



# Santa Cruz

## Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

April 10, 2019

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. Stephen Williams informed the group that Barbara Neville-Johnson had passed away of a heart attack.

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

Agencies & Guests: Jim Littlejohn (South East Arizona Chapter, Quail Forever), Alvaro Campos (Natural Resource Conservation Services), Mike McIntire (Arizona State Land Department), Ashley Wright (University of Arizona Cooperative Extension), .

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed the February 27 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 \$1,942.96, the Education Center account balance was \$1,735.97 and the local account was \$151,088.93. Reviewed financial reports. Bill Schock moved to accept and file the Treasurer's reports. Stephen Williams seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Center Report (Dan Bell): Project WET will be held on May 9 (See Flyer) and the Santa Fe Ranch Days will be on April 24, May 3, May 7, and May 17.

### Administration (Chris Postel):

- Clerk's February and March invoices were reviewed. It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoices (\$800). Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Website: Still progressing, some pages, galleries, resource links, etc, are being designed.
- Newsletter: The newsletter is targeted for early June. The chairman's corner and other articles are needed.

### Agency Updates:

- Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management (See email from Willie Sommers): David Tenney is the new Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Management.
- Natural Resource Conservation Services (Alvaro Campos - See Attached Report): EQIP has 4 contracts and 6 applications. They are still waiting to receive the Farm Bill's manuals and funding rules. The NRCS Local Work Group meeting will be in Tucson on May 1 at 9 am.
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension (Ashley Wright): During the first week in March, they had 3 livestock workshops with over 100 people attending. They have a three year grant for \$600,000 for Beginning Rancher/Farmer workshops. They are planning risk management workshops that will focus on drought. Nate Brawley will be the new agent in Greenlee County.
- Arizona State Land Department (Mike McIntire, ASLD); An archaeologist, April, in the Archeology department is leaving; so, only 2 people are left now. A lot of applications are waiting for their archeological review but ASLD is considering hiring a third party firm to reduce their backlog. ASLD and Arizona Game & Fish are working together on a policy that addresses locked gates. They also are trying to streamline their application process.

## OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Appointment Update: Dan Bell will follow up with Cody Hereford and Josh Hamilton about the open supervisor positions. Stephen Williams will also contact Kate Kahla about the open positions.

Mission Statement and NRCD Statutes (Bill Schock): Tabled, needs to be discussed in a separate meeting. It was mentioned that maybe the Attorney General's office could have a webinar discussing the statutes. Jackie Thomas will be contacted regarding the webinar.

May 14 Workshop at Rose Tree Ranch (Identify ecological sites and plant communities - See flyer): Two people have registered, Stephen Williams has is working with NRCS, Jim Koweek, and University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. The cutoff date for signing-up is May 7, lunch will be provided and paid for by Arizona Land and Water Trust.

Funding for scholarships - NRCWAY and District high school graduates: Per Dan Bell, last year a \$500 donation was made to NRCWAY. It costs \$150 for a student to attend. It was moved by Dan Bell to fund a \$500 general donation. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Stephen Williams will contact them to determine if the donation can be used for student scholarships.

The Future Farmers of America chapters in Rio Rico and Patagonia will be contacted regarding \$500 scholarships. Students will be required to submit an essay for scholarship consideration. It was moved by Dan Bell to fund two \$500 scholarships. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Funding for Nogales Water Festival: The cost of Project Wet is split with the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation. It was moved by Dan Bell to fund \$2,500 from the Education Center account. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

Biological Assessment (BA) for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program: Robert Schmalzel (See attached proposals) will be drafting BA comments on 3 plant species, Pima Pineapple Cactus, Canelo Hills ladies'-tresses and the Huachuca water umbel. The comments need to be submitted May 10. It was moved by Dan Bell to fund \$2,000 for Robert Schmalzel's BA comments. It was seconded by Bill Schock. The motion carried unanimously.

### Supervisor Reports

- Bill Schock: The Sentinel Landscape is using "Basecamp" for managing their efforts and have three committees, Rangeland, Riparian, and Fire. They are in the final stages of hiring a Program Coordinator - Executive Director. They have also developed a questionnaire and are still looking for ranchers interested in conservation easements.
- Dan Bell: He has been following the Coronado BA and talking to the local Coronado Forest personnel. He thinks that the government budget shut down has impeded their progress.
- Stephen Williams: He is now on the Malpai Borderland Group Board of Directors

Call to the Public: None

Adjourn: Motion made by Bill Schock to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Next regular meeting on June 19, 2019 at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: April 12, 2019

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

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