



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Santa Cruz Regular Meeting August 28, 2019 Draft Minutes

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

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

Agencies & Guests: Cary Lilly, Alisha Phipps, and Brett Meyers (Natural Resource Conservation Services-NRCS), Ashley Wright (University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension), Justin Bartine (US Border Patrol), and Robert Schmalzel (Biologist).

Called to Order: 12:20 pm

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed the June 19 meeting and the June 28 and July 10 teleconferences. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Bell): The account balances were: \$2,924.00 (State) and \$150,553.85 (Local). Reviewed financial reports. Bill Schock moved to accept and file the Treasurer's reports. Stephen Williams seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration (Chris Postel):

- Clerk's AACD and July-August invoices was reviewed. It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoice (\$1,026.86). Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.
- Newsletter: Articles are being gathered now for an October publication.

Agency Updates:

- United States Border Patrol (Justin Bartine, Community Relations Officer): Justin has been in the Sonoita office for 4 years. Right now, traffic is slow. They had 4-5 traffic pursuits in May. They have eight Border Patrol towers with state-of-the-art cameras, radar, etc in the San Rafael Valley. Tower tours can be arranged for the District. They have authorization now to upgrade 23 miles of the existing border structure.
- Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS - Cary Lilly - See Attached Report): EQIP has 5 contracts and they are taking applications for EQIP CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) for range water improvements. Plans are completed: the R Bar 9 Trust and H 5 Ranch. So, the District needs to review these plans at the next scheduled executive board meeting. Alvaro Compos will be on leave until Nov 25, attending the Army Basic Officer Leadership Course in Virginia.
- University of Arizona - Cooperative Extension (Ashley Wright): The "Beef Specialist" position will not be filled for about another year. They still have to form a hiring committee, write-up the position, interview, etc. A beginning rancher/farmer workshop will be held in Douglas on Sep 20. They are coordinating with other organizations who are also conducting Beginning Farmer-Rancher Workshops. Bill suggested having a workshop on RFID tags, which will be required in 2023 to be able to ship cattle out-of-state.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Appointment Update (Stephen Williams): Fox Neville-Johnson is a new supervisor.

Biological Assessment (BA) for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program Update: Per Dan Bell, the Coronado Nation Forest (USFS) permittees had an August meeting to discuss their comments about using current science as it pertains to the Forest's Biological Assessment (BA). USFS is putting together a packet which will be sent to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS has asked for a 60-day extension for comments. Permittees and the USFS want to have a meeting with the USFWS (Albuquerque Office). They are hoping to have the USFS visit sites on the ground and not make a decision based on just the old BA. Only permittees can submit comments and not the public.

Per Robert Schmalzel, he drafted comments for Jim Chilton's submission. Presently, only one private land owner has the Lady Tresses. He has been monitoring Pima Pineapple Cactus (PPC) on Duquesne Road since 1995. The PPC requires jackrabbits to eat and disburse it's seed. The jackrabbits flourish in areas of significant plant utilization. He would like to conduct a PPC workshop on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of NRCS Documents (Memorandum of Agreement, Unfunded Cooperative Agreements): These agreements will replace 1970s documents. These agreements can be amended at any time based on mutual consent. The board members need to sign Appendix A. Stephen has already signed the necessary agreements. Bill Schock raised a question about a need for the new agreements. He feels there is nothing to be gained for the District by having them, as the District's allegiance is to Arizona Revised Statutes in Title 17. He did not sign Appendix A. Stephen Williams and Dan Bell did sign Appendix A.

Archiving Data on Personal Computers & Cell Phones: Per Stephen, based on Jackie Thomas's advice, emails and text messages should be archived. An email account, errec.scnrcd@gmail.com, has been setup by the Clerk (Chris). So, when sending an email or text message, the "errec" gmail account should be copied (CC:). Dan Bell moved to have the Clerk (Chris) be the Data Custodian of Records. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Arizona Land & Water Trust (ALWT) Fall Workshop (See Draft Agenda): The draft agenda was reviewed. The District wants to provide lunch for the workshop attendees. The first 2 weeks in December are the preferred time for having the workshop. Stephen will follow-up with Bailey Kennett of the ALWT to finalize the workshop's agenda.

Commit Funds for Jim Koweek's Fall Monitoring: Jim Koweek will work with NRCS to select the 20 transects that will be monitored. Bill Schock moved to fund \$5,000 for the monitoring project. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Vendor Payment Form: Dan needs to complete the form and send to Deborrah Smith to have \$500 deposited in the Education Center account. Proceeds are from the auction at the AACD summer convention.

Forest Service Outreach to NRCDs: Per Stephen, during the AACD summer meeting, Cal Joyner, USDA-Forest Service Regional Forester, wants the local Forest Service offices to coordinate with

local NRCDS and attend their District meetings. James Heitholt and Stephen are to follow up on how to proceed.

Supervisor Reports

Bill Schock: He attended the University of Arizona (Cooperative Extension) workshop for beginning ranchers-farmers and indicated that it was a good workshop and learned some things. Centennial Landscape had cancelled their August meeting.

Dan Bell: He is working with US Forest Service, US Border Patrol and Corteva Chemicals on a program to clear out weeds and invasive species (Mesquite) to reduce fire danger and improve visibility in the canyons.

Adjourn: Motion made by Bill Schock to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Next meeting on October 23, 2019

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: September 2, 2019

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____