



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Santa Cruz Regular Meeting April 22, 2020 Final Minutes

Location: Teleconference: (515) 604-9099, access code: 645264651

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

Agencies & Guests: Emilio Carrillo & Alisha Phipps (Natural Resource Conservation Service -NRCS), Jackie Thomas (Arizona State Land Department - ASLD), Sharma Torrens (Arizona Association Conservation Districts – AACD), Peggy Tegowski (Cooperator).

Called to Order: 1:21 pm

Review/Approve Minutes: Tabled.

Treasurer's Report: Tabled.

Administration Update (Invoices): Tabled.

Agency Updates:

- ASLD (Jackie Thomas, NRCD Program Manager): She's received Bill Schock's election paper work and no write-in candidate nomination petitions have been received. Santa Cruz has an uncontested election; so, an election will not be held on May 2. She will be sending out Bill's nomination form for him to sign but no notary will be required. She is working on an election strategy to revise the election process and the corresponding statutes.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS – Emilio Carrillo - See Attached Report): Emilio Carrillo is now the new acting District Conservationist effective March 1. Alvaro Campos has been called to active duty with the National Guard from March 25 to April 25. They have 3 ongoing conservation plans within the NRCD and 2 plans have been completed. Paleo West is the new contractor for performing cultural resources clearances on State Trust land where there is an EQIP contract. Bill Schock had a question about using t-posts versus rebar to satisfy cultural resource concerns. Per Alisha Phipps, if ground disturbance will not occur, and depending on the funding source, a standard T-post could be used without the need for a cultural resource clearance.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Appointment Update: Tabled.

Draft MOA Form: Based on Stephen Williams review, the form is workable and could be used.

Scholarships for High School and NRCWAY Students: Due to school closures, no scholarships are currently being offered. Due to directives pertaining to Coronavirus safety measures for U of A staff who serve as instructors at the NRCWAY camp, and directives from the 4-H about the use of the Mingus Mountain facility for NRCWAY, the camp was cancelled for 2020.

Direct Deposit Forms: Tabled

Election Update: See Jackie Thomas's comments in the Agency Updates – ASLD section.

NEW BUSINESS

Arizona Game & Fish HPC Grant (Clean/Seal Dirt Tanks – Kyle Thompson, Consultant): Per Kyle, grant applications will be presented to the Habitat Partnership Committee in August in Tucson. The tanks need to be at least 2 miles from other water sources. There is a narrow window for interested District Cooperator ranchers to identify the stock tanks needing cleaning and sealing as the initial step in the application process. The grants are typically in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range. To seal a ¼-acre tank costs about \$5,000 using a sealant called ESS-13 provided by the Seepage Control company.

Annual Reports: Per Chris Postel, he will start working on the reports that are due on June 20.

Santa Fe Ranch Days and Project WET: Due to school closures, these events will not be held.

Supervisor & Clerk Reports

Bill Schock: Bill attended a Grasslands meeting for the Sentinel Landscape. The new funding process is to have projects presented to the Sentinel Landscape to determine if they would fund it. His calves are going under the smooth bottom fence wire (height is 22 or 23 inches); so, he will be installing barb wire. He went to Willcox to sell cattle last week and the corrals were empty.

Stephen Williams: He responded to a Sentinel Landscape questionnaire and suggested that Forest Service and NRCS should hold joint meetings for landowners to explain what projects would be considered for their funding."

Chris Postel: He had sent to the board the AACD Guns "Plus" raffle flyer regarding tickets.

Call to the Public: Sharma Torrens, AACD Conservation Education Director, was hired to support and promote the Arizona NRCDs. Her primary duties are: to secure grants and other funding sources, conduct public education outreach, and assist with state-wide education programs such as the Conservation Stewardship program. The next conference call for the NRCD Education Directors is on April 27, 2020 at 9 a.m. Recently, they have partnered with NRCS on beginning farmers and ranchers workshops in Kingman, Willcox, and Prescott areas. The AACD summer meeting is scheduled for July 7-9 but could be moved to August 11-13. The Executive Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to decide if the summer meeting should be held or cancelled.

Adjourn: The Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Next meeting on June 10 or 11, 2020

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

Date: April 24, 2020

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____