



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
November 9, 2018**

- Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
William Caster  
Larry Gomez  
Richard Shovelin
- Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria  
Dan Williams
- Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Kenneth Lujan, NRCS  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CPSWCD  
Jim Wanstall, NM Department of Agriculture

**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. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of the regular meeting from September 7, 2018 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as read. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of October, 2018 with accounts payable for November, 2018 .

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to accept the report for October 2018 and pay the accounts payable for November, 2018. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**Audit:**

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The district manager said that she, Felipe Lovato and Richard Shovelin will meet with the auditor for his exit interview on Monday at 9:00 a.m. Also, included in the binders is the Department of Finance Quarterly Report.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in the board packets. He commented on the election system and said that the district manager has already contacted the appropriate officials. He said that Ivy Soto, the legislator behind the new system, will be available at the Valencia County Office on December 17 to answer questions.

The new version of the Soil and Water Conservation Act is posted on the NMDA website.

Next, he pointed out the items on the report regarding grazing and agriculture.

There is a conference next week where participants can earn CEUs for their herbicide licenses.

He said that the local election act would be opened up during the legislative session.

### **Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. Kenneth Lujan said that the EQIP application deadline is December 7. He said that there will be quite a few changes to the EQIP program, but he doesn't know the details yet. The item on the Strike Force Fund Code basically concerns EQIP, too. He explained that any county that is historically underserved can participate in the Strike Force Fund Code. He said that any applications that were not funded in 2018 were deferred until 2019. The applicants can be funded under the Strike Force funding.

A soils tech, Steve Ferguson, has been hired for the Mountainair office.

Mr. Lujan stressed the importance to board members of filling out applications accurately.

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

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She attended Ag Day in Las Cruces. Her travel was paid for by the Coalition. She also attended an All Lands Peer Exchange meeting in Grants on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Her travel was paid by the Rural Conservation Alliance.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The district manager noted the "Acequia" newsletters in the board members' binders.

## **UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

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)**

#### **Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:**

Two projects have been finished, a small project in Cuba as well as another project in Ojo Caliente.

These two projects expended the rest of the 2016 funds. Both the EBWHRM and the GRGWA funding have been drawn down to zero.

The district manager made presentations to the WTB on both proposals on the first of November. She was asked how many federal dollars had been brought in on the two projects based on the money from the WTB. She will prepare a white paper to disseminate at the May WTB meeting on the amount of money that has come in from federal funding. She estimates \$25 million dollars. Seven million dollars has come in from RCCP.

The district manager met the governor of the Pueblo of Tesuque which is interested in getting some projects started.

### **New Mexico State Forestry Grant:**

The district manager said that one project is finished and two more are in process. The district's crew has been working on the projects in Deer Canyon. There are seven projects in the Preserve, which will keep the district crew employed after the Romero CFRP project is finished. Three projects are finished.

Wood not wanted by the property owners will be removed and sold by the district. Wood sales have

amounted to approximately \$2000. The district manager said that she is really proud of the district crew, which is working really hard.

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

**BNSF Railroad Project:**

The district manager said that she and Vernon Kohler will meet with BNSF representatives after the board meeting today in Belen. BNSF will pay the district with a lump sum check for \$95,000 if that is how the district wants to be paid. They are working with the Pueblo of Santa Ana to obtain grass plugs and other materials. Some simple EPA reports will have to be submitted.

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

**Romero Wood LLC CFRP:**

The district manager said that the project is finished. She is working on the final report, which she will submit to the Forest Service next week.

**Capilla Peak CFRP:**

The district manager said that this project is finished. She is working on that final report, which she will submit before the end of the month.

**Corona CFRP:**

Second year surveys have been done. The district manager said that very interesting artifacts have been found, some perhaps dating back to 5000 B.C.

**Chupadera CFRP:**

The district manager reported on the work being done and said that the work is moving along.

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

Cultural surveys are being done on NRCS contracts. One survey is nearly finished. Three more will be done. A discussion followed on the number of cultural sites being found and the limitations that places on projects. Mr. Lujan asked that producers should be referred to him for answers to questions and concerns.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

No report.

**FEMA Grant Proposal:**

The district manager said that the Cultural Resource surveys on the NEPA work will start soon.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> of November, the district manager will meet with someone from the Legislative Counsel Services in Santa Fe, who will help her go forward with the request for the reauthorization of the \$85,000 of capital outlay for the shop.

Rock was applied to the slope on the north side of the shop building, and is holding the dirt in place. Also, rock was put under the down spouts, and no erosion is taking place.

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

The district manager said that the draft plan and the draft EIS documents should be available in March 2019 for a 90-day period of public comment.

**Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager announced that the Americorp worker, Cali quit her job and left the area. A discussion took place on what occurred.

**Beautification – Partnership with the town of Mountainair – Elm Trees in Town Right of Ways:**

The district manager said that Vernon Kohler is working with someone from Mountainair's Public Works Department on the project.

**Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:**

The district manager said that she received GIS files on the line, but the location of it is still not settled.

**Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies:**

The district manager said that the company goes before the Torrance County Commission to request its special use permit.

**Western Spirit Transmission Line:**

The district manager made new maps available to board members. She said that the line is supposed to run 12 miles south of Mountainair. The location of the line involves 9 landowners now. She will attend

the County Commission meeting and meet with Pattern Energy representatives Adam Clark and Adam Renz afterward.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Resolution No. 07 – 2019 – Open Meetings Resolution:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution 07 – 2019. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye; Larry Gomez – aye.

##### **HB 163 Review – Possible Resolution to Show Non-Support.**

The district manager explained HB 163, a property tax bill. The county tax assessors oppose the bill as well as all ag groups. The Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District asked the CLPSWCD to pass a resolution opposing the bill. Jim Wanstall further explained that the bill creates another valuation category for land that is not used for agriculture but is maintained as open space. He said that counties are afraid that their tax base would be reduced. His concern is that SWCDs would be tasked with developing required conservation plans, but no funding is provided to support the work.

**ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to approve a resolution opposing HB 163. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye; Larry Gomez – aye.

##### **Annual Meeting:**

The district manager said that an open house at the district's facility will be held as the annual meeting this year on December 7, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00. She explained some of the details, including a presentation on burning piles of slash. A short board meeting will take place at 8:00 a.m. prior to the annual meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

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

The NMCCD was represented at the NMDA Ag Day and at the Edgewood open house.

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

No report.

##### **EBWPC:**

The district manager provided meeting minutes from the last meeting.

#### **ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

Jim Groom reported on the Deer Canyon Preserve Annual Meeting on October 20. He commented on the presentation by Shelly Rossbach from the Placitas Group that the district manager arranged for. Mr. Groom's term on the Home Owners Association (HOA) board has concluded. He plans to take over the Conservation Committee. He said that the board president, Tom Carroll, expressed the board's appreciation for everything that the CPSWCD and the district manager have done for Deer Canyon. He thinks that the property owners now have a better understanding of what the district has done and is doing for the Preserve.

#### **OTHER:**

The district manager announced that the district has wood for sale at \$140 a cord.

#### **MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:** Annual Meeting

#### **NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, December 7, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

#### **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00. Richard Shovelin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.