



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February 1, 2008**

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
William Caster, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Shovelin  
LeRoy Candelaria

**Supervisors Absent:** Randy Simmons  
J. Brian Greene, Sec. – Treasurer  
William “Bill” Hignight

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Louis King, District Conservationist  
Melissa Kayser, Administrative Assistant  
Vernon Kohler, Field Technician  
Art Swenka, East Torrance SWCD  
Linda Kayser, Torrance County Clerk  
Ednen Hindi  
Amy LeGere

**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 10:16 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting. There was no Quorum present. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to start the meeting as a Committee. William seconded the motion. Motion carried. LeRoy Candelaria arrived at 10:38 a.m. The Chairman announced a quorum at 10:38 a.m. there had been no business transacted prior to a quorum being present.

**ABSENTEES:** The Absentees were excused.

**APPROVAL/AGENDA:**

- Richard moved to accept the agenda with one change 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- William moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting with changes as follows. Page 1 – change absentee to absentees. Page 2 – change Lewis to Louis. Page 4 – change to - two. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December. A copy is attached. She also presented the Accounts Payable, in the approximate amount of **\$4,579.83**. A copy is attached. The Treasurers Report was corrected. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to accept the report and pay all accounts payable. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. A copy is attached. She also presented the Accounts Payable, in the approximate amount of **\$4,129.43**. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to accept the report and pay all accounts payable. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

**NMDA REPORT:**

- Dee read an E-mail from Russ Bennett, NMDA Field Specialist to the board. Russ will be moving back to his home town. Dee reported that Jim Wanstall or Roy Todd will be the Field Specialist for Claunch-Pinto until a replacement can be hired. Richard suggested to the Board that a letter be sent to Russ expressing the District's appreciation of his work and support of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**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 the Board. Discussion followed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Correspondence was reviewed with the Board. See attached list. Dee reviewed the following special correspondence with the board:

Letter from Hagerman/Dexter SWCD concerning the two resolutions passed in October, 2007 at the NMACD Annual conference.

Letter Sent to Eddie Vigil, NMACD President from Claunch-Pinto SWCD concerning the resolutions passed in October, 2007

Letter sent to William C. Sisneros at NM Finance Authority concerning the District's loan to complete the purchase of the property from Sy Sisneros.

Agenda from NM Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting

E-mail from Merry Jo Fahl, Sierra SWCD concerning a letter sent to

Senator Lopez from Ciudad SWCD showing support in allowing voluntary Agricultural Districts to be established in NM

E-mail from Mary Lou Ballard – Legislative report and Senate bills

## **UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

### **Watershed Health Grant –**

Dee reported on the Advisory meeting held on January 28, 2008. The Committee approved the Roles and Rules for the Steering Committee after review by the Soil and Water Conservation District Boards. The Steering Committee would like to work with State Forestry to complete the project check outs. Brent Racher will contact State Forestry on this. The Steering Committee is working with NM Forest and Watershed Health Institute to be the Project Coordinator for this project. February 25, 2008 will be the next Advisory meeting. Dee reported there have been some problems with the 1099s the District has issued. The District has received several phone call from cooperators asking why they are receiving 1099s Dee will follow up on the questions the District has received and make sure we are suppose to be issuing 1099s.

### **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation & State Forestry Noxious Weed Grant**

Dee is working on the final reports for both of these grants.

### **State Forestry Community Wildfire Protection Planning Grant –**

There was a CWPP core team meeting on January 22, 2008. The Core Team reviewed a lot of information and made several decisions concerning the CWPPs.

### **Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project –**

Dee reported Jose Varela Lopez is working on conservation plans for Santa Fe Pojoaque project.

Santa Domingo Project is finished. Dee will speak with Gabe and set up a tour for the project they have completed. They have all their money spent. Los Lunas has finished their project also.

## **New Grant Opportunities**

Dee reported there should be a Bureau of Reclamation RFP being advertised. She would like to send in a proposal for the Abo Watershed. Dee has visited with Melissa Savage, Four Corners Institute about the CFRP Grant proposal to develop a restoration plan for the Ojo Peak Fire. There will be a meeting of the project collaborators on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Mountainair Ranger District Office.

Vern has been working with landowners whose property have been effected by the fire. The restoration work will be completed in phases. We will be contracting with these landowners to cut the dead trees in the first phase of restoration.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Dee reported she and Richard Shovelin attended the NM Finance Authority Finance Committee meeting on January 17, 2008. The District's loan was presented to this Committee and approved. She explained there was a copy of a timeline in the Board packets for getting the resolution and loan package completed. She also reported she and Richard had been at the opening day of the Legislature. Senator Campos and Representative King signed the Capital Outlay Requests and the requests were turned into the Legislative Council Services with copies going to both Senator Campos and Representative King's offices. William Caster explained he had been in Santa Fe on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. He explained there had been some concern expressed about the 2007 capital outlay funding being spent on entirely on planning and design of the building. There had also been a question as to if the District was located in the Senator's legislative district. Discussion followed. Dee explained a full set of architectural designs for a LEED certified building will probably cost more than some designs. It was also the consensus of the Board, the majority of the District is in Senator Campos' legislative district. William will follow up with the Senator's staff with the information as discussed during the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Felipe stated that the District needs a second cell phone for the District staff. This will keep the District Manager in contact with the District office when she is traveling and give the field staff a way to communicate when they are in the field. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to purchase a second cell phone for the Claunch-Pinto SWCD District. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Vern presented more information and prices for a laptop computer for the District. The cost would be from \$2,300.00 - \$3,000.00 and this computer should not need to be updated for about three years. All of the software is compatible with the software on the computers in the office now. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to purchase a laptop computer with 3 quotes and with the purchase not to exceed \$3,000.00. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee stated to the Board that they needed to appoint an Election Superintendent. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to appoint Dee Tarr as the Election Superintendent. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried. For the month of March Election timeline 1) Election Superintendent takes Oath of Office 2) Publish 1<sup>st</sup> legal notice of election 3) Canvassing board appointed 4) Declarations of Candidacy delivered by candidate to designated location 5) Declarations of candidacy for write-in candidates delivered by candidate to designated location.

**REPORTS:**

- William reported that he attended the National RC&D Annual meeting in Las Cruces. There were RC&Ds represented from the entire Southwest. Next year's meeting will be held in South Dakota. They had a presentation on the salt cedar trees growing around the Elephant Butte Lake. Aerial photos of the lake showed the extent of the salt cedar invasion.
- The South Central Mtn. RC&D meeting was cancelled.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

- Ednen Hindi and Amy LeGere from High Lonesome Wind Ranch gave a presentation on the development of the wind energy generation facility, 9 miles south of Willard in Torrance County. High Lonesome Wind Ranch will utilize 40 2.5 megawatt turbines to generate 100 megawatts of clean energy. Construction is planned to begin in the spring of 2008 with electricity generation to commence in December 2008. The Project will generate electricity for 30 years. The project will help drive the local construction and services economy during 2008. Construction will require 200 temporary jobs, and 10 permanent jobs for plant management, operations and maintenance. Wind energy is clean energy. It produces no emissions and does not consume water for energy generation. Dee informed the board that Claunch-Pinto will not receive any mil levy from this project.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Richard and Dee attended the NM Finance Authority Finance Board meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Dee and Vern attended the Estancia Basin Watershed Health, Restoration and Monitoring Steering Committee meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Dee attended the CFRP work shop on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Dee attended the NMSU Technical Advisory Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Dee attended the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

- The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday March 7, 2008 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:**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:**  
LeRoy moved to adjourn at 1:31 p.m. Richard seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

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

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