acres but now will be able to spray up to 62 acres of salt cedar with the help of the Forest Service for the same amount of money. Dee explained the District will need to sign this participating agreement when it has been approved by the Forest Service. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to have Felipe sign the

Participating Agreement with the Forest Service after it has been approved. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leif Bang and Joseph Fluder from SWCA gave a presentation on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). They talked about creating a plan for the Claunch-Pinto area, public outreach and education. CWPPs make recommendations to address community protection. CWPPs may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure and other issues. Discussion followed.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to approve applying for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan grant for the Claunch-Pinto District. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **REPORTS:**

William reported that the Hub RC&D will be having their meeting next week.

Brian reported he went to the South Central RC&D meeting and not much is going on at this time.

Brian reported on the EBWPC meeting. They had a presentation at the last meeting concerning purifying the saltwater and transporting it through pipelines for the community and county. The Company is Great Basin Water Development Company, LLC out of Texas.

#### **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

#### **OTHER:**

Dee made copies of the NMACD Legislative Reports for the Board review. Dee will mail updated versions of the NMACD Legislative Reports as she receives them. This will help the Board keep up to date on how legislation supported by the state association is working through the legislative process.

Felipe's grandson Joey Lovato will be a page for Rep. Rhonda King sometime during the Legislative Session.

Felipe will try to have names for the vacant Supervisor position for the Board to consider at their next meeting.

Brian reported the NMACD has 3 bills in the Legislative process. 1) \$500,000.00 for District Operations 2) \$500,000.00 for continuing support for TSP Program 3) 10 million dollars for Salt cedar. Brian also reported the Cuba County and Lea County are suing the State for oil and gas taxes. A percentage goes to county and a percentage goes to SWCD.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

- The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday March 2, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair, New Mexico.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Pass Mil Levy Resolution
- Vacant Supervisor Position

**ADJOURN:**

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Richard seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**J. BRIAN GREENE, SEC.-TREAS**