



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Monthly Meeting

March 28, 2018

Final Minutes

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

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

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

Agencies & Guests: Bill Brake

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed minutes: 2/12/18 & 2/20/19 (Conference call). It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasure's Report (Dan Bell): The State account incurred expenses for monitoring and the election notice. The State account balance was \$904.50 and the Ed Center's account balance was \$2,438.20. Reviewed financial reports: Bill Schock moved to approve the financial reports. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Center Report: None. Project WET is scheduled for the 2nd week in May in Nogales.

Agency Updates: None. On April 11 at 10 am, a Natural Resources Conservation Service Local Work Group meeting will be in Tucson. Distributed the 2018 Current Applicant list (See Attached).

OLD BUSINESS

Feeding American Families Sign: The sign's cost/quantity break downs is: \$96/25, \$92/50, \$88/100, \$82/150. Per Bill Brake, the sign's ranch name can be customized. For example, "This Rancher Feeds 200 Families". A calculation would have to be standardized to be able to determine how many families will be fed from livestock produced on a specific ranch, # cattle = # families fed. Stephen Williams will have the Rose Tree Ranch sign at the Brush Management Workshop on April 27 for presentation and will be ready to take sign orders. Stephen plans to use a picture of the sign for use in a promotional brochure.

Cooperator Questionnaire (See Attached): The 2003 questionnaire was consolidated from 38 to 17 items. After reviewing the new draft questionnaire, it was suggested to add the following items: Funding Sources, Monitoring, Agency Relationships, and Other. The questionnaire will be revised and presented at the next meeting. Once approved, it will be mailed and emailed to the Cooperators.

Human Resources Policy/Sexual Harassment Policy: Stephen Williams did some research on the "Oath of Office" and the appropriate Arizona Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules. It appears the provisions address "sexual harassment" by inclusion, but not specific language. So, is the policy necessary? The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) is contacting the National Association to determine what they are doing currently. It was decided that Stephen would create a

short version using the "Big Sandy" NRCD policy from the Supervisors Handbook. The policy will be presented at the next meeting.

District Sprayer: The sprayer is available for use. It's currently at Bill Brake's ranch. The sprayer availability needs to be communicated to the Cooperators. A brochure needs to be created and a policy detailing: how to use it properly, rental charge and deposit, hold harmless agreement requirements, etc. Chris Postel will keep track of the paper work and will create a spreadsheet and a rental agreement/procedures document. Dan Bell suggested that other equipment should be available, such as a fence post driver. So, other equipment rental needs to be identified..

NEW BUSINESS

AACD March 5 Conference Call on Arizonans for Wildlife Initiative: Per Stephen Williams, the state association (AACD) has created a resolution as its position statement on this initiative. Each district can modify this resolution per their needs.

Meeting dates, location, time and frequency: Currently, the regular meeting is monthly and held on the 3rd Wednesday. We need to consider meeting quarterly or every other month and on what day. After a discussion, it was decided to meet every other month (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) on the 4th Wednesday at noon. The regularly scheduled meeting will start at noon on the following dates; April 25, June 27, Aug 22, and Oct 24. Stephen will inquire of Jackie Holmes to see if any paperwork needs to be filed with the State Land Department. Chris Postel will check with the newspapers to determine if they can publish our meeting dates on their event calendar.

Election Update: The election notice in the Nogales International cost \$406 and ran for 2 weeks. On March 5, Jackie Holmes informed Stephen Williams that if only one candidate is running; then, an election doesn't have to be held (Per the Attorney General's office). Barbara Johnson is the only candidate and is still collecting signatures. She will send her nomination petition by April 25. Jackie needs to be informed ten days before the election (April 25) that the District has only one candidate, and that our District is cancelling the May 5 election.

Grant Opportunities: Per Stephen Williams, we need to identify someone who can write a grant application and administer the approved grants.

Cooperator Agreement Status: No update. Stephen Williams wants to review the current cooperator agreements, and update the Cooperator list as needed.

Clerk's February Invoice: Bill Schock moved to approve the February invoice (\$105). Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Payment of AACD Dues: Bill Schock moved to approve the annual AACD dues (\$1,200). Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Call to the Public: Bill Brake discussed that he's not eligible for drought insurance. Per Bill Schock, Santa Cruz county is rated as "Severe" drought and he should be eligible. The District will investigate this for Bill Brake.

Supervisor Reports

- Bill Schock: The Sentinel Landscape Partnership wants the District to inform them what our Cooperators are doing to support the Partnership. So, Bill needs to find out what projects the

Cooperators have accomplished. The Partnership has funding from Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT). In terms of the drought, he forwards information (rain measurements) to the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC) in Tempe and the Farm Service Agency gets the information from them about the current drought conditions. He has put several Cooperators that are interested in conservation easements in contact with ALWT.

- Dan Bell: Arizona Game and Fish Department has a proposed rule that will require hunter's cameras to be placed at least a 1/4 mile away from the watering area.
- Stephen Williams: He will attend the RiversEdge West workshop on Tamarisk Removal & Restoration on April 9-10. On April 27, the ALWT will have a Brush Management workshop in Sonoita. On April 7, the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association will have a meeting at the Chilton Ranch in Arivaca.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Barbara Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Bill Schock seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: April 18, 2018

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____