



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
March 31, 2015**

**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  
Brandon Bishop, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Larry Gomez, Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District  
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 the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 8:10 a.m.

**Welcome Attendees:**

The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

**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 OF THE REGULAR MEETING:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from March 6, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page 3 under Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP), at the end of the third line from the end of the item, change "Her" to "The district manager." On page 5 under Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee (EBWPC), in the first line, replace "EBWPC" with "state engineer" and add "an informational meeting on the new regional water planning process" following the word "held."

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:**

Minutes of the special meeting from March 13, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Jerry Melaragno moved to approve the minutes as read. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:**

Minutes of the special meeting from March 19, 2015 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve the minutes as amended. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous. On page one under APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA, change "J. Brian Greene" to "Jerry Melaragno."

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

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of March with accounts payable for April. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report and pay the accounts payable. Dan Greene seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

The district manager explained the status of the budget and answered questions. Issues were discussed such as revenue produced by wood permit sales. The veterans and St. Vincent de Paul also benefited from the wood sales. The revenue will support state parks conservation projects. More wood will be available for sale in the fall. Probably wood sales will be open to the general public then. Other items mentioned were that State Forestry will have the inmate work crew carry out a hazardous fuel reduction project in the Manzano State Park. They may want to carry out a controlled burn. The advisability of a burn was discussed. Also, Kaisa Jones will prepare a proposal for a small conservation grant from the soil and water conservation commission. The district manager has recently talked to the district's auditor who said that he has submitted the final paperwork for 2014 on the single fed audit. It is time to prepare his contract for 2015.

Jerry Melaragno presented an unofficial summary of the treasurer's report, drawing attention to the summary of the district's expenses and revenue. He explained differences between his report and the treasurer's report. Mr. Melaragno pointed out that the budget committee needs to meet. A meeting will be held at the end of April.

**REPORTS:**

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

No report as of this meeting.

**Field Office Report:**

Kenneth Lujan provided information to Brandon Bishop, the new team five district conservationist. Mr. Bishop reported that there are 13 active contracts for EQIP and 25 applications for 2015. For CSP, there are 38 active contracts, nine applications for 2015 and eight applications on file for 2016.

**District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's report is included in board member's packets. She said that the chipper is being taken to a new mechanic near Moriarty for repair. He worked for Vermeer previously. This new arrangement will substantially cut repair costs.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence is included in the board packets. The district manager pointed out the New Mexico Forest Health Conditions Report for 2014.

## **UPDATE ON GRANTS FOR MARCH:**

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes 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 (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA):**

The district manager prepared seven reimbursements for the Water Trust Board grants.

The district is working on Phase II of the Water Trust Board proposals which have to be submitted by April 13, 2015.

The district submitted two Non-Federal lands proposals to EMNRD – Forestry Division.

Work finished on time on the GRGWA projects in Santa Fe – Pojoaque SWCD, Pueblo of Sandia and Valencia SWCD.

### **New Mexico Association of Counties:**

The district submitted two proposals to the NM Association of Counties – one proposal is for information/education concerning fire prevention, and the second proposal is to update the CWPPs for the District. A proposal for Torrance County to update their CWPP was submitted. It was important to submit this proposal. If funded, the CWPP update for the District and Torrance County would be completed at the same time.

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

No report.

### **Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

#### **Romero Wood, LLC:**

A good crew is making fast progress on this project.

### **Forest Service Participating Agreement:**

An additional \$200,000 will be added to this participating agreement for a hazardous fuel reduction project in the Zuni. The district is working with the Alamo Navajo and Ramah Navajo Natural Resource Departments to get the match for this project. The district will be contracting with Alamo Navajo for this project.

### **Agreement with the New Mexico State Parks:**

The district sold 197 cords of wood for a total of \$3,940. The district will be chipping approximately 50 acres on this project over the next two weeks.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**

The draft agreement between the district and NRCS has been submitted to Washington, DC for approval. NRCS agreed to take 22% of the funding for their technical fees instead of the original 27%. Hopefully, all the funding will be obligated by the end of September, 2015. Discussion followed on appropriate technical fees in the future. Mr. Bishop encouraged the board to demonstrate that the district has successfully carried out projects that are beneficial to the community. The district manager wants to ensure that the funding for the collaborative effort gets spent on projects in the other participating districts.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Building – Capital Outlay:**

Representative McQueen included \$50,000 in his capital outlay proposal to fund a district shop, but it wasn't approved. Work is starting on the parking lot improvements. Mike Valdez estimates that work on all projects will be completed within three weeks.

**Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:**

The district manager will attend a meeting in Albuquerque on Wednesday next week with the forest service to discuss responsibilities for being a cooperating agency.

**Friends of Claunch-Pinto SWCD Organization:**

The district manager has not yet met with Robin Beatty.

**Supervisor Elections:**

The Canvassing Board has recommended that the board cancel the election because only one candidate for each position indicated an interest in running. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to cancel the election. Brian Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

**Land Use Plan:**

Special Meeting – April 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.:

The district manager reminded the board of the meeting. Kim Kostelnik will provide a draft of the plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Move Next Board Meeting to May 4, 2015:**

The next board meeting will be moved from May 1 to May 4 because of meeting conflicts.

**REPORTS:**

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

The district manager is working on coordinating meeting dates for a NMCCD board meeting.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

Mr. Greene reported that a meeting was held on March 26.

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

Mr. Greene said that no meeting was scheduled for March, but a meeting is scheduled for April.

**Arizona Water Settlement:**

No report.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

Mr. Gomez reported that suggestions on the land use plan were incorporated.

**OTHER:**

The Mid Region Council of Governments was discussed. The district manager disseminated a picture of a recent fire in Mountainair on the west side of town, and the possible consequences of a wind coming from the east were discussed.

The district manager said that an RFP has been issued from the New Mexico State University for the technical service provider program. She will review it.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, May 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55, Mountainair, NM.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** LeRoy Candelaria moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote was unanimous.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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JERRY MELARAGNO, SEC. – TREAS.