



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
August 2, 2013**

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

**Absentees:**

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Kim Kostelnik, New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD)  
Kenneth Lujan, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, (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. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from July 12, 2013: **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as amended. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 2 under REPORTS: New Mexico Department of Agriculture, insert "of" following "them" in the fourth line. On page 4, under Resolution No. 02-2014, change "Wiliaam" to "William." 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 July with the accounts payable for August, 2013. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. LeRoy Candelaria seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

## **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The District Manager said that she submitted the report on the point system on time. She was notified that the District received its total of 100 points, but she doesn't know yet how much funding will result. She met with the District's auditor on July 19 to set up Quick Books so that the Department of Finance and Administration quarterly reports matches general ledger.

## **REPORTS:**

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

The District Manager said that she received attachments to the NMDA report too late to include them in the Board packet, so she will send them to Board members.

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

Mr. Lujan referred Board members to his written report.

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

The Chairman referred the Board to the written report. The District Manager added a three-hour meeting that she held with Vernon Kohler, the president of the Home Owners Association at the Deer Canyon Preserve, and Jerry Melaragno. Mr. Melaragno noted that Mr. Berryhill's first name is Craig, not Bruce, as written in the report.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The District Manager read a letter from the Torrance County attorney regarding a Notice of Intent to Consider \$450,000,000 Torrance County, New Mexico Taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds (El Cabo Wind Project), Series 2013. A discussion took place on the possible route of a transmission line. The District Manager also mentioned a letter from the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District inviting the District to hold a booth in their building during the Torrance County Fair. She said that, the Edgewood Soil and Water District, NRCS, NMCCD, and Estancia will share a booth near the sale and show arena. She mentioned an article in the New Mexico Land Conservancy's newsletter, "Vistas," which says that Jim Winder will receive the New Mexico Land Conservancy's Petchesky Conservation Award in Santa Fe on November 8 in Santa Fe. Mr. Winder developed subdivisions near Mountainair and Corona.

## **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 said that she submitted \$300,000 in reimbursement requests and received funds from State Forestry in record time due to a more efficient process.
- There are several Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry projects. Most of the WTB projects are on the mountain and off of Hwy 275. Projects are being done on the properties of land owners Lejeuness, Vigil, Salazar and Morales. State Forestry grants allow the District to carry out projects in Deer Canyon, the Chupaderos, and Corona. Vern Kohler and Gabe Ramirez have been planning five more projects.
- The District Manager is working with the Corona fire department and a Home Owners Association and the Forest Service on a defensible space project to protect the village of Corona from fire. Karen Lessard, district ranger, is working on her 10 year plan and is interested

in creating defensible space on Forest Service land. Land owner Muncey is interested in a project on his land that borders Forest Service land.

A discussion followed on the widespread devastation of piñon trees by the drought, bark beetles and the blue vein fungus introduced to the trees by bark beetles.

- The District Manager and Vern Kohler met with Jerry Melaragno and Jack Lockridge, president of the Deer Canyon Home Owners Association (HOA). They drove throughout the development looking at possible thinning projects and safe zones. She has also met with the Conservation Committee about creating a stewardship plan. Lawrence Crane, New Mexico State Forestry, will look into creating defensible space along the fence line on state trust land to the south of Deer Canyon. The State Land Office will also have to be involved. The District Manager will give a presentation at the annual meeting of the Deer Canyon HOA to talk about some of the fire issues as well as what the District does.
- The Estancia Basin core steering committee will meet on Tuesday next week. They have been funded for the coming year.
- The District Manager attended a meeting of the WTB. There will be some changes in 2013 – 2014 that will affect soil and water conservation districts and small communities. Paul Gutierrez from the Association of Counties has asked that the proposed changes be sent out to affected groups for comment.
- The District Manager reported on the projects in the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance. By August 15, an RFP will go out on several projects in the East Rio Arriba and Valencia Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Private land owners and the middle Rio Grande Conservancy are involved in these projects. The districts have approved the projects. Discussion followed on the involvement of private land owners. The District Manager explained she submitted a report to NMDA that had been requested by the governor's office for additional project work for the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance.
- The District Manager reported on spraying of salt cedar re-sprouts and invasive weeds in various places under the auspices of the New Mexico Cooperative Weed Management Area.

### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program:**

#### **Ojo Peak Restoration:**

Cody Stropski will contact the Forest Service to find out when the project can get started. The District has to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers because Ox Canyon is considered to be a navigable waterway of America. The project should get underway by the end of August.

#### **Red Canyon Project:**

The District Manager said that the District is ready to give out permits to remove wood from this project. However, the land grant has advised her that there will be new rules about who can receive a permit, but she hasn't received the new rules yet. There are 10 more months on this grant. If the wood isn't removed from the project areas, the US Forest Service will sell the wood. Mr. Lujan said that he heard a presentation by the representative of a company that treats piñons infected by bark beetles and the blue vein fungus brought in by the bark beetle. A discussion followed about the effectiveness of various treatments to rid the trees of these infestations.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

The District Manager said that the District's legal counsel is reviewing the bid documents prepared by the architect. She expects to receive the review this the morning. Dan Williams looked over the documents and made some suggestions that will be given to the architect. Advertising the bid process will occur the following week. The District Manager described the construction that will have to be finished in order for NRCS to occupy the building.

The Chairman, Mr. Candelaria and the District Manager met with the lieutenant governor on July 30. They showed him, the building, the parking lot, and the entrance to the property. Hopefully, his office will support the District's capital outlay request.

The lieutenant governor had expressed an interest in seeing a riparian restoration project, so the District Manager prepared a packet on the Abo project for him, and the District representatives took him to the Scholle Bridge to show him the results of the project.

The District Manager has also met with a member of the governor's staff, Tiffany Smith, and found out what the District needs to do to obtain support for capital outlay requests.

### **Land Use Plan**

The Board discussed some issues concerning the development of a land use plan, how it should be used and the entities the District will work with on accomplishing the priorities in the plan. A special meeting to work on the plan will be held at Alpine Alley on August 19 from 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. with Kim Kostelnik, who will help create the land use plan. The Board asked for an executive work session.

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

The District Manager distributed a copy of the ICIP and asked Board members to review previous priorities. The Board will discuss the ICIP in September. When it is ready, the District Manager will deliver the ICIP by September 30 and get a receipt for it.

### **Envirothon Competition**

The District Manager is working with Lynnelle Chavez at the Mountainair high school who wants to form an Envirothon team to compete at next year's Envirothon competition.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

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

The Chairman administered the supervisors' oath of office to Dan Williams and Brian Greene.

### **REPORTS:**

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

Richard Shovelin reported on a meeting of the NMCCD held on July 19 in Capitan. He went over the agenda of the meeting and what was discussed. Kim Kostelnik reported on her activities with member districts. She will help them with activities and projects that are out of their comfort zone. Mr. Shovelin reported on what will be discussed at the next meeting. The District Manager said that the NMCCD board will meet with the Secretary of Agriculture on September 6 and suggested that the Claunch-Pinto Board change the next meeting date from September 6 to September 13.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to change the meeting date from September 6 to September 13, 2013. Jerry Melaragno seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. The District Manager said that the NMCCD has been funded again by the Healy Foundation, which is impressed with the Coalition's goal of building District capacity by working with District's who request their assistance. Kim Kostelnik explained what building capacity addresses.

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

No report. The Chairman suggested that the Hub RC&D be removed from the agenda.

#### **South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Brian Greene said that the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled, and a meeting on July 25 took place. He reminded the Board the Wildlife Urban Interface Code Conference will be held in Ruidoso on August 12 and 13, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> and ending after lunch on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Part of the meeting is planned for municipalities and other government entities and will center on developing fire codes. The second part of the meeting is planned for land owners to address their concerns on fire safety.

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

Brian Greene said that a Sandia Labs representative referred the owner of a remote well monitoring business to him. This man would like to make a presentation to S&WCDs about what he is doing. When he calls Mr. Greene, he wants to refer him to the District Manager to put him on the Board's agenda.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The District Manager said that she had visited the Upper Rio Hondo office and saw 10 ipads, one for each of their supervisors. She explained how the supervisors use the ipads and the advantages of using them. The village of Corona uses ipads in similar ways. She suggested that the District's Board consider buying ipads for its members.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 13, 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 10:45 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.