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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2009**

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

Supervisors Absent:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Branch, Range Management Specialist
Art Swenka, East Torrance SWCD
Joan Bybee

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, Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m. Felipe welcomed the guests and thanked each of them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

ABSENTEES:

APPROVAL/AGENDA:

- Felipe explained to the Board Kenneth Branch asked to move the NRCS Field Office report from reports to after the approval of the minutes. Richard moved to accept the agenda as amended. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The minutes were amended in the discussion of payments in lieu of taxes under Unfinished Business to read: Richard moved to table the discussion of payments in lieu of taxes that affect the mil levy since Dee has not been able to meet with the County Manager. Richard moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting as amended. Jerry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FO REPORT:

- Kenneth Branch, Range Management Specialist reviewed the District Conservationist's monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of January, 2009. A copy is attached. She also presented the Accounts Payable, in the approximate amount of **\$7,196.89**. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- Dee reported the interest rate on the NM State Treasurer's Investment Fund was .7725% of 1%. The District's investment account had an estimated loss of \$76.00. The State Treasurer has started taking out \$7.60 a month to cover this loss.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

NMDA REPORT:

- Dee reviewed the NMDA Field Specialist 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 a letter from Mary Frederick, Deputy Director of Member of Services, PERA concerning the tax deferral for PERA member contributions
- Dee read a letter from the Torrance County Treasurer concerning their accounting.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant – Dee reported the CORE Steering Committee discussed changes to the practice plan used for all of the project. She is in the process of making all of the changes so they can be approved at the next CORE Steering Committee meeting. The 2009 Water Trust Board proposal is on the legislative list for approval during the session. To be in a better position to be funded for 2009 the District should try to draw down all of the 2006 grant funding; draw down on the 2007 and 2008 funding; make all of the payments on the loan portion of the grants. This should be done prior to April 1, 2009. The District is one of few entities who have not gone before the Water Trust Board to ask for their loan payments to be forgiven. Joe Zebrowski from the NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute is the new project coordinator with the resignation of Ken Smith, Director of the Institute. The first monitoring report has been completed and will be on the Institute's website.

We will be working out at Gilbert Torres on February 7, 2009.

The staff is in the process of making some changes on the chipper lease.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project - Los Carrizales Project in the Santa Fe – Pojoaque SWCD is about 70% completed. This project should be completed within the next month. There is already standing water in the project area. The other districts are mapping project areas and completing conservation plans for these projects.

EWP Program – Dee will be meeting with the Manzano Land Grant on Sunday, February 8, 2009. She will talk to the officers of the Manzano Domestic Water Consumers Association concerning the project in the arroyo adjacent to the community wells. The Association wants to contract with the District on this project. She will be preparing a contract in the next couple of weeks. There is a \$84,000 short fall in the EWP Program. Dee visited with Don Ashby before coming to the meeting. Don has been assured by the NRCS State Office the funding will be available to complete the payments due on the Trigo Fire EWP. Dee is working with Ken Leiting to compile all of the pictures from the Trigo Fire and the EWP project for a report showing all of the work accomplished during the EWP project.

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Projects – Dee has worked with NMEMNRD to keep the balance of \$75,000 in this grant. The NMEMNRD returned \$550,000 to DFA to help balance the budget. Representative King had asked Dee to call NMEMNRD to ask why this money was being returned. This money was from previous projects through NMEMNRD that had not been used.

NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative – Dee reported the District still does not have a contract for this grant. There are questions from the Finance

Committee through the Department of Finance that have not been answered to their satisfaction.

Ojo Peak CFRP - Dee reported on the presentation made at the CFRP Workshop by the monitoring team composed of young people from the Manzano area. They did a very good job with their presentation. The next day this group served as pages at the NM Legislature for Representative King. The District will be submitting the CFRP proposal for the Ojo Peak Restoration Project.

Central NM Cooperative Weed Management Area – Jerry Melaragno is the new Chairman of this committee representing Claunch-Pinto SWCD. Dee reviewed a letter from NM State Land Office authorizing Tom Perkins to be the Weed Coordinator during his working hours with the State Land Office. Dee also reviewed an email from the Edgewood SWCD explaining their Board was not in favor of hiring a weed coordinator at this time. Also, the Weed Committee does not have funding at this time for a coordinator. Discussion followed.

New Grant Opportunities

Ojo Peak CRFP Restoration Project

Red Canyon CFRP Project – The district will be submitting a proposal for the Manzano Land Grant for this project.

NM Association of Counties – Wildfire Education Grant

NM State Forestry – Funding for Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Future Directions Committee - The architect has received the topographic survey and has been out on the property to decide where the building should set. We have both of our capital outlay requests in for the building. The Hub RC&D approved our project through their board. Maureen Murphy from Hub RC&D met with Dee to look at the property and review the plans for the building. She will also be looking for funding for the project. The District will be able to use the Hub RC&D non-profit status if needed. Dee has a meeting in late February, 2009 with the Executive Director of the McCune Foundation to discuss possible funding for the building.

- Dee has asked Roy Todd and Marsha Wright to review the personnel policy changes for the District.

- The Staff is still working on the District Policy and Procedures Handbook

- Dee has not met with the Torrance County Manager to discuss the county's policy of payments in lieu of taxes. She will get a meeting set up during the month of February.

- The Board discussed potential candidates for the appointed supervisor position. Felipe asked Dee to talk to Brent Racher about a couple of possibilities in the Corona area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dee asked the Board about renting a safe deposit box. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to purchase a fire proof locking file cabinet from the State Surplus in Santa Fe. The purchase is not to exceed \$400.00. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- The District had a request from Joan Bybee to help fund a Riparian Workshop on the Mestano Draw Ranch in partnership with Joan and the Quivira Coalition. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to provide \$1,500 for this workshop. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried. The District's name will be on all correspondence and advertising about the workshop.

- Dee reviewed Resolution No. 06-09 – Grants Account with the Board. This resolution was to open a new checking account to use for all of the grants the District receives. Discussion followed. Richard moved to table the resolution until the next board meeting. LeRoy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dee needs to contact the State Auditor's office to see if this procedure will work for the grant revenue and expenditures.

REPORTS:

- Hub RC&D –William reported the Hub RC&D Council had approved the use of the non-profit entity for the building project for Claunch-Pinto SWCD and the Radio Station project sponsored by all three soil and water conservation districts in Torrance County.

- South Mtn. RC&D – Brian reported on his trip to Spearfish, South Dakota to the Regional RC&D. He explained the South Central Mtn. RC&D has funding for a portable pellet operation. Discussion followed. Brian Greene, Richard Shovelin and Art Swenka will serve as a sub-committee to get more information on this project.

- EBWPC – There had not been a quorum at the January, 2009 EBWPC.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

- The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday March 6, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Mountainair, New Mexico.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Supervisor Training
Appointment of a Budget Committee

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William moved to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Brian seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/
J. BRIAN GREENE, SEC.-TREA