



Santa Cruz

Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Meeting

June 19, 2019

Final Minutes

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

Board Supervisors & Clerk: Stephen Williams, Daniel Bell, Bill Schock, Dean Fish (Education Center Director) and Chris Postel (Clerk).

Agencies & Guests: Cary Lilly, Alisha Phipps, Brett Meyers, Alejandro Loera, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), and Frank Krentz, President of Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD).

Called to Order: 12:30

Administration (Chris Postel):

- Clerk's April-May invoice was reviewed. It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoice (\$445). Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Newsletter: The newsletter: emailed (29 cooperators & 22 others) and mailed (75 Mailing list).
- Annual reports are due July 20. So, a conference call was scheduled for July 10 to approve the reports.

Agency Updates:

- Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS - Cary Lilly - See Attached Report): EQIP has 5 contracts and 2 applications. A summer intern started, Alejandro Loera. He goes to the University of Arizona (Yuma), majoring in Agricultural Technology Management with a minor in plant science. Alisha Phipps is developing a workshop (crop & irrigated pastures, weed control).

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Appointment Update: Stephen Williams, Kate Kahla is too busy to be on the Board. Stephen will also contact Fox Neville-Johnson & Mark Woods. Dan Bell will contact Cody Hereford, Josh Hamilton, and Jason Olsen about the two open supervisor positions.

May 10 Workshop at Rose Tree Ranch Update: Per Stephen Williams, over 30 people attended the workshop representing Bureau of Land Management, NRCS, University of Arizona, and 6 livestock producers. Based on the questionnaire, the workshop was rated a 4.85 (5 being the highest). Lunch was provided by Arizona Land and Water Trust. We need to get more cooperators attending workshops.

Biological Assessment (BA) for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program Update: Per Dan Bell, the comments were submitted on May 10 under following grazing lessee family names: Noon, Bell, Chilton & McGibbon. A meeting is scheduled on July 11 with the Coronado National Forest Supervisor's Office, the Nogales and Sierra Vista Ranger Districts and the Range Staff. Dan will send the submitted comments to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

AACD Update (Frank Krentz): The following main topics were discussed:

- The AACD Executive committee had to reduce expenses. So, the executive director position was eliminated and Deborah Smith is the business manager. The Board is taking on the duties of the executive director position and working on defining AACD's role. Also, the District's dues were raised to \$1,500 to help cover travel expenses.
- The Board has decided there will be no further effort to move the NRCD program from the jurisdiction of the State Land Department.
- The political cloud has lifted and the other agencies (Bureau of Land Management, NRCS, etc.) are discussing with AACD what areas or programs (resource assessment, cultural clearances, brush management, internships, etc.) that they can assist the Districts with.
- The NRCS chief will be at the AACD summer meeting.
- Bill Schock asked what can be done to increase the District's funding.
- Dean Fish asked to have AACD send out periodic updates.

Review/Approved Arizona State Land Annual Reports: The Request for Funds and the Plan of Work were reviewed. No changes were identified. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the requests. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

2019-2020 Goals-Objectives, Initiatives, and Workshops: Per Stephen Williams, he is investigating possible topics for future workshops such as invasive plants, weed control, etc. It was suggested to contact the Pima NRCD to discuss what workshops/topics that could be co-sponsored.

Supervisor Reports

- Bill Schock: The Sentinel Landscape had a meeting on June 5 regarding grazing and work on Babacomari watershed. They still have not defined their next steps. He attended a biological planning meeting on the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and visited different ecological sites. 2,000 acres of mesquite there have been treated by herbicide application. Rock dams were also discussed.
- Dan Bell: The Coronado National Forest, Sierra Vista and Nogales Ranger Districts, are reaching out to the NRCDs within their Ranger Districts. He is still working on the Biological Assessment. Not too many fires right now.
- Stephen Williams: Stephen referenced an April 28, 2019 email from Jackie Thomas regarding the need for the NRCDs to maintain copies of all their documents and records. This includes emails and text messages. He wants to make this an agenda item at the next meeting so that our district can decide how to handle this need.

Call to the Public: None

Adjourn: Motion made by Bill Schock to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Next regular meeting on August 28, 2019 at 12 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: August 28, 2019

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____

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Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, SC NRCD Clerk

Date: August 28, 2019

Approval of Minutes: *Stephen M. Williams*

Date: 09/03/2019