



# Santa Cruz

## Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

February 27, 2019

Final Minutes

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

Welcome & Introductions: Stephen Williams called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

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

Agencies & Guests: Jim Littlejohn (South East Arizona Chapter, Quail Forever), Alisha Phipps (Natural Resource Conservation Services), Cameron Becker & Bailey Kennett (Arizona Land and Water Trust), Sharma Torrens, Marketing Manager (Arizona Department of Agriculture).

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed the October 24 and November 19 minutes. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes. Barbara Neville-Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Bell): The State account balance was \$4,063.02, the Education Center account balance was \$1,759.97 and the local account was \$148,685.28. Reviewed financial reports. A check register will be included in the future. Barbara Neville-Johnson moved to accept and file the Treasurer's reports. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Ed Center Report (Stephen Williams): Project WET will be held on May 9 and the Santa Fe Ranch Days will be on May 17.

### Administration (Chris Postel):

- Clerk's October, November, December and January invoices were discussed and monthly hours will be added to the invoice. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the invoices (\$2,082.76). Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Website: The website, [santacruznrzd.org](http://santacruznrzd.org), has been setup with 6 main pages. Bios need to be written for the Supervisors. Bill Schock suggested that a separate page, Resource Links, be setup. Dean Fish will be contacted to determine what content will be added for the Santa Cruz Education center. Photos were submitted by four different people.

### Agency Updates:

- Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management (See Email from Willie Sommers): A Firewise Assessor Course was conducted on Feb 9-10 in Sonoita. The DFFM's Southeast District will conduct a prescribed on the Babacomari Ranch in early March.
- Arizona State Land Department (See Email from Jackie Thomas) on annual reporting.
- Arizona Land and Water Trust (Bailey Kennett): She discussed the Desert Rivers program and she has grant monies for another 2 years. The program is 10 years old, focusing on land management practices that keeps water in the river.
- Arizona Game and Fish (Per Chris Postel): The Habitat Partnership grant program will be discussed at a meeting on March 18 (6 pm) at 555 N. Greasewood Rd, Tucson, AZ.
- Natural Resource Conservation Services (Alisha Phipps - See Attached Report): Kristen has retired and Alisha is acting District Conservationist. EQIP has 4 contracts and 6 applications, funding for the year is \$370,000. The Arizona section of the Arizona Range Society for Range

Management will have a meeting in Show Low on August 14-16. NRCWAY will be July 15-19, for grades 8-12.

## OLD BUSINESS

District Sprayer Retainer (Stephen Williams): No business is interested in managing the sprayer, due to liability concerns. Bill Brake wants to buy the spray at the price that the District paid for it, \$2,373.05. Dan Bell made a motion to sell the sprayer to Bill Brake. Barbara Neville-Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Appointment Update: Dan Bell talked to Cody Hereford about his interest in assuming Mark Larkin's vacant position but Cody is too busy. Dan will contact Josh Hamilton about the open supervisor position.

Mission Statement (Bill Schock): Based on the statutes, we need to update our mission statement and our plans to better serve our community and cooperators. He will send a revised mission statement to the supervisors for their consideration.

## NEW BUSINESS

AACD Raffle Tickets (Stephen Williams): Only 500 tickets will be sold (\$100/ticket) and a prize will be picked every day over a 30 day period in the month of June. If you win a prize, your ticket will be re-entered into the raffle drawing pool until all prizes are drawn.

Arizona Department of Agriculture (Sharma Torrens): Sharma (marketing manager) works directly for the office of the Director Mark Killian. She is primarily responsible for: writing grants, social media, education outreach, tribal liaison, food access, educate the public about the NRCDs, and the farm to school initiative. The departments primary mission is to support and promote agriculture in Arizona.

Quail Forever (Jim Littlejohn, South Eastern Arizona Chapter): They are based in Sonoita and have over 200 members. \$15,000 to \$17,000 is raised annually for their project work with 92% of these funds staying in South Eastern Arizona. They worked on a project with the Pima County Parks and Recreation department on the Sands Ranch. They got a well working again and installed a drinker for wildlife. Working with Arizona Game & Fish, they have put in one rock dams at the Coronado National Memorial. They are looking for projects on private land.

AACD Winter Meeting Update (Stephen Williams): The AACDs federal grants are almost complete and no new grant funding is currently forth coming. So, Deborrah Smith, Business Manager, is the only full-time employee left. Steve Barker and Brooke Gladden are working part-time on specific tasks. In order to fund AACD operations in 2019, the following methods of fund raising are being pursued: the 500 ticket raffle, sponsorship from businesses, raising district yearly dues from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and a roll over calf auction.

Possible Workshop at Rose Tree Ranch (Stephen Williams): Working with Kim Reynolds (UA Cooperative Extension), the workshop would be to identify ecological sites and vegetative communities. Both Jim Littlejohn and Cameron Becker stated that Quail Forever and the Arizona Land and Water Trust, respectively, would be interested in participating.

Fund Joint AACD Supervisor Training for \$800 (Stephen Williams): Joint Supervisor training for the Winkelman, Pima and Santa Cruz districts with a fee of \$800 per district was discussed. Deborrah

Smith and Steve Barker would provide the training. It was moved by Dan Bell to fund the training for \$800. Barbara Neville-Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Funding for scholarships - NRCWAY and District high school graduates (Stephen Williams): Funding student enrollment fees for the Natural Resources Workshop for Arizona Youth, and college scholarships for graduating high school seniors was discussed. Tabled until next meeting.

Funding for Nogales Water Festival (Stephen Williams): The festival will be held on May 9. Splitting the usual district monetary contribution to the festival with the Santa Fe Ranch Education Center was discussed. Tabled until next meeting.

### Supervisor Reports

- Dan Bell: 2018 was a poor precipitation year, so some cattle were sold in August. The October rains saved us. He is working on projects with the US Forest Service for watering facilities, mastication of woody species and the use of targeted grazing as a fire break next to Rio Rico. Activities have been restricted due to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Also, Forest wants to use fire for thinning.
- Barbara Neville-Johnson: She had a total rainfall of 19.95 inches for 2018.
- Bill Schock:
  - Sentinel Landscape Program: It has the ability of use conservation easements, working with Arizona Land & Water Trust, they would pay up to 60% and NRCS could add 15% more.
  - Drought Reporting Workshop: Free workshop on March 6 in Scottsdale at ASU Skysong center. <https://eventbrite.com/e/monitoring-and-reporting-drought-in-arizona-tickets-54888614323>
  - Livestock Forage Disaster Program: Based on rainfall, they are paying \$28.09/month for each head of cattle. He uses the funds to purchase hay. He works with Sherry Bingham and she is interested on putting on a workshop.
  - Erosion Control Workshops: On March 23 and April 13 (7 am - noon) at the Empire Ranch Headquarters. Information, contact Trevor at [thare@watershedmg.org](mailto:thare@watershedmg.org) or call 520-396-3266x12.
- Stephen Williams: Attended the Drone Monitoring Workshop on Feb 25. The workshop was well attended and sponsored by the Herford and White Water Draw districts. In the future, ranchers using drones will become more common, used for monitoring land, cattle, fences, etc.

Call to the Public: None

Adjourn: Motion made by Dan Bell to adjourn the meeting. Bill Schock seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Next regular meeting on April 24, 2019 at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: March 4, 2019

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

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

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*Stephen W. Williams*

Date: 04/10/2019