



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
November 4, 2011**

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Louis King, District Conservationist, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
Roy Todd, Field Specialist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture
(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 Alpine Alley, located at 210 N Summit in Mountainair, NM at 8:15 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. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from October 7, 2011: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved approval. Jerry Melaragno 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 October, 2011 with the accounts payable for October, 2011. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. A copy is attached.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The District Manager stated that the District's auditor, Dan Austin, will complete and submit the 2011 audit by December 31, 2011.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Roy Todd reported that SWCD field specialist, Marsha Wright, has resigned and that her position will not be filled. He explained the effects of the loss of this position on the workload of his office. He said that fewer reports will be required and that he will only need the approved final budget, the annual report, minutes and the action plan. Electronic files will replace paper files. He said that the travel budget will probably be enhanced allowing for more flexibility. He discussed some ways that the office will be more efficient. He asked that the NMDA survey be submitted either individually by board members or by the board as a whole.
(The written report is attached.)

NRCS Field Office Report:

Louis King, District Conservationist, presented the NRCS Field Office report to the Board. He announced that he will be leaving the Mountainair NRCS Field Office in December to become the District Conservationist in Fort Sumner. He commended the board for working to make the District self-supporting while keeping the best interests of natural resources, producers and partners as the board's highest priorities. He mentioned changes in interests represented by board members over the years and said that the board has become more inclusive. He talked about the progress that has been made by the District during the seven years of his tenure at the Mountainair NRCS office. He also noted uncertainties in staffing and future funding. He presented an article regarding feral hogs and mentioned that a property owner in the Deer Canyon Preserve had sighted what he thought was a feral hog. He thanked the board and District staff for their support. Board members expressed their appreciation of Mr. King for his contributions and indicated he will be missed.
(The written report is attached.)

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager announced that coffee and refreshments would be served for NRCS cooperators and friends of Mr. King on Monday, November 14.

(The written report is attached.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

The correspondence was reviewed with the Board. The District Manager called attention to the letter from David King, President of the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD) announcing the Annual Meeting on November 18 in Moriarty. She asked board members to let her know if they planned to attend. She also announced the annual meeting of the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District to be held on November 9 in Estancia. The District Manager will not be able to attend as she will be signing contracts on that day. She mentioned a letter from Marsha Wright, field specialist with New Mexico Department of Agriculture announcing her resignation and described the assistance that Ms. Wright has been providing to the District. The District Manager also brought a number of newsletters to share with the board.

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.

She distributed a spreadsheet listing projects in progress.

- Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project–
Water Trust Board:
SWCA has asked for a two-year moratorium on monitoring because hazard trees in the fire areas are falling without any windy conditions constituting a hazard for monitoring crews. A proposal to move a portion of the fire monitoring project to NM forest lands will be acted on at the next Core Steering Committee meeting. The District Manager discussed the reasons for moving the monitoring project and the District's commitment to the current project to masticate trees on the current landowner's 21 acres. There is no further funding for burned trees.
- New Mexico State Forestry Grants:
The funds for the upper Manzano area will be spent on establishing defensible space on the McKinley property that borders on Forest Service land and on five other projects. Crews from Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo are making fast progress on the projects. The District Manager reported that the work plans on the southern portion of the District have been submitted and contracts will be signed soon
- Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:
Five contractors have submitted proposals, and the successful contractor will be selected soon.

- NMED – River Ecosystem Restoration Initiative
The District is waiting to continue work pending additional funding.
- Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:
The District is spraying Salt Cedar and Spiny Cocklebur and is pulling Jimson Weed from the Abó area. The District Manager is working with the Forest Service on spraying Russian Knapweed in the Priest Canyon area. The District is working with the Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD and Santa Fe County on spraying re-growth of Russian olive and Salt Cedar.
- Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:
Ojo Peak Restoration:
Mastication of trees and slash will be taking place, and a crew will work on riparian restoration.
Red Canyon Project:
The amount of work being done has been measured by GPS and a two-man crew is felling trees and is making good progress.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Fence Property:

The District Manager distributed a proposal for fencing the District's property from Octavio Cruz. After discussion, **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to request two more verbal bids, to obtain the best price with references and to authorize the District Manager to select a contractor. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Capital Outlay Funds:

The District Manager has been told by state Senator Campos and state Representative King that capital outlay funds can be used to construct a metal building shell on the District's property. She was advised to apply for future capital outlay funding. Discussion followed on the appropriate amount for the request. Board members recommended a request of \$300,000. The District Manager will take the request to State Senator Campos and to State Representative King for their signatures.

Metal Building:

The District's architect has agreed to an addendum to his contract and will work up a design for the metal building. He was told to get bids for the building in January with a projected start date on construction by the first of March. The architect can discuss the timing of the project with the Building Committee. The District Manager met with representatives from NRCS at the District's property on October 24. There will be a solicitation at the end of November with a 30-day turn-around time.

Protest Letter to General Services Administration (GSA)

The protest letter has been sent to the GSA with a reply expected by mid November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 03 – 12 Open Meetings Resolution: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – Yea. Vote was unanimous.

Approval of Meeting Dates for FY 2012: December 2, 2011; January 6, 2012; February 3, 2012; March 2, 2012; April 13, 2012; May 4, 2012; June 1, 2012; July 6, 2012; August 3, 2012; September 7 2012; October 5, 2012; November 2, 2012; December 7, 2012. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved approval. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 04 – 12 Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Water Project Fund Grant Agreement: ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – Yea. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 05 – 12 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Estancia Basin Project: ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the resolution. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – Yea. Vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 06 – 12 Project Approval to the NM Water Trust Board – Greater Rio Grande Riparian Restoration Project: ACTION TAKEN: William Caster moved to approve the resolution. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Brian Greene – Yea. Vote was unanimous.

Wood Sale from Building Project Site:

A discussion took place on selling approximately 35 cords of wood harvested from the District's property. Various suggestions were made for the District Manager to follow up on.

REPORTS:

Region II

No Report.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

William Caster reported that no meeting was held.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene reported that the South Central Mountain RC&D hired a coordinator for 20 hours per week. He also reported on a state meeting that he attended where the issue was discussed concerning what should be done if some councils went out of business. The South Central Mountain RC&D volunteered to host the next western conference after several states declined. He discussed the differences between RC&Ds and SWCDs.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene reported that Santa Fe County has appointed two new members to the board: Mike Anaya and Karen Torres. The Santa Fe land use plan continues to be an issue. The water committee has not yet met. The Ag Subcommittee meeting has occurred with no issues resolved. Rural areas need to be prepared to take an interest in possible proposals. Three well monitoring sites have been abandoned because they aren't producing any usable data. Claunch-Pinto board members were advised to contact the East Torrance SWCD if they could provide a monitoring site.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

An alternative meeting location for Board meetings during the winter was discussed. The District Manager was directed to explore alternative meeting locations.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

Brian Greene reported on the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference he attended and on the presentations and workshops that he heard.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 2, 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:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.