



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
March 04, 2011**

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Darren Richardson, Area Conservationist, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Louis King, District Conservationist, NRCS  
Kenneth Lujan, Soil Conservationist, NRCS  
Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture  
(NMDA)  
Katie Mechenbier, Field Specialist, NMDA  
Katheryn Taylor, District Volunteer

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, at the Mountainair United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street in Mountainair, NM at 8:07 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

**Welcome Guests:**

**ABSENTEES:**

#### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda as amended – page 1: **Add item 1a: Approval/ Disapproval of Minutes – Regular Meeting:** Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

#### **APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Page 5, change “Wildlife Urban Interface” to “Wildland Urban Interface.” William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February, 2011 with the accounts payable for February, 2010. Discussion followed regarding two entries for invoice 1330. The District Manager explained that some legal expenses on the same invoice were charged to the Water Trust Board and some expenses were charged to the District's general fund. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

#### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The District Manager reported that the District auditor is working on the 2010 audit.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Report:**

Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) reported on progress of bills being considered by the legislature. He noted that the draft minutes of the New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission (NMSWCC) meeting of December 14, 2010 were attached.

(The written report is attached.)

##### **NRCS Field Office Report:**

Louis King, District Conservationist presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He reported that EQIP funds in the amount of \$250,000 had been allocated, allowing for eight new contracts to be awarded. Discussion followed on the possible effects of federal budget considerations on local contracts. Funded contracts should not be affected, but new programs may be targeted, and programs may be rolled back to 2008 funding levels. Darren Richardson commented on possible funding and potential funding cuts to the local area. He mentioned that the District was to be commended on feedback that the District Manager and Supervisor Melaragno had provided at the NRCS Partnership meeting. He also commented on his experience in Afghanistan with local committees that worked similarly to New Mexico's soil and water conservation districts and on the effects of unchecked erosion over centuries that he observed there.

(The written report is attached.)

**District Manager's Report:**

The District Manager highlighted the meetings that she had attended.  
(The written report is attached.)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager pointed out

- emails regarding RFPs issued by NM Department of Agriculture;
- letters from Interim Director/Secretary Tom Bagwell and New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) President Eddie Vigil;
- emails publishing names submitted by the NMACD to Governor Martinez for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission;
- an email from Debbie Hughes, NMACD Executive Director, on the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the Legislature scheduled for March 9, 2011;
- information on various legislation that impacts SWCDs sent by Larry Winn, Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission;
- a request for proposals for the technical service provider program issued by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture that has been withdrawn;
- the eNotes distributed by the National Association of Conservation Districts;
- the "Noticias de las Acequias."

**PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

The District Manager commended Vern Kohler and Gabe Ramirez for finding and fixing an electrical problem with one of the chippers thereby saving the District a substantial amount of money in repairs. Chairman Lovato asked that the Board's appreciation be extended to both Vern and Gabe.

**UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

The District Manager reported on grants listed below, meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies for 2011.

- **EBWHRM Project– Water Trust Board –**  
The District Manager reported that 2008 funds have been completely drawn down and that 2009 funds must be drawn down by April 1, 2011. She said that the money has to be completely spent before a presentation can be given to the Water Trust Board for 2011 funding. Funds unspent by East Torrance SWCD must also be spent. The District Manager, along with District Field Technician Vern Kohler, Edgewood SWCD Manager Brenda Smythe, and Edgewood Field Technician, Kelly Smith have been working very hard with landowners to insure that projects are completed and inspected by March 31, 2011.

Thinning on Monitoring Sites – CPSWCD

- New Mexico State Forestry Grants
    - Non Federal Land (NFL) Proposal
 

The Core Steering Committee has agreed to release frozen East Torrance SWCD funds of about \$8,000 associated with salaries and benefits. The District Manager explained that new NFL funding of \$261,000 may be spent in the southern part of the District. Discussion took place on negligent use of District chippers and a need to tighten up rental contract language to clarify responsibilities of contractors and landowners for the equipment.
    - Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Proposal
  - Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project – A conference call took place to discuss how to budget the funding.
  - New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
 

Gabe Ramirez worked with SWCA staff on the erosion control project in the Deer Canyon development. Supervisor Melaragno assisted on this project.
  - Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area (CNMCWMA):
 

The Edgewood District is working on a plan to disburse funding.
  - Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
    - Ojo Peak Restoration –
 

This project will begin next month.
    - Red Canyon Project –
 

Brent Racher has brought in equipment to start work on thinning with the crew from the monitoring sites. Crew members will be trained one at a time to operate the equipment.
- New Proposals:** no report
- Government Service Fund – DFA
  - NM State Forestry – Wildland Urban Interface
  - 2010 Proposals to NM Water Trust Board:
  - FY2011 Appropriations Request to U.S. Senators Bingaman and Udall

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

### Future Directions Committee – Property, Loan, Grant, Capital Outlay Monies

#### Capital Outlay Funds:

The District Building Committee (Supervisors Melaragno, Shovelin, and Williams) met with the District Architect, Lee Gamelsky, to revise the proposal for lease space on the property.

#### GSA Solicitation Package:

The District Manager reported that she had revised the proposal and submitted it on time to Malik Harris of Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. She and Supervisor Shovelin met with Senator Campos on February 14 to get his signature on the capital outlay request. Senator Campos offered to write a

letter of support for the lease proposal. The District Manager thanked the Building Committee members for their help with the proposal.

**Site Preparation Work:** The site preparation work is continuing on the property. Mr. Padilla has been told to have the work completed by March 15, 2011.

**SWCD Mil Levy Authority:**

The District Manager discussed the status of bills that would require participation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts when counties are negotiating industrial revenue bonds.

**Kids, Kows and More:**

Fourth graders from Corona and Mountainair will participate in the event in Moriarty at the Civic Center on April 28, 2011.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. 06-11 – Open Meetings Resolution:**

The District Manager worked with Roy Todd to revise Section 4 of the District Open Meetings policy on emergency meetings to make it congruent with State regulations.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin, yea; LeRoy Candelaria, yea; Brian Greene, yea; Jerry Melaragno, yea, William Caster, yea.

**Letter to NMDA Interim Director Tom Bagwell:**

The Board reviewed and amended the letter drafted by the District Manager to Tom Bagwell. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved approval to send the letter with a copy to Governor Martinez. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay.

**REPORTS:**

**Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):**

William Caster reported on the meeting held Wednesday during which the attendees discussed the effects of potential budget cuts. Funds for coordinators are expected to be cut. Discussion followed on how the cuts to staff would affect the RC&D.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Brian Greene reported that he had participated in a telephone conference the previous week and that the main topic was funding and coordinator positions. The next meeting will take place on March 31. He pointed out the report for February 2011 that is included in the Board packet.

**Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):**

Brian Greene reported that the Committee reviewed the proposals for the monitoring grants and that Hydro Solutions was selected.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

Richard Shovelin reported that he had attended the Edgewood SWCD meeting and that the District employees would take a vote on whether to contribute to both Social Security and PERA.

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Mil Levy Resolution

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, April 1, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mountainair United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Sunset and Third Street, Mountainair, New Mexico.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/  
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

/s/  
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.