



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2013

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

Absentees:

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
April Luna, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
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 8:10 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from January 11, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Brian Greene moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 3, under **Unfinished Business**, fourth complete line from the end of the paragraph the sentence beginning with the word "However," should read: "However, when she visited the Bureau, she found out that the representative hadn't received the answers from NMDA, so she emailed the answers to the Capital Outlay Bureau."

Mr. Greene commented on a statement in the minutes on page 5 regarding a possible Sun Zia route. He said that the Sun Zia project is now dead.

Minutes from the special meeting on December 21, 2012: **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes. Richard Shovelin 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 December with the accounts payable for December, 2012. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The District Manager distributed the Semi-Annual Financial Report dated December 31, 2012 for information, answered questions and made some corrections.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

The District Manager pointed out the timeline included in the NMDA report for supervisor elections. The process begins in January 2013.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan said that the deadline for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP) was December 21. The deadline to accept new applications for CSP has been extended to April. Funding for people who already have CSP contracts will apparently be funded under the old farm bill, but since the new farm bill hasn't been passed, funding for new contracts is uncertain. There is funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and EQIP.

Mr. Lujan mentioned the motion that the Board passed at the last meeting to contribute funding to pay for well monitoring in the Estancia Basin. He said that the new acting District Conservationist for Estancia, Ana Gomez, doesn't know the status of the project yet. The District Manager announced that a meeting of the Estancia Basin Resource Association will be held tomorrow in Moriarty at the Civic Center at 2:00. HydroResolutions will give a presentation on well monitoring in the Estancia Basin, and Dave Lightfoot will give a presentation on the monitoring activities being done in the Estancia Basin. Mr. Greene asked to add information regarding the project. He said that the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee still wants to go ahead with the project. He described how invoicing will work. Mr. Greene distributed a flowchart of the activity schedule for the proposed Estancia Basin Groundwater stabilization initiative. He mentioned an article in the Mountain View Telegraph on the subject as well as a segment shown on Channel 13 that can be viewed by going to KRQE.com and then by searching for "water study."

Mr. Lujan said that probably the January meeting will be his and April Luna's last meeting for several months. The new District Conservationist will attend instead in order to get to know the Board.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager referred the Board to her written report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager read a letter from Kenneth Salazar, president of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) that outlines revisions to its staffing, plans and priorities for the Farm Bill Program Specialist positions due to restructuring by NRCS. The New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts is reviewing the letter and will hold a conference call to discuss it and legislative matters.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

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.

- **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board and State Forestry Grants (NFL):**

The District Manager said that the upper Manzano project has been closed out. She said that the District will start contracting state forestry funds and the Water Trust Board funds when they become available. She attended the Water Trust Board meeting in January and learned that both Estancia Basin and Greater Rio Grande projects are in the top five on the list for funding. Seven watershed projects are on the list to be forwarded to the legislature for approval. The Estancia Basin project through the East Torrance district is also on the list. The District will learn in May whether projects will receive funding.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Cedar Project:**

A meeting will be held at the end of January to review proposals from contractors, and a selection will be made.

- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**

A report is being finished for New Mexico State Forestry on the Central New Mexico Invasive weed grant that is through the Edgewood SWCD. The report should be finished by the end of the month. Gabe Ramirez is also working on a report for the US Forest Service. A draft is in the forest service hands for approval.

- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

- **Ojo Peak Restoration:**

- The District Manager said that the forest service District Ranger doesn't want mastication to take place on this project near riparian areas. Cody Stropki from SWCA will look at hazard trees to determine whether it is safe to take them out. The District Ranger wants to replant three acres in three riparian areas. She has approved the purchase of a truck and trailer for the Kaboda. Richard Shovelin moved to purchase the vehicle but rescinded the motion following discussion on features that the truck should have and how the purchase will be funded. Ojo Peak grant money will pay for the truck. The District Manager explained the participating agreement that the District has with the forestry service. The forest service will plan projects and the District will carry out the work. Forestry service seasonal workers will work for the District to complete projects.

- **Red Canyon Project:**

- Bad weather has delayed work on the Red Canyon project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

- **Loan Request to NM Finance Authority and Approval by State Board of Finance**

- The District Manager reported that the request for a loan from the New Mexico Finance Authority has been approved. Loan documents will be ready for review by the Board and by District Counsel before the next meeting. At its February meeting, the Board will consider a

resolution to close the loan. Funds should be available by the beginning of March. On December 18 the District Manager, Felipe Lovato, and Dan Williams attended a State Board of Finance meeting where the lease with NRCS was approved. Then they met with Senator Griego regarding the District's \$200,000 capital outlay request. She said that she will arrange a meeting with the new state representative and Senator Griego to get the request submitted. After this meeting, they met with the District's architect, and then they met with the representative from NRCS who said that he couldn't sign the addendum. Subsequent to this meeting, an agreement was worked out. NRCS requires minutes from the State Board of Finance, so the District Manager will submit approved minutes to NRCS by December 17. Kim Kostelnik of the NM Coalition of Conservation Districts has been asked by NMDA to make a presentation on the approval process for contracts by the State Board of Finance. The District Manager has checked the District's grants and participation agreements and none of them need to be approved by the State Board of Finance. A discussion took place on the opinion of some members of the State Board of Finance who want to do away with soil and water conservation districts and incorporate their functions into county governments. Mr. Greene said that the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee had a special meeting during the past week to deal with the Santa Fe County land use plan. He gave an example of the extent of control by the county that the plan proposes.

Report on Work on the Building Project

The District Manager received an estimate from the architect for \$474,000 to finish the District's building. Discussion followed on the extent to which the amount may be an over estimate and on whether certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) group is needed. Mr. Williams said that the Board needs to review the specifications that the architect wants to include in the bid process before it is disseminated.

Progress on Protest to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager will write a letter asking Senator Griego to find out from the secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department why there are no longer any hazards present on the vacated park service site. A discussion followed regarding the possible presence of hazardous substances that may remain on the site. The District Manager was asked to request information from the GSA regarding the hazardous materials.

ACTION TAKEN: Richard Shovelin moved to send a letter to the GSA with a copy to Senator Griego requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding hazardous materials on the park service site. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

NRCS – Estancia Basin Ground Water Stabilization Project

Funds were approved for this project, which the District will provide when an invoice is received.

Supervisor Elections

The District Manager went over the details of the supervisor election process, what she has done and what needs to be done.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

The District Manager and Richard Shovelin reported that a conference call will take place on Monday regarding legislative issues as well as other pending subjects. She suggested that the Board invite Kim Kostelnik to a Board meeting to report on her activities.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

Brian Greene announced that a meeting will take place the following Thursday, January 24.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

Brian Greene reported that a special meeting of the EBWPC was held to discuss provisions in the Santa Fe Sustainable Land Code. A response is being generated. Meetings of the EBWPC will be held every other month unless a special meeting is required.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Candelaria called attention to an endangered species of bird, the willow fly catcher, its habitat in the area and whether it will affect the District. It may affect Rio Grande projects. Mr. Greene said that the Jaguar habitat is in contention.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

Consideration of the Resolution to Close on the Loan

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, February 1, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Alpine Alley, located at 210 N Summit in Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Board – **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

/s/
FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

s/s
RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.