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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
April 3, 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
Roy Todd, NM Department of Agriculture Field Specialist
Karen Smith, Administrative Assistant
Vernon Kohler, Field Technician
Frank Luna, Associate Supervisor

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, Corner of Sunset and Third, 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:

- Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as presented. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of March, 2009. A copy is attached. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Dee reviewed the 3rd quarter report with the Board. Brian Greene asked how the District's mil levy was affected when landowners did not pay their taxes. Dee explained the District would collect the mil levy on past due taxes at the time the landowner pays their taxes. Dee explained we are expecting the chipper income to increase over the next couple of months. The District has had three chippers on the ground.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Directions Committee

Report on Building Plans – Lee Gamelsky, the District's architect met with the Regional Contracting Officer for the National Park Service, Glenn Fulfer, Park Superintendent, Richard Shovelin and Dee Tarr to review the draft building plans. The architect is still working on suggestions for the building. There should be a Request for Information advertisement through Energy, Mineral and National Resources in the next few weeks. Glenn Fulfer from the National Park Service arrived at the meeting at 8:35 a.m. He explained to the Board he needed to get back to his office as soon as possible. The National Park Service square footage as laid out in the design is within the square footage requested by the National Park Service. Glenn told the Board he thought the design would work for the Park Service. The Park Service needs to contact General Service Administration (GSA) and he is sure there will be some small changes to meet the GSA leasing requirements. The lease with the Park Service will be through the General Service Administration. Glenn is not looking at any huge change in the design as presented. He just wants to make sure the floor design is workable for the Park Service. Glenn reminded the Board he will be just a tenant, but he is just concerned about the functionality of the space he will be using. Glenn explained the Park Service is on board at this time and just wants to work out some minor details of the space design. Dee asked the Board if the District would like to put a sign on the property saying "Future Home of the National Resource Conservation Center". Richard Shovelin explained some of the changes in the floor design that he and Glenn had discussed. LeRoy Candelaria, Felipe Lovato, William Caster and Frank Luna requested the employees who will be working in the new building

to design their ideas on the office floor plan for the District. The key to the partnership between the National Park Service and the District is good communication. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to purchase a sign for the property. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Dee reviewed a three year comparison of income and expenses with the board. She had completed this for the budget committee's use when working on the FY2010 budget. Discussion followed.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

NMDA REPORT:

- Roy Todd, NMDA Field Specialist, reviewed the NMDA Field Specialist monthly report with the Board. Discussion followed.

FO REPORT:

- Dee reviewed Louis King's, District Conservationist NRCS 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 had received information from the Taos SWCD asking if May 1st or May 15th would be best for a Region II meeting. Dee had responded that May 1st is our regular District meeting. She has not heard which date has been selected for the Region II meeting.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant – The CORE Steering Committee is working on getting all of the projects and contracts tied to the FY2006 Water Trust Board funding completed; the reimbursements drawn down; and the FY2006 grant closed. We made the yearly loans on the FY2006, 2007 and 2008. The Committee is planning a training for the field technicians within the next couple of months. The Edgewood SWCD reported they are receiving less applications for thinning, but more applications for water catchment projects. They have asked if the funding

we are receiving now would cover water catchment projects. Dee is not sure this type of project will be covered under the grants as the proposals have been written. Dee complimented Art Swenka on his work with the East Torrance SWCD thinning projects. Art has been working with the Forest Contract Inspector and the landowners on the thinning projects contracted under the Water Trust Board Grant. Art and the Forest Contract Inspector have been meeting with landowners on Saturdays to try to complete the projects within the East Torrance SWCD prior to the deadline. Dee also thanked Vern Kohler for all of his efforts during the past couple of months. He has been keeping three chippers tuned up and ready to move to the next landowner. In some cases Vern has had to deliver and pickup the chipper when they have been leased. He has also been taking the landowners and the chipper into Estancia to fill the chipper with diesel. We met all of the NM Finance Authority criteria except completely drawing down the 2006 funding, so we will look better to receive our 2009 funding. SWCA Environmental Consultants have started the spring monitoring. All the property owners will be receiving monitoring reports and a letter thanking them for their support. The letter will also introduce all of the field staff from SWCA who will be doing the monitoring during this monitoring season.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project - The Districts are mapping and developing conservation plans for projects in each area. The Upper Rio Grande asked for \$3.7M for riparian restoration projects through NM State Forestry using stimulus funding.

EWP Program – The District received the \$84,000 funding and have paid all of the invoices to complete the Trigo Fire EWP. We will be contracting with Ken Leiting to organize all of the pictures taken during the fire and the EWP implementation.

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Projects – We have a balance of \$75,000 on this grant. The remaining funding is to be used to analyze the energy efficiency of heating and cooling system we place in the new building.

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 NM Department of Finance that have not been answered to the Finance Committee's satisfaction.

Ojo Peak CFRP - Dee reported the District's portion of this grant includes pre - monitoring on the Ojo Peak Fire Area and the District's portion will be completed.

Central NM Cooperative Weed Management Area – No report

New Grant Opportunities

Ojo Peak CRFP Restoration Project – Submitted to Regional Forest Service for the CFRP Program. Red Canyon CFRP Project – Submitted to Regional Forest Service for the CFRP Program. Both of these proposals will be reviewed by the CFRP Technical Committee during the week of April 26 through May 1st. We will know on May 1st if these proposals will be funded.

NM State Forestry – Funding for Hazardous Fuels Reduction funding. There will be two proposal prepared for this request for proposals. These proposals are due on March 31, 2009.

Bureau of Reclamation – Sponsored a training on March 31, 2009 on how to complete their grant proposal. The RFP has not been advertised to date. The District will be preparing a proposal for the Abo Arroyo Project Area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Board discussed possible candidates for the appointed supervisor position on the Board. The possible candidates are from the Corona and Claunch areas. Felipe will be contacting several of these candidates.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dee asked the Board to pay for the tuition and books for a Quickbooks Course for Alice Hennessy and Dee Tarr. The course will be through Central New Mexico College. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to pay the tuition and book fees for Alice Hennessy and Dee Tarr for the Quickbooks course. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dee reminded the Board Art Swenka had asked the District to partner with the East Torrance and Edgewood SWCD on a water catchment system for the Torreon Fire Department. The total cost of the system will be approximately \$30,000.00. The District portion of the cost would be approximately \$10,000.00. The Torreon Fire Department is responsible for responding to fires in the southern and western portion of Torrance County. The Edgewood SWCD had discussed this at their meeting on April 2, 2009. The Edgewood SWCD Board asked the Fire Department to solicit 3 bids for the project. The Fire Department would then take the lowest bid for the project and the Edgewood SWCD would pay for 1/3 of the project. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to support the project and pay for 1/3 of the cost. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

- Hub RC&D – William Caster reported Hub RC&D meet at the Sky City Casino on Wednesday April 1st. They had a report from the Governor of the Pueblo

on the financial condition of the pueblos with their casinos. George Duda also spoke about trees and tree health.

- South Central Mtn. RC&D – The South Central Mtn RC&D met last week. They have a new chairman who wants the RC&D to get into the biofuel and renewable energy fields. Marcus Johnson wants to build a portable pellet operation, so he can take the whole operation out to the field. The South Central Mtn RC&D has a interim coordinator because their coordinator retired the first of the year. Brian reported if an entity has a viable proposal they can take the proposal to any RC&D in the State not just the RC&D in their area.
- EBWPC – They did not meet in March, 2009.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Brian had a list of stimulus funding coming to New Mexico. He wants Dee to review the list to see which funding the District can apply for to help with the construction of their building.

Brian also talked some about the SARE Grants. He had applied for one several years ago, but did not get funded. He is looking for the paperwork on this grant.

Dee attended a follow up to the New Mexico Watershed Forum held in September, 2009. They are wanting to form a New Mexico Watershed Association.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

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

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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