



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
July 12, 2013**

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

**Absentees:**  
J. Brian Greene  
Dan Williams

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Roy Todd, Soil & Water Conservation District Specialist, New Mexico  
Department of Agriculture  
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation  
Service, (NRCS)  
Frank Luna, land owner

**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. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from June 7, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2, change "Cedarville" to "Cedarvale."

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

The District Manager presented the treasurer's report for the month of June with the accounts payable for July, 2013. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

Isaac Montoya, Budget Finance Analyst, of the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration approved the District's interim budget for fiscal year 2013 – 2014. Final approval is contingent on the submission of a resolution approving the June 30, 2013 (fourth quarter) report.

## **REPORTS:**

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

Mr. Todd said that a conversation took place at the NM Soil and Water Conservation Commission about possibly dissolving the point system with the intention of finding out how that action might affect districts. Claunch-Pinto Board members discussed the effectiveness and viability of some districts and reasons that explain why some of them are struggling. Mr. Todd said that he would be retiring in six months.

Richard Shovelin asked whether the point system documentation for the District was submitted. The District Manager said that she would submit it that day or over the weekend.

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

Mr. Lujan supplemented his written report. He explained payments and rules regarding brush control. He also responded to questions on implementation of rules. He asked Board members to refer any questions or complaints concerning brush control to him.

### **District Manager's Report:**

The Chairman referred the Board to the written report.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The District Manager called attention to the letter she received from the regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service which explained the decision to deny cooperating agency status to the District in the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mexican wolf in Arizona and New Mexico. The District Manager distributed a template letter asking the Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider the denial. Discussion followed on EIS work on any endangered species and soil and water conservation districts' interest in giving input on proposed actions. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to authorize the District Manager to send a revised version of the template asking for reconsideration of the denial on behalf of the District. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **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,) Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance, and the Central New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area:**  
The District Manager reported that she is working on getting reimbursements submitted by the July 15 deadline to make sure that the District will be compensated for payments already made. She is waiting for information from the Department of Transportation that supports a match for the HWY 42 project. Brenda Smythe from Edgewood District will deliver reimbursement information on the Poker Draw project today.  
The Highway 42 project is complete and looks beautiful.
- The District Manager is working with the Sisneros family on a plan to eradicate noxious weeds and plants on several acres of riparian land at the Abo Ruins. She sent a riparian specialist there to do an evaluation and submit recommendations.

- She is looking at various projects in the Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District
- The District's crew is removing salt cedar in the Abó main arroyo, spraying the stumps, chipping the trees, and storing the chips on the District's property for use by land owners.
- The District was approved for \$600,000 in June for the Estancia Basin project and \$600,000 additional funds for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance project.
- Additional paperwork was required because of an executive order from the governor to prove that the District was in compliance with regulations.
- On Tuesday this week, Kim Kostelnik helped the District Manager respond to requests from the NM Department of Agriculture asking for information on the number of acres served from projects from 2005 to the present and asking for information on how much money the District could disburse per year for projects if money were no object.
- This week alone the District Manager has been preparing reimbursement requests for \$300,000.
- **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

**Ojo Peak Restoration:**

The District Manager said that the District is getting ready to work on this project, waiting for the forest to be opened. The District will have to submit a request to get a 404 permit because the area is considered a navigable water way of America. Cody Stropki was in the area and said that there is running water in Ox Canyon.

**Red Canyon Project:**

The District Manager asked for an extension on the CFRP grant to finish 30 acres on this project and expects to be back at work in the fall. The state wild lands RFP is out and the District will apply for funds. The McKinleys sold their land in Priest Canyon, and the new owner has been contacted to get permission to continue with agreements made with the McKinleys on storing rock and removing noxious weeds.

Jerry Melaragno, Vern Kohler and the District Manager will meet with the president of the Home Owners Association at Deer Canyon to discuss a project to create defensible space in the remote southern portion of the development. The District Manager emphasized the importance of doing such projects in urban/ rural conservation areas. She cited the fire that killed 19 fire fighters in Arizona. The fire was a piñon/ juniper fire. These fires are said to burn hotter and faster than ponderosa fires.

The District Manager is working on a 20-acre project with land owner Roybal in Cuyamungue. The project will remove re-sprouts and Russian Knapweed.

LeRoy Candelaria said that he drove Javier Martinez, the new engineer from District 5, on the highway through Manzano and Tajique to show him what needs to be done along the sides of the road to improve safety. He also explained the Corona project and the role of the Claunch-Pinto District in accomplishing the work. A discussion followed on the drawbacks of using the inmate crew on the Corona project.

Mr. Luna asked when the forest would be open again. The District Manager explained factors that affected the opening. She also talked about pending projects.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Future Directions Committee – District Property**

The District Manager said that Terry Sarazan of NRCS approved the architect's plans except for a change in the date on the first page. The architect penciled through the date and wrote "per Mike Valdez." This informal change was not adequate, so final approval of the plans has been delayed because the architect went on vacation for two weeks before making the required change. She also described her communications with the architect regarding a proposed District requirement that only bids from contractors whose business is located within a 50-mile radius of Mountainair will be considered. The architect objected to the requirement and suggested a point system favoring local contractors instead. Discussion occurred on reasons for considering only a local contractor and whether enough bids from qualified contractors would be submitted. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to limit the bidding process to contractors located within a 50-mile radius of Mountainair. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

The District Manager reported on the vegetables growing in the hoop house (cucumbers, squash, and tomatoes.) A removable door is being made to facilitate air flow. Carla Cope is making sure that the plants are watered.

### **Land Use Plan**

Kim Kostelnik will be invited to the August Board meeting to help with the land use plan.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to table the land use plan until the August meeting. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Supervisors' Oath of Office:**

The Chairman administered the supervisors' oath of office to Richard Shovelin and Jerry Melaragno.

### **Board Reorganization:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to continue the current organization of the Board. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

### **Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP):**

The District Manager will send pertinent information regarding the ICIP to Board members to review prior to the September board meeting. The District needs the ICIP in order to be favorably considered for capital outlay funds. The final document has to be submitted by September 30.

### **Resolution No. 01-2014 – Budget Revision Resolution:**

The District Manager distributed the fourth quarter DFA report for 2013, went over the revenue and expenditures, and read the resolution. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the resolution. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote as follows; William Caster – yea; Jerry Melaragno – yea; Richard Shovelin – yea; LeRoy Candelaria – yea.

### **Resolution No. 02-2014 – Approval of Fourth Quarter Department Finance and Administration:**

The District Manager read the resolution.

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

### **Envirothon Competition:**

The District Manager explained the parameters of this state and national competition. She said that five local high school students will form a team for competition. The District will participate throughout the following school year to help prepare students for the competition. She explained how the costs will be covered.

**REPORTS:**

**New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

The District Manager reported that Kim Kostelnik has been meeting with member districts on various projects. Ms. Kostelnik has been working with the federal government on different fires.

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

No report.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

No report.

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

The District Manager distributed minutes from a meeting to be discussed at the August Board meeting.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The Chairman read an announcement saying that funding is available for land owners to haul water for live stock. Discussion followed about how the information on the funding was distributed and who will receive the funding. Mr. Shovelin asked for the issue to be on the next month's Board agenda.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

The District Manager announced that she is working on a plant sale with the Edgewood District for the fall. Mr. Luna asked for a report on the health of trees that the District personnel have planted.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 2, 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 10:20 a.m. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.