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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING August 5, 2022

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
Leroy Candelaria
David Cain
Robin Dunn
Larry Gomez
Dale Rose

Absentees: Jack Lockridge

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Steven Ferguson, NRCS
Roy Gibson, Chilton Ranch
Katie Mechenbier, S&W Cons. Spec. NMDA
Arlene Perea, Mountainair Ranger District
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer CPSWCD

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, both in person and via Zoom at 8:05 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the meeting. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Chairman Lovato administered the oath of office to Dale Rose.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Leroy Candelaria moved to approve the agenda. Dale Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dale Rose.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the minutes of July 15, 2022, as read. David Cain seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention: Felipe Lovato, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of July 2022 with accounts payable for August, 2022.

ACTION TAKEN: Robin Dunn moved to approve the treasurer's report for July 2022 and pay the accounts payable for August 2022. Larry Gomez seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Dale Rose.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager reported that she has submitted both the quarterly report and the FY 2022 – 2023 budget.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The NMDA's written report for August was provided to the board members. Soil & Water Conservation Specialist, Katie Mechenbier commented on several items that affect SWCDs:

- The annual report of activities and annual plan for the past fiscal year are due to SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and NMDA Specialist on September 1st.
- On October 30, the first quarterly budget report is due.
- The Soil and Water Conservation Commission will be meeting August 2nd at 11:00 am, via zoom.
- The Agricultural Workforce Development Program is still welcoming applications from agribusinesses seeking to hire interns.
- The NMDA has sent Healthy Soil Program grantees their MOAs; the deadline to sign and return them is August 15.
- The NMDA is hiring a Natural Resource Policy/Planning Analyst to fill Jim Wanstall's position as a Natural Resource Policy/Planning Analyst. This is a full-time position with NMDA, and requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a related field.
- The NMSU Cooperative Extension Service is working to provide educational materials to support the recovery of those impacted by catastrophic wildfire this year. Two examples of that work are attached to this monthly report.
- The New Mexico 30 x 30 Advisory Committee announces a public Request for Information (RFI) to gather broad input on the conservation activities most important to New Mexicans. The RFI solicits ideas for a "uniquely New Mexico" vision for conservation.
- NWS Albuquerque Burn Scar Flash Flood Notification says that information to interested parties can be received by email regarding possible flash flooding and/or debris flow impacts on or near any of the recent burn scars.
- The U.S. Forest Service has withdrawn the draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact released on March 28, 2022, for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project (SFMLRP) on the Santa Fe National Forest. The SFNF is "taking this step to reengage with [their] partners and community on this very important project to improve forest health in and around Santa Fe."
- Orders for the Fall 2022 Conservation Seedling Sale will begin in July and will end October 7th. Distribution will begin mid-September and will go through mid-October.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report for August is included in board member's packets. Steven Ferguson reported that the Mountainair Field office staff is wrapping up the EQIP and CSP projects.

The district manager said that Kenneth Lujan asked her to announce that East Torrance SWCD will host the local workgroup meeting to be held virtually. She will disseminate details of the meeting when she receives them.

District Manager's Report: No report.

CORRESPONDANCE: No report.

The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board and Comments – Update on Grants

[The district manager has ordered weather stations from the Estancia Basin group. They have come in and will be put out by the end of the month. One station will be at the office, one will be in Estancia, and one will be in Edgewood. The committee will decide where to put the others.]

[The district manager is working with the State Land Office, State Forestry, and the Edgewood SWCA on a project near Ponderosa. The wood will go to the land grant council and will be staged at the baseball fields in Chilili. Since the contractor's bid was very high, it was suggested that she work with the inmate crew. WTB and the district's state forestry funds will be used.]

[The district manager met with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) on a thinning project on highway right of ways. She described the extent of the project and said that Vern Kohler will be measuring the right of ways to help determine the costs for the project. Funding may come from the NM DOT and from State Forestry. All the wood will be left on the side of the road to be collected by individuals from nearby communities.]

[Regarding the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, the district manager has been notified that is she is eligible to apply to renew the 2018 funding. If 2015, 2017, and 2018 are funded; the total will amount to \$6,702,000. One of the priorities will be to serve the small farmers and ranchers.]

[The Soil and Water Conservation Commission pre-proposal was approved, so the district manager will submit a full proposal by September 15.]

[Regarding FEMA, the cultural resource report will be submitted to Homeland Security and FEMA on Monday. The district manager described the efforts being made to cut down on the review time so that phase 2 can be contracted through Homeland Security and the district before December 31.]

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2020 EBWHRM WTB Funds – The District is preparing thinning contracts for signature. Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance have a couple of projects that work is being completed. Claunch-Pinto has 3 projects ready to contract and 11 pending projects. Ken Leiting, East Torrance SWCD will be contacting his landowners who have contracts find out the progress on their projects. Edgewood SWCD is still working on getting their practice plans approved. We are working with NM State Land and NM State Forestry on the Bear Cat project. We hope to have something worked out on hauling the wood to Chilili within the next few weeks. This grant will have to be expended by December 18 2022.

2020 GRGWA WTB Funds – We are working with the landowners of the San Cristobal, Seboyeta-Moquino Creek, and Glorieta projects and the contractors to get these projects completed before December 2022. This grant will have to be expended by December 18,

2022. The District is working on resprout treatments for the previously completed GRGWA projects.

2021 WTB Proposals: The EBWHRM and GRGWA grant documents have been signed and the district has been notified the grants have closed, so we can proceed to start projects.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2019 NFL Funding – The District has a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2022. The HWY 42 project has been completed. The second project is the Chilili Land Grant project in the amount of 40 acres. Vern will be meeting with the contractor for the Chilili Project soon.

2020 NFL Funding – The District has just signed a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2023.

2022 NFL Funding – The District has been notified their FY2022 NFL proposal has been funded.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district will continue to monitor the area for any erosion issues.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano

Mountains: The District has 3 High School students worked with SWCA Environmental Consultants and NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute to complete the monitoring for the first year on this project. They have completed the on the ground monitoring and will start working on the reports for the monitoring.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2017 RCPP Funding – We have submitted the reimbursement for the outstanding cultural resource report for Pueblo of Acoma. This is the final reimbursement. All of the technical assistance funding has been drawn down on this project.

2018 RCPP Funding – All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been approved by SHPO. The EZGrants.gov portal for Claunch-Pinto SWCD was set up incorrectly as Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water **Conversation** District. As of today, this has not been corrected. The District Manager is submitting the financial and written reports to the NM NRCS RCPP Project Manager who makes sure the reports are added to the portal, so the district doesn't show past due. The district has finally located the final signed authorization from the State Historical Preservation Office for the last cultural resource survey report completed with this funding.

2021 RCPP Funding – The supplemental agreement has been returned for the third time from the Washington D.C. office. We are in the process of reworking the deliverables and values required for the supplemental agreement. NRCS staff will review our work before we upload the information in the portal and re-submit for final approval.

Additional RCPP Funding – The District has received notice that the fiscal year 22 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Renewal proposal in the amount of \$967,000 has tentatively been selected to become a RCPP project. We have also been notified the 2018 RCPP can be renewed.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

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Hazard Mitigation Project - HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement: SWCA has completed all of the cultural resource surveys. SWCA should submit the cultural resource survey reports on the projects to NMSHPO by August 8, 2022, for a 30 day review. The draft NEPA document will be ready to submit to NMEMHS and FEMA by August 1, 2022, for their review. If we can keep to this schedule, we should have the funding for phase 2 secured before the end of the year.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Pre-Proposal:

The District submitted a pre-proposal for the SWCC request for pre-proposal. This grant proposal if funded would develop a planning document to guide the CPSWCD over the next decade and beyond looking at the changing climate and watershed conservation dynamics in prioritized areas for treatment. The document would not only benefit the future managers of CPSWCD but also benefit all SWCDs across New Mexico.

New Mexico State Land Projects:

The Edgewood SWCD will be using some of the Water Trust Board allocation to complete a 50-acre State Land Project known as the Bear Cat Project. Claunch-Pinto SWCD will match the funding with their State Forest NFL funding.

At this time the cost for moving the wood from the Bear Cat project site to the Chilili Land Grant baseball fields is exorbitant. We are trying to get some ideas on how to move the wood with the least amount of cost. This project can not start until we get the costs down.

The District has \$775,406.55 in projects to contract or ready to contract as we have the funding and the availability of contractors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper RFP:

The district manager reported that one chipper is available for 2022 for \$81,120.03, so she bought it.

FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request Funded – Skid Steer:

The district manager contacted Four Rivers Equipment, but their price for a skid steer is considerably more than the \$40,000 which the district has.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies, Western Spirit Transmission Line: No report.

Sun Zia Transmission –Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

The district manager said that she reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and she thinks that the district's comments were reflected, so she didn't submit any further comments. She said that Pattern Energy has bought the Sun Zia line that will be built first.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Revision Resolution No. 05 – 2023:

The district manager explained the background and reason for the budget revision resolution.

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Rose moved to approve Budget Revision Resolution No. 05 – 2023. Mr. Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; Robin Dunn, aye; Leroy Candelaria, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, Dale Rose, aye.

REPORTS:

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New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

No report.

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The district manager said that she expects a meeting to be held the following week on Thursday. She doesn't know whether the draft letter was sent to the Edgewood planning and zoning committee regarding concerns about the new Campbell Ranch subdivision.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OTHER:

The district manager reminded the board that she disseminated information from the New Mexico 30 by 30 Advisory Committee requesting public input "on the conservation activities most important to New Mexicans." A link to a survey was provided and responses are due by August 25.

The district manager will not have a table at the county fair this year. She explained the reasons for the decision.

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, September 9, 2022, 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, was adjourned.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Cain moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gomez seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY