

Santa Cruz NRCD

Monthly Meeting

February 12, 2018

Final Minutes

Location: Wild Horse Restaurant, 277 McKeown Ave, Patagonia, AZ 85624

Stephen Williams called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Board Supervisors: Stephen Williams, Daniel Bell, Bill Schock and Barbara Neville-Johnson, Mark Larkin (Absent).

Agencies & Guests: NRCS, Kristen Egen, Alisha Phipps, & Brett Myers: Arizona Land Water & Trust, Cameron Becker & Janelle Gaun; Jim Koweek (Arizona Revegetation & Monitoring), Chris Postel (Clerk Candidate), & Dean Fish (Santa Fe Ranch).

Minutes of Past Meetings: Reviewed minutes: June 18, 2015, July 18, 2015, January 20, 2016, February 18, 2016, March 17, 2016, June 16, 2016, July 28, 2016, October 20, 2016, June 20, 2017, August 17, 2017 and August 28, 2017 (conference call). It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the minutes. Daniel Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasure's Report (Dan Bell): The State account balance was \$7,111.23 and the Ed Center's account balance was \$2,438.20. Reviewed financial reports: Most of the transactions were for educational programs, bank charges, office supplies, insurance, and a sprayer for District Cooperator's to use. Barbara Johnson moved to approve the financial reports. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Agency Updates:

NRCS: Kristen Egen (See Attached Report). The Santa Fe ranch plan was finished. Currently, she has 6 contacts and 4 new applications. By February 23, they will have a budget of \$439,000 for 3 years. If a project is outside of Conservation Implementation Strategy; then, additional funds of \$146,000 will be available. Still have Regional Conservation Partnership Program for Ft Huachuca. A Local Work Group meeting needs to be held the week of April 9 in Tucson. Conservation Stewardship Program has 1 active contract.

Arizona Water Land & Trust: Cameron Becker needs letters of support for grant proposal dealing with water quality in the Santa Cruz river watershed.

Old Business:

Feeding American Families Signs: Bill Brake had a sign made. Discussed ordering in bulk, 25 or more signs at a discount. More information is needed; so, item was tabled.

Monitoring Report: Jim Koweek presented the monitoring results for 2017 for 20 transacts; overall, very dry (Turning from brown to grey). A lot of death loss in perennial species. Precipitation results in 2017, had the majority of the rain in a very short time frame, i.e., not spread out over many months.

Ed Center Report: Dean Fish. A Nogales Eagle Scout wants to do a project in the Demonstration Garden focusing on the benefits of low water use plants. Funding for this project was mentioned. Project WET is scheduled again for 2nd week May in Nogales (16 Classes). There are some ranch days coming up.

Cooperator Questionnaire: Dean Fish. Needs to re-focus on this project and publish an updated and streamlined version, with Stephen's assistance.

State NRCDs Possible Move of the State NRCD Administration to the Division of Forestry and Fire Management: Bill Schock informed the group that the AACD Executive Committee voted in early fall to promote this move, based on the majority support of NRCD's present at the time of the vote. Currently, three bills are under consideration in the AZ Legislature addressing the move. It has become apparent that there is not unanimous support statewide for this move and AACD has asked for a definitive vote from each NRCD on their opinion of the move. Bill Schock moved that the Santa Cruz NRCD support the move of the Administration of the NRCDs from the Arizona State Land Department to the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Barbara seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion was defeated 2-1. Dan Bell moved that the Santa Cruz NRCD stay neutral on the proposed move but remain open to more discussion in the future. Barbara seconded it. The motion passed 2-1.

New Business:

State Land Department NRCD Administrator: The supervisors would schedule a conference call with Jackie Thomas to discuss NRCD business and get to know her. She would also be invited to the March meeting.

Hiring a District Clerk: Chris Postel was introduced as a candidate for District Clerk position. Chris discussed his previous experience and current duties as the Winkleman NRCD Administrator. Dan Bell moved that Chris be hired as District Clerk with Stephen having the responsibility and authority to negotiate the final terms of the contract. Bill Schock seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Big Sandy Human Resource Policy on Harassment: A discussion was held about this proposed policy. The policy was tabled for further study.

Arizonans for Wildlife Initiative: A discussion of the biology of different cats by the group was held. All agreed that we need to take a stand on this; so, Barbara Johnson moved to adopt Stephen Williams version of the resolution. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Opportunities: Cameron Becker would like to link up landowners and cooperators with grants. Cameron talked about how the research on water impacts could bring more funding to open space preservation. Other grant opportunities were discussed.

2018 District Election: The Santa Cruz NRCD has one open elected position available, and Barbara Johnson has agreed to run for re-election. Some election policies and guidelines were discussed. Dan, Bill and Stephen all agreed to serve as the Election Committee. Barbara Johnson made a motion to appoint them as the election committee, Dan seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously

Call to the Public: Cameron Becker advised us that there will be a March 10 workshop at Cochise College on restoration, fuel reduction, and brush management & fuel control workshop. More details will be provided to the District

Next meeting: Scheduled for March 20, 2018 at noon at Wild Horse restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Dean Fish

Date: February 15, 2018

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____

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