



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

February 1, 2013

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

Absentees:
William Caster
Brian Greene

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS)
Roy Todd, 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.

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 February 1, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

On page 3, under **Ojo Peak Restoration**, fourth line from the beginning of the paragraph, delete "second."

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

The District Manager presented the treasurer's report for the month of January with the accounts payable for January, 2012. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dan Williams moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The District Manager announced that the District audit has been approved. She will distribute copies to the Board members when she receives the written document.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA):

Mr. Todd pointed out items of interest in his report: the election timeline and two election trainings on February 25 in Moriarty at the Edgewood SWCD office, one at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 1:00 p.m. He mentioned bills of interest. One of them concerned changes to the wording of the Watershed Act. A second bill (HB 70) concerned changes to how a district's audit tier is determined. Mr. Shovelin asked for clarification on HB 70. The District Manager said that the Coalition will have a booth at Agfest on February 19. She has 16 tickets for the event. Mr. Melaragno asked about the Jornada Experimental Range Field Botany Workshops in Mr. Todd's report.

NRCS Field Office Report:

Kenneth Lujan said a meeting will be held the following Tuesday in Fort Sumner with Area Conservationist, Kenny Walker regarding the implementation of NRCS of the future. He hopes that more concrete information will be available then. He said that he has been working on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Projects have been ranked and are ready to go. He estimates that \$300,000 will be available for the Field Office. He has asked for an additional \$200,000. He explained the distribution of the funds and the rationale for how the funds will be awarded. He asked that a recommendation come from the local workgroup that points be changed to give more preference to new applications. There is no news on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager made some additions to her written report. A gardening workshop on composting in the desert will be held on Monday, February 4 in the high school library from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A workshop on setting up a hoop house watering system and planting beds will occur on February 26 from 9:00 to 5:00. Monthly gardening workshops are planned through the summer. The District Manager requested a booth at the Soil and Water Conservation Day at the legislature in Santa Fe. The booth will be used by the Coalition as well as other districts. Booth spaces were limited. The District Manager ordered tree seedlings that will be available to legislators and staff.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The District Manager distributed two letters that she received the day preceding the Board meeting. The first letter was from José J. Varela López, Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director Southwest Region (2) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The letter requests "Cooperating Agency" status for all New Mexico SWCDs regarding the Southwestern Gray Wolf Management Plan. The second letter was from David King, president of the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts to the Board Supervisors of NM SWCDs regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wolf reintroduction effort. A draft letter was attached requesting "Cooperating Agency" status in respect to developing a Southwestern Gray Wolf Management Plan.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to send a letter from the District asking for "Cooperating Agency" status to Dr. Tuggle of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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 funding for 2011 Water Trust Board grant must be spent by April 24 and that the spending is on schedule. The two 2012 Water Trust Board grants funds are now available to spend. The District is on the list for 2013 WTB funding. She will find out in late May whether the District proposal has been funded.

The District Manager reported on some issues regarding the inmate crew on the Highway 42 project. She said that the project will be completed, and that there are funds available.

- **Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Cedar Project:**
A meeting was held the previous Friday. A contract was approved with Boss Reclamation. The company will carry out projects on the Sandia Pueblo and on La Bajada Ranch. A contract has been signed with Horizon Environmental from Durango, Colorado for the Tres Rios Rancho project. There is also a project with Albuquerque open space to complete a project there.
- **Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**
The District Manager distributed a final report to the New Mexico State Forestry on the Central New Mexico weed grant through the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District. She also distributed a report that was approved by Alan Warren and then submitted to Karen Lessard. The District Manager praised Gabe Ramirez for his excellent work on the reports. She thanked Jerica Lujan for providing information concerning 26 land owners. Ms. Lujan worked with Johnny Lujan, a supervisor on the East Torrance Board to identify landowners' names and locations, and she worked with Liz Lujan at the county office to get their addresses and telephone numbers. The District Manager has sent information from the report on noxious weeds identified and on the chemicals used to eradicate the weeds to the Sandia District.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**
 - Ojo Peak Restoration:**
The District Manager explained the participating agreement that the District has with the forestry service.
 - Red Canyon Project:**
Bad weather has delayed work on the Red Canyon project. The crew members attended a workshop in Mescalero to renew their certification.

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 said that the loan documents will be signed today and that the loan will close on March 6.

Report on Work on the Building Project

The District Manager received an estimate from the architect for \$472,000 to finish the District's building and parking lot. The District's loan is for \$379,000. On February 6, Senator Griego will be asked to support a capital outlay request that will cover the difference. The architect is asking for \$30,000 plus tax for his services. Discussion followed on the legitimacy of his claim for his

hours. After this Board meeting, the District Manager, Mr. Lovato and Mr. Williams will discuss his claim for payment with the architect.

Progress on Protest to General Services Administration (GSA):

The District Manager distributed copies of letters to the National Park Service and to the GSA that ask for information from February 1, 2013 forward under the Freedom of Information Act. She talked to a representative from the New Mexico Environment Department who will find out information about the agreements between the owner of the park service property and the Environment Department on the clean-up of hazardous waste.

Supervisor Elections

The District Manager went over the details of the supervisor election process. The Lincoln County clerk congratulated the District Manager on the completeness of the information that she submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 12-2013 – Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Taxable Loan Agreement by and Between the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (the Governmental Unit) and the New Mexico Finance Authority. Copies of the loan documents and the resolutions were previously distributed.

ACTION TAKEN: Jerry Melaragno moved to adopt the resolution. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin -- yea.

Resolution No. 13-2013—Commercial Internet Banking Resolution through MyBank

The District Manager explained the requirements from MyBank that necessitate the resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Dan Williams moved to adopt the resolution. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows: Jerry Melaragno – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea; Dan Williams – yea; Richard Shovelin -- yea.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):

Mr. Shovelin reported on bills of interest and analysis provided by the NMCCD. The District Manager pointed out the resources that Kim Kostelnik can provide. A Board meeting will be held on February 5 in Santa Fe. The District Manager reported on funds that will go to the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD) and on how their communications are distributed. She talked about how information is being distributed to the member districts.

Hub Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D):

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No Report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC):

The District Manager noted that meetings of the EBWPC will be held every other month starting in February unless a special meeting is required.

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:

OTHER:

Mr. Shovelin suggested that the District Manager send “care packages” to Darren Richardson in Afghanistan.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

The District Manager reported on a meeting that she and Richard Shovelin attended where David Lightfoot reported on the Estancia Basin Resource Solutions on well monitoring in the valley. An article was reported in the newspapers.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, March 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:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.