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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING December 5, 2008

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

Supervisors Absent: LeRoy Candelaria
William "Bill" Hignight

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Vernon Kohler, Field Technician
Liz Cicola, Bookkeeper
Karen Smith, Administrative Assistant
Louis King, District Conservationist
Roy Todd, NMDA Field Specialist
Art Swenka, East Torrance SWCD
Pat Lincoln, Torrance County Projects Office

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 at 8:15 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:

- William Caster moved to approve the agenda as presented. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The Board reviewed the minutes of the November, 2008 meeting. The following additions and corrections were made to the minutes: Personnel Matters: Sentence was changed to read "The new job responsibilities and work hours were reviewed with the Board." NMED – New Mexico Clean Energy Projects: Sentence was changed to read "The District received an extension on Task 1 and Task 2. New Business: voice vote was changed to roll call vote. William moved to approve the minutes with the additions and corrections. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

- Dee presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2008. A copy is attached. The Board discussed additional information for the Treasurer's Report. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to accept the report as amended and pay the accounts payable. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- Dee reported the auditor will be back in the office next week to continue his audit.

NMDA REPORT:

- Roy Todd reviewed the NMDA Field Specialist's monthly report with the Board. Roy explained to the Board they are covered through risk management through NMDA through NM State University. For specific coverage questions, he asked the Board to submit questions to Dee no later than December 31, 2008. NMDA is planning to have a risk management information training in the latter part of January, 2009. Discussion followed.

FO REPORT:

- Louis King, District Conservationist, reviewed his monthly report with the Board. Louis reported NM Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) is waiting for the Estancia Field Office to complete the hiring of their Farm Bill Specialist before proceeding with the Farm Bill Specialist position for Mountainair. Art Swenka reported East Torrance SWCD has hired the Farm Bill Specialist for the Estancia Field Office although the funding for the position is only allocated through July, 2009. NMDA has added the funding for the Farm Bill Specialist to their budget through NM State University. NMDA would like the funding to be reoccurring. Discussion followed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Dee reviewed the District Manager's report with the Board. Dee reminded the Board she had given them information on Conservation Land Trust. She had asked for feed back on the information and has received none to date. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Correspondence was reviewed with the Board including:

Stop New Million – Acre Federal Land Grab
Environmentalists want new wolf recovery plan
Settlement Reached in Lawsuit Over Lynx
Information on Regional Forums – Using the Comprehensive Wildlife
Conservation Strategy for New Mexico
Draft Legislative Bill for Property Tax Yield Control drafted by NM Association
of Counties

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

- Dee reminded the Board the Farm Bill Specialists receive vacation and sick leave as temporary full-time positions. Dee explained to the Board she should have added vacation and sick leave to Vern's position in December, 2007 when she moved his position to temporary full-time. Discussion followed. The Board agreed with the vacation and sick leave and took no action.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

Watershed Health Grant –

Copies of the approved minutes from the October 20, 2008 CORE Steering Committee meeting was included in the Board packets. There was also a copy of the September and October monitoring report from SWCA. Included in the report is a map showing all of the monitoring sites and the South Mountain weather station. Dee has all of the contracts between the District and NM Finance Authority for the 2008 funding. The 2008 funding contracts will close on December 19, 2008. Brian Greene and Nancy Roux have been working on the Gilbert Torres project. Dee is hoping to have several volunteers out tomorrow for the work day. A local landowner will be paying for the chipper for the work day as part of a community project. The Board would like the staff to draft a policy for the use of the chipper to include using the chipper for community projects.

Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project

Dee had included a report of the Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project during her District Manager's report.

EWP Program

The District staff has a tentative meeting set for December 11, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. with the staff from NM Environment Dept. Drinking Water Division. Dee asked for a couple of Board members to attend this meeting. Richard and William will try to attend this meeting.

NMEMNRD – New Mexico Clean Energy Project

Dee passed out the energy analysis report prepared for this grant for the Board's review. She asked the board for their comments. This is the deliverables for Task A, B & C.

NMED RERI Grant – Abo Arroyo

This report was given under the District Manager's report.

OJO Peak CFRP

Dee reported the young people who have been working on the CFRP monitoring and the seed collections have been asked to give a presentation at the CFRP Annual Workshop in Santa Fe in January, 2009. This is a compliment to the work these young people have been doing for the District.

New Grant Opportunities

There are some grant opportunities through the Bureau of Reclamation Dee will be reviewing for future funding opportunities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The Topographic Survey has not been completed as per the contract. The architect is continuing to work on the design for the building.
- Dee and Bill Hignight are working on the personnel handbook.
- Dee asked if the Board had reviewed the NM Land Conservancy Guide. She would like comments on the guide. This is the second request for comments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dee reported to the Board they have the District Policy and Procedures Handbook first draft completed. She needs to review the draft and then it will come to the Board for their review.
- Pat Lincoln from the Torrance County Projects Office gave a presentation on Radio Station KXNM 88.7. She is preparing a grant application to the Department of

Commerce. They are also submitting a Capital Outlay Request to Representative King and Senator Campos. She asked the Board for a letter of support and to consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the radio station. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to write a letter of support for the radio station. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Board will review the memorandum of understanding at the January Board meeting.

- Felipe explained the next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 2, 2009. He asked the Board to move this meeting. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to change the next Board meeting to January 9, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- The Board had a request to help sponsor the NM Envirothon. Discussion followed. The Board will review their mid year budget and will make a decision concerning sponsoring the NM Envirothon at the next Board meeting. Richard suggest the District should consider pulling a team together for this next year.

- Dee reviewed Resolution No. 05-09 – PERA. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard moved to pass Resolution No. 05-09. William seconded the motion. Motion passed with a roll call vote.

- The Board discussed the County's decision to take payments in lieu of taxes for some projects coming into the area. Dee explained the District loses mil levy when the County makes these decisions. An example would be the wind farm. The District lost approximately \$375.00 in mil levy on this project. Another area to review is the payments from the US Forest Service to the Counties in lieu of taxes. This funding is for schools, roads and watersheds. The Districts need to be more involved in the decisions on how this funding is allocated. There should be some of the funding going to conservation work in the watersheds especially after the recent fires in the Manzanos. Dee will meet with the Torrance County Manager to discuss these concerns.

- Dee requested the Board to allow the staff to close the office ½ day on Christmas Eve, December 24th, all day on December 26th, ½ day on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2008 and all day on January 2nd. Discussion followed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to close the office on the suggested dates. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

NMACD Annual Meeting – The Annual Audit for NMACD is included in the Board packets for their review.

Hub RC&D – William reported he will be attending a meeting on December 10, 2008.

South Central Mtn RC&D – No report

**December 5, 2008
Claunch-Pinto SWCD
Regular Meeting**

EBWPC – Brian reported the Committee is continuing to work on the final draft of the Estancia Basin Regional Water Plan Update. The public meetings held during the review period were very poorly attended.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

- The next Regular Meeting will be held Friday January 9, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of 3rd Street and Sunset in Mountainair, NM.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian moved to adjourn at 11:50 a.m. William seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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