



# Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Santa Cruz Regular Meeting      February 26, 2019      Final Minutes

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

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

Agencies & Guests: Brett Myers (Natural Resource Conservation Services-NRCS), KarLee Cork (NRCS-Quail Forever), Justin Bartine (US Border Patrol), and George Vensel (Cooperator).

Called to Order: 12:15

Review/Approve Minutes: Reviewed the 10/23/19 and 12/02/19 minutes. Bill Schock clarified his statement regarding Water Rights Workshop costs. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes with changes (12/02 minutes). Fox Neville Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Bell): The checking account balances were: \$7,002.23 (State) and \$119,854.21 (Local-District). Reviewed financial reports. Bill Schock moved to accept and file the Treasurer's reports. Fox Johnson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Administration (Chris Postel): The Clerk's November to February invoice was reviewed. It was moved by Bill Schock to approve the invoice (\$1,155.50). Fox Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Agency Updates:

- US Border Patrol (Justin Bartine): They got the waiver from US Forest Service to upgrade the border road along the Border Wall. Fourteen miles of the Wall will be worked on from Montezuma Pass west. Brad Eddy is the new Sonoita Station Chief.
- Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS – Brett Myers - See Attached Report): Brett is still the acting District Conservationist until the end of February. Emilio Carrillo will be the new acting District Conservationist effective March 1. EQIP and RCPP applications are due April 30 and will be obligated by July 1. CSP did not have any changes. They have 3 ongoing conservation plans and 2 plans have been completed.
- KarLee Cork (NRCS, Arizona Game & Fish, Quail Forever – See Attached Flyer): She is working with the Working Lands for Wildlife program with a focus on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The program will do projects such as fencing, wells, and tamarisk removal.

## OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Appointment Update (Stephen Williams): We still have one vacancy on the board. Dan Bell talked to Cody Hereford, he is too busy to be on the board, but Dan will call Josh Hamilton again. Per Fox Johnson, her neighbor, Rick Taylor, expressed an interest on being on the board. Stephen will give Rick Taylor a call.

Biological Assessment (BA) for Coronado National Forest Livestock Grazing Program Update: Per Stephen, Robert Schmalzel has submitted comments and Cindy Coping has sent some emails. Per Dan Bell, we initially provided comments; then, Coronado National Forest modified their comments and forwarded the BA to US Fish & Wildlife (USFW) for their comments. USFW made their comments and sent the BA back to Coronado National Forest. The revised BA has not been seen yet. Dan is concerned about a new species of concern, Beardless Cinch Weed, that was identified as a potential species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. It occurs on his ranch. He will contact Coronado National Forest to obtain a copy of the current BA

Water Rights Workshop (Stephen Williams): 70 people were registered for the workshop. A workshop notice was published in the Patagonia Regional Times and was mentioned twice in Clare Bonelli's blog. Twenty-one evaluations were completed with 12 of them giving the workshop the highest rating; overall, the workshop was well received. The charge for the fairground's hall was reduced from \$450 to \$150 due to the District's not-for-profit status. Also, the estimated food cost \$10-12/person was actually \$9/person. So, the total lunch food cost was \$675. Arizona Land and Water Trust offered to pay for ½ of the food cost. It was moved by Bill Schock to have ALWT pay for half of the food costs (\$337.50). Fox Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the evaluations were distributed to the board. No future workshop topics were identified.

Vendor Payment Form: Per Dan, he will complete the vendor registration on the Procure AZ website per Jackie Thompson's email.

Status of DUNS Number: Per Stephen, the NRCS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) does not require a DUNS or SAMS number if the MOA is non-monetary. Both of the DUNS numbers should be current.

Scholarship Program Update (Stephen Williams): Due to the Arizona Gift Clause Policy, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would have to be signed by any entity that would be receiving funds from the NRCD. Jackie Thomas sent out a draft MOA. Stephen reviewed this version and feels that it can be edited.

Monitoring (Jim Koweek – pay 2 additional transects): Per Stephen Williams, Jim Koweek did 22 transects versus the budgeted 20. Dan Bell is OK with paying the additional \$500 but he should prepare a written report for the board summarizing the year's results and comparing those results with previous years' results. It was moved by Dan Bell to pay the additional \$500. Fox Johnson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

2020 Santa Cruz NRCD Elections: The Election Dates Checklist was distributed. The ASLD Nominated Candidate petition needs to be submitted by April 22. Bill Schock will be the candidate. Per Stephen Williams, based on Paul Katz's presentations, only 3 signatures would be required. Per Chris Postel, the election notice postcards have been sent via postal mail and emailed, the notice was posted on the website, and he has requested copies of the election documents from Jackie Thomas.

AACD Winter Meeting Update: Per Stephen Williams, Keisha Tatum (NRCS) discussed the new Conservation Desktop that will streamline conservation planning. Jackie Thomas (ASLD) discussed the Arizona Gift clause, direct deposit, and election dates timeline.

Legislative Update (See attached sheet): AACD is meeting with legislators to educate them to support the proposed legislative changes.

Mailing List Update: Per Chris Postel, the mailing list has been updated based on newsletters and workshop announcement post cards returned due to outdated or insufficient postal addresses.

### Supervisor Reports

Dan Bell: He is concerned about the BA and the new plant species on his ranch.

Bill Schock: Due to the water rights workshop, he has done additional research. He has 3 water rights and is in the process of completing the appropriate forms from the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The Water Protect Fund is having a meeting in March to discuss the grant requirements. Stephen suggested that he look at the grants manual from the Arizona Department of Agriculture. The Sentinel Landscape has a committee to set goals and funding for rangeland and riparian areas. No efforts have been made to do joint broad-based landscape projects,

Call to the Public: Per George Vensel, he did 2 conservation easements about 10 years ago with NRCS and found such easements to be an important tool for his particular situation.

Adjourn: Motion made by Stephen Williams to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Next meeting on April 22, 2020

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Santa Cruz NRCD Clerk

Date: April 22, 2020

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

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