



# Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

October 24, 2018

Final Minutes

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

Welcome & Introductions: Stephen Williams called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Board Supervisors & Clerk: Stephen Williams, Daniel Bell, Bill Schock, and Chris Postel (Clerk).

Agencies & Guests: Sarah Gandaria (AZ Game & Fish), Kristen Egen, Brett Myers, Alvaro Campos & Alisha Phipps (Natural Resource Conservation Services), and Ashley Wright (University of Arizona Cooperative Extension).

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed the August 22 minutes. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Bell): The State account balance was \$3,473.32, the Local account balance was \$438.01 and the Ed Center's account balance was \$423.97. Reviewed financial reports: Bill Schock moved to approve and file the Treasurer's reports. Stephen Williams seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Bill Schock to add a second signatory to the checking accounts, the SC NRC D Chairman. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Ed Center Report (Dan Bell): A group from an elementary school cleaned up the area and saw the demonstration garden.

#### Administration (Chris Postel):

- Clerk's August (\$400) and September (\$400) invoices: It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoices. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Newsletter: The newsletter is done but some corrections were noted: Dan Bell said the name should be changed to "Views from the Watershed, add the 2019 meeting dates to the Chairman's Column, and change Alvaro's last name to Campos. The total cost will be about \$2.50 per mailed newsletter and 50 newsletters will be printed. The total cost for printing copies and mailing will be about \$150, \$250 was budgeted. Over 45 newsletters will be emailed based on the current mailing list.
- Website: A Santa Cruz NRC D account was set-up at GoDaddy. Then, the domain name, santacruznr.cd.org, was transferred from the Santa Fe Ranch (Dean Fish) account to the new account. The website should be set-up by the end of the year with the proposed 4-5 pages.

#### Agency Updates:

- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension (Ashley Wright): Two staff have retired: Dan Faulkner and Peter Cuneo and still trying to fill these positions. They have a \$600,000 NEPA grant to educate beginning ranchers or farmers in areas such as record keeping, animal health, etc. They also have received a USDA risk management grant.
- Arizona Game and Fish (Sarah Gandaria): 80 Heritage Fund grant applications have been reviewed, 30 applications came from the South East (Douglas, Sierra Vista, & Tucson). The funding will be awarded in January, 2019. Grant funds are still available for habit and brush

management. Bill Schock asked Sarah if she could send him the bird survey results from the past two years. She asked for any suggestions on the removal of yellow bluestem.

- Natural Resource Conservation Services (Kristen Egen - See Attached Report): With Alvaro finishing up his training, they are fully staffed. Kristen will be retiring on Dec 28, 2018. The Farm Bill has expired and no changes to report. They are working on existing contracts but still taking applications. NRCS and USFS submitted a Joint Chiefs application for brush management funding around the Fort Huachuca. A Sectional Range Management Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 9-11 in Silver City, New Mexico. NRCS will be doing a reorganization.

## OLD BUSINESS

District Sprayer Retainer (Stephen Williams): Neither the hardware store or Ken Karrels were interested in managing the sprayer, concerned about the liability. Dan Bell made a motion to amend the Sprayer rental rate for Cooperators from \$75 to \$10/day. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The Rental Agreement will be updated based on this change.

Move to Forestry/Fire Update (Stephen Williams): Currently, the Santa Cruz District is neutral. All agreed that the proposed legislation would have to be reviewed before a decision could be made.

Supervisor Appointment Update: Dan Bell will inquire of Cody Hereford about his interest in assuming Mark Larkin's vacant position.

## NEW BUSINESS

How to involve cooperators at regular meetings, social events, etc: Per Stephen Williams, we have 47 old & new cooperator agreements. We need to provide more education & workshops on topics that the cooperators are interested in such as: Drones, Solar Panels, Water Development, Drought, Invasive Species, Erosion, & Toxic Plants. Per Dan Bell, we could have social events that would cover a resource topic. The agencies should be asked which ranchers have done recent projects that addresses a concerned topic. The Kala and the Rose Tree ranches are treating whitethorn. These areas could be visited before/during the spraying and later on in the spring to see the impact of the spraying.

Theme for the Year/Quarter (Water, Drought Preparedness, Record Keeping, Drones, etc): Based on the above discussed topics, the District's education activities will be coordinated with agencies and vendors in collaborative workshops and field days.

Discuss a Proposed US Fish & Wildlife Service Rule (Stephen Williams): The Pima NRCD had a conference call to fund a letter by Dennis Parker to address listing species. The letter cost is \$4,400 and so far they have received \$2,200. Stephen proposed a \$200 donation payable to Pima NRCD. Dan Bell made a motion to approve a donation of \$200. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Mission Statement and NRCD Statutes (Bill Schock - See Attached Statutes): Per Bill, our Mission Statement, "Supporting practices and policies that are economically feasible, socially acceptable and environmentally responsible; and helping provide financial and technical assistance to cooperators through collaboration with others," is too passive. Based on our statutes, the policy declaration is much more active not just "supporting and helping." We need to be able to convince cooperators to use these practices to conserve natural resources. This could be done by setting up

Technical Assistance committees. He stressed the need to be more proactive. Also, the mission statement should be revised based on a more proactive stance.

Call to the Public: None

Supervisor Reports

- Bill Schock (See Drought, Soil Moisture, & Rain Attachments): The last big rain really shredded his roads. One of his main resource concerns is erosion control. He is going to build more One Rock dams. The following documents were distributed: U.S. Drought Monitor Map (Arizona). Rain vs. Soil Moisture, and Rain Totals by day and Summary (13.13 inches) for the Schock Ranch. The Sentinel Landscape project will be having a biological planning meeting on Dec 7.
- Stephen Williams: Spent a month on vacation in Tanzania..
- Dan Bell: Nothing to report, resource conditions are OK.

Adjourn: Motion made by Stephen Williams to adjourn the meeting. Bill Schock seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Next regular meeting on February 27, 2019 at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: November 26, 2018

Approval of Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Stephen W. Williams

Date: 02/27/2019