



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

April 25, 2018

Final Minutes

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

Welcome & Introductions: Stephen Williams called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

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

Agencies & Guests: Kristen Egen and Brett Meyers NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services) and Cameron Becker AWLT (Arizona Land and Water Trust).

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed minutes: 3/28/18. It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the minutes. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasure's Report (Dan Bell): The State account balance was \$4,032.15 and the Ed Center's account balance was \$2,438.20. Reviewed financial reports: Barbara Johnson moved to approve the financial reports. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Center Report (Dean Fish):

- Three field trips (about 80-90 students/trip) are scheduled for May 11, 16 & 18 at the Santa Fe Ranch. Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is scheduled for May 10 at the Nogales High School. Youth ambassadors will be trained to make the presentations to the 240 4th grade students from 9 schools. The University of Arizona charges a fee of \$5,780 to cover their material and labor costs. Some donations have been received, Santa Cruz NRCD funds \$2,500 every year. Barbara Johnson moved to fund \$2,500 for Project WET. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- Scholarships: It was decided that it was too late to contact the local High Schools regarding scholarships. Each year the District funds the NRCWAY (Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth) camp (\$500) and scholarships for 2 students. Dan Bell moved to fund \$500 for NRCWAY and 2 student scholarships (\$150/scholarship). Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration:

- Clerk's March Invoice (\$400) and Expenses: It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoice. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. It was discussed that the Clerk should have an authorization of \$100/month for expenses that would be paid when the monthly invoice was submitted with the expense receipts. Dan Bell moved to approve the monthly expense authorization. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- Website: The District's website would be about 6 pages (Tabs): Home (posts for meetings, events, information, etc), About, Projects, Education Center, Documents, and Contacts. The domain name SCNRCD.org is available for \$8 at Go Daddy. The website could cost between \$1,000 to \$2,000 using a consultant. If Wordpress is used, Chris could do a majority of the

work in terms of design-content and could update the pages after setup. It was decided to create a content plan and design; then, develop a more definite cost estimate.

- Newsletter: The Board decided to start publishing a quarterly newsletter. Possible articles: Project WET, Sentinel Landscape Project, District Signs, District Sprayer Rental, Cooperator Questionnaire, Profiles on Board members and Cooperators, etc. The Board members need to submit content in May. Sponsors should be contacted to help pay for the newsletter costs.

Agency Updates:

- NRCS (Kristen Egen): Kristen discussed the Tucson Field Office Implementation Strategy (See Attachment). They have \$439,000 in funding for 6 contracts for Water Development. They also received another \$85,000 for funding other projects (brush management). The NRCS Local Work Group Meeting was on April 11 and was well attended. They hired a soil conservationist, Alvaro Compos, he just graduated from the University of Arizona and starts in 2 weeks. The Arizona Association of Conservation District's (AACD) summer meeting will be July 10-12.
- ALWT (Cameron Becker): The Brush Management workshop will be on April 27. A donation of \$150 was requested to pay for the meeting space, payable to the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association. Dan Bell moved to fund the \$150 request. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Feeding American Families Sign: Per Stephen Williams, the sign cost is \$96/sign. There is a calculation based upon how many cattle, by sex and weight, will feed a household/family. The message, "This ranch feeds X,XXX American Families" will be customized for each sign.

Cooperator Questionnaire (See Attached): The questionnaire was reviewed, no changes were noted. Stephen Williams will have copies available at the Brush Management Workshop.

Human Resources Policy/Sexual Harassment Policy: The attached policy was reviewed and a small word change was noted. Bill Schock moved to approve the policy with the change to correct the misspelling. Barbara Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

District Sprayer: The Rental Agreement was reviewed (See attachment). It was suggested to charge \$75/day or \$250/week with a \$250 deposit. The rental fees and deposit would be separate checks. Barbara Johnson moved to approve Rental Agreement and proposed fees and deposit. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Stephen Williams will discuss the rental process with Bill Brake.

Election Update: No additional candidates have been nominated; so, the District has an uncontested election. Barbara Johnson will copy, email and mail her Cooperator Agreement and signature page to Jackie Thomas. Stephen Williams sent an email canceling the election to Jackie Thomas. Discussed Mark Larkin's status. Robert Noon should be contacted regarding serving on the board.

Cooperator Agreement Status: Stephen will compile the Agreements obtained from Dan and Bill. A new cooperator list will be created and new Cooperator Agreements will have to be signed.

Arizonians for Wildlife Petition: The Petition has been withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Opportunities: Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire has funds available for brush and invasive species removal and Willie Sommers is their grant writer. Also, the District could partner with RiversEdge West and Borderlands Restoration. Stephen posed two questions to the Board: who will write the grant application, and who will administer the grant.

Report on Tucson Local Work Group Meeting: Discussed during NRCS agency update, the primary focus is water development. Dean Fish asked about irrigated pastures and Kristen could do a Conservation Implementation Strategy for this and for Brush Management.

Annual Reports: Jackie Thomas is revising the reporting formats which should be available about May 16. A regular board meeting was scheduled on June 6 in lieu of the June 27 meeting for the Board to review the report format.

Goals/Objectives for Fiscal Year 2081-19: The board needs to start thinking about what they want to do for the next fiscal year.

Brush/Fuels Management Workshop on April 27: Discussed during ALWT agency update.

Call to the Public: None

Supervisor Reports

- Bill Schock: He attended a drought meeting. With Technical monitoring, all of Santa Cruz county is in a severe drought. Wells have been going dry in some areas and statewide snow pack is the lowest since 1910. Another way to determine drought levels is by measuring soil moisture. He has a soil moisture gauge at his house. Mike Crimmins from the University of Arizona is leading a task force that is looking at how dry the ground is versus the traditional rainfall method. Bill needs to be able to plot his data along 3-4 axis. Ashley Wright (U of A Cooperative Extension) has taken grass samples in 2 areas with different soils, red versus dark. The nutritional content is very different in the two areas; so, he is having to supplement the nutritional content for some of his cattle. So, evaluating nutritional content could be a project that the District could do in the future.
- Dan Bell: His District area is very dry and is under fire restriction.
- Stephen Williams: He clarified the need to notify the Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors regarding changing the location of the Board meeting postings. He attended the Tamarisk workshop on March 26-27. The Sonoran Institute discussed their work on the Santa Cruz river in Tucson. The District needs to define their concerns along the Santa Cruz river. Tamarisk is near Rio Rico and sprouts are growing on the Santa Fe Ranch.

Adjourn:

Motion made by Bill Schock to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Johnson seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: April 29, 2018

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____