



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FINAL
July 8, 2011**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr. – Chairman
LeRoy Candelaria
William Caster
Jerry Melaragno
Richard Shovelin
Dan Williams

Absentees: J. Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
Tom Perkins, New Mexico SLO
Santiago Misquez, NRCS
Cheri Lujan, landowner

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 8:05 a.m. Chairman Lovato welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Welcome Guests:

ABSENTEES: J. Brian Greene

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 20, 2011 as written. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2011 as written. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 17, 2011 as written. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of June, 2011 with the accounts payable for June, 2011. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin 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:

Letter from SWCC – Approval of Mil Levy Rate

The District Manager called attention to the letter in the board packet from Larry Winn, Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission informing the District that the Commission approved the mil levy rate of one dollar per thousand dollars of net taxable value. The Commission's resolution is attached. The mil levy remains in effect until the District pays off its loans, but it needs to be reapproved every year.

Letter from State Auditor – Release of Audit

A letter from Hector H. Balderas, New Mexico State Auditor, releasing the District's audit is also attached.

2010 Audit

The 2010 audit had no exceptions. The District Manager and the District Bookkeeper will be making some changes in how the payroll is posted to correspond to the auditor's recommendations. The audit will be posted on the District web site. The District has a contract with auditor Dan Austin for the 2011 audit, which should be completed in December.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)

The District Manager pointed out several items on the written report.

- The fiscal year 2011--2012 began July 1.
- She is working on the point system due to the NMDA on July 15.
- She congratulated Cheri Lujan on getting two grants for her district from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- The NMDA's new public information officer will be available to assist the districts with their public outreach efforts.

- The New Mexico Society for Range Management Summer Field Tour will be held at 8 a.m. on July 22 at the Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability in Corona.
- The 18th Annual Southwestern Noxious/Invasive Weed Short Course will be held July 26, 27, 28 in Farmington. Jerry Melaragno has been helping to identify thistles along local roads. Chairman Lovato called attention to a weed infesting culverts along nearby highways. The District Manager identified them as a native weed called Basket Flower and said that it will probably become invasive.
- P&M Signs, Inc. has designed a Smokey the Bear Fire Danger display that sells for \$125.
- NMACD will host four regional meetings during the week of July 11. The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Southwest and Pacific regional meeting will be held September 26-29 in Taos. The NMACD annual meeting will be on October 25-28 in Santa Fe. Richard Shovelin corrected the meeting announcement for Region 2. It will be held in Mountainair in early August. (The written report is attached.)

NRCS Field Office Report:

Louis King, District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He called attention to the Cooperative Work Agreement between the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District and the NRCS that was included in the supervisors' board packets. He reviewed the agreement and the Current USDA Non-Discrimination Statement with the board. Mr. King asked that the Agreement be kept in the board packets for subsequent reviews. Mr. King explained that the District, as a cooperating agency with NRCS, needs to include a non-discrimination statement in its newsletter. He encouraged the board of supervisors to maintain a diverse membership that reflects the community makeup, and to recruit or appoint minorities, females, and persons with disabilities. Mr. King also reviewed the Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers and Ranchers announcing that compensation may be due to Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who feel that they may have been discriminated against in applying for farm loan benefits. The notice gives details on the process for seeking compensation. Mr. King went over the upcoming Civil Rights Review in August of the NRCS office. He asked that the board chairman be available for an interview. Mr. King also gave details on the Remote Well Solutions demo on alternative energy for deep water wells.

He said that a provision in the Conservation Reserve Program permits emergency grazing due to the drought. NRCS is responsible for writing an addendum to conservations plans. He presented three grazing plans for board review.

A discussion took place on dead Alligator junipers and piñons in various locations and on the effect of the winter cold snap and the drought on the trees.

(The written report is attached.)

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager highlighted the meetings that she had attended. She also described how 500 pounds of grass seed was delivered to the Track Fire command

post in Ratón at the request of the New Mexico State Forestry Service on Saturday, July 18. The Edgewood SWCD provided the seed, and the District Manager and District volunteer Carla Cope drove the seed to Ratón. The Edgewood SWCD was paid for the seed, and the District was compensated \$600 for delivering it. Chairman Lovato thanked the District Manager for the effort she made and for the cooperation that took place between the Edgewood District and Claunch-Pinto to successfully deliver the seed.

Jerry Melaragno called attention to the very successful workshop conducted by Nate Downey on harvesting the rain that was sponsored by the District. At least, 30 attendees participated.

(The written report is attached.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager read a card from Ben Giovengo thanking the board members for their concern about his recovery from a stroke.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

No report

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.

- Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project– Water Trust Board:
The District Manager said that an EBWHRM core steering committee meeting would take place the Monday following the board meeting.
- New Mexico State Forestry Grants:
The District Manager reported that balances remain on the NFL and WUI projects.
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:
The District Manager said that a meeting would take place on July 15th to discuss funding.
- NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
\$30,000 still remains to complete work on this project.
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:
Work on the Ojo Peak Restoration and Red Canyon Projects have been suspended due to extreme fire danger. The forest is closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

GSA Solicitation:

The District Manager reported that the District was unsuccessful in its GSA solicitation proposal. A post award debriefing took place with Malique Harris, the District's broker in Washington D.C. The District missed out on the funding by five cents a square foot or about \$377 in total. The Building Committee will meet on July 14 to discuss the direction to take in the future. The District Manager suggested that the board meet with State Representative Rhonda King and State Senator Peter Campos to discuss a long range plan. She will write a letter to state and federal elected officials on behalf of the board. The letter will report on the status of the building site.

NEW BUSINESS:**Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office**

Supervisors Dan William and Richard Shovelin took the oath for the office of Supervisor for the Claunch-Pinto board of supervisors.

Re-Organization of Board

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the board may reconsider its organizational structure.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to retain the current organizational structure of the board. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

NMACD Dues

Discussion took place on frustrations with NMACD, on lack of trust in the State Association, on lack of communication with districts and on whether the District should pay dues.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to pay the NMACD dues in the amount of \$10.00. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion did not carry with two yeas, one no, and two abstentions.

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts – Dues

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to pay dues in the amount of \$100. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 01-2012-Authorizing Resolution Claunch-Pinto SWCD – WTB #185

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve Resolution No. 01-2012-Authorizing Resolution. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Dan Williams – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea.

Resolution No. 02-2012—Authorizing Resolution Claunch-Pinto SWCD-WTB #186

ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve Resolution No. 02-2012. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; William Caster – yea.

Sale of Rock Product at Scholle

The District Manager explained the circumstances concerning the rock product produced when the new railroad tracks were built. She suggested selling the rock.

Discussion followed on permits and possible uses of the blast rock and issues involved in building erosion structures needed in the Abó watershed

REPORTS:

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

William Caster reported that a meeting was held the previous Wednesday. The group then toured a wind farm installation at Red Mesa near Laguna.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Draft minutes are included in the board packet.

Region II

Richard Shovelin suggested a Region II meeting date on August 3 in Mountainair, and he encouraged all board members to attend. Discussion followed on the agenda, including several resolutions to be considered.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 5, 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 10:20 a.m. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.