



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District

Santa Cruz Regular Meeting September 23, 2020 Final Minutes

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

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

Agencies & Guests: Alisha Phipps (Natural Resource Conservation Service -NRCS), and Josh Grace (Arizona State Land Department).

Called to Order: 1:18 pm

Review/Approve July 15 Minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Bill Schock suggested to correct the amount (\$400,000) typo. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the minutes as amended. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: Per Dan, the checking account balances are: \$4,277.69 (State), \$1,924.22 (Education Center) and \$119,907.11 (Local). The financial reports were discussed. The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) dues were paid and designated to conservation education. Bill Schock wanted the dues to be split between conservation education and administration. Stephen Williams will contact Deborah Smith (AACD) regarding the split designation. Bill Schock moved to accept and file the Treasurer's reports. Andy Jackson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0.

Administration Update (Invoices): The Clerk's invoice for July to September were reviewed. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the invoice, \$1,269.07. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Agency Updates:

Arizona State Land Department (See Jackie Thomas's Email – Josh Grace): Josh has nothing to report. He has been working on range management and processing applications. Per Jackie's email, she conducted a teleconference (August 21) on the budget management templates, hosted the NRCS-ASLD MOA teleconference (September 9), and in Q2, the NRCD's distribution will be \$9,735. The Education Center distributions will still be quarterly.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS – Alisha Phipps- See attached report): Per Alisha, they have on-going plans at Avalon Gardens and Moyza Ranch. In terms of EQIP, 5 of the 6 submitted applications were funded for rangeland and irrigated pasture. The Tucson office received 8 CSP applications from the Districts (WNRCD, PNRCD, SCNRCD) but none were funded. Local Work Group meetings needs to be completed by Nov 20. The Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) were completed last year and could be used as a starting point for this year's teleconference LWG. The SCNRCD supervisors are available on Oct 26 or 27. She will poll the other districts and agencies. Now, she is the acting DC (District Conservationist) for the next 3 months. Emilio Carrillio is focused on the Bighorn Fire response. Alvaro Campos will be serving with the Army National Guard until 12/31/2020. The NRCS-ASLD MOA needs to be completed by 12/31/2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Review & Approve Jim Koweek's MOA (Range Monitoring): Per Stephen Williams, the MOA needs to be done to comply with ASLD guidelines. The original draft was prepared by Jackie Thomas and updated by Stephen with input from Jim Koweek. Per Alisha, she and Brett Meyers work with Jim Koweek to determine which transacts are monitored and input from the Board is welcome. Per Dan, range monitoring should be available to Cooperators. It was agreed to amend the MOA to include SCNRCD input in determining which ranches to monitor. Per Bill Schock, he asked if it is possible to determine utilization during the monitoring process? The Clerk will use a black font and copy the MOA to a SCNRCD letterhead format. It was moved by Dan Bell to approve the MOA with amendments and commit up to \$6,250 in funding. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Review & Approve NRCS MOA: Last year's MOA between NRCS and SCNRCD was not finalized. The MOA was revamped this year to include the State Natural Resource Conservation Commissioner. The appendices are the same as last year. Per Bill Schock, the language is very confusing and he wants to know how this will help the cooperators. Dan Bell and Andy Jackson have not had the time to review the MOA. Stephen suggested the MOA be on the December meeting agenda. Andy Jackson moved to table the MOA discussion until the December meeting. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Supervisor & Clerk Reports:

- Bill Schock: Sandy Ruppel is interested in being a Cooperator. He received 2 inches of rain in July at this home, 2 inches in August, and nothing yet in September. He is shipping out cattle. He has signed up for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) payments from FSA. The lack of rain has been a total disaster.
- Stephen Williams: Stephen receives emails from Mark Killian at the AZ Department of Agriculture which pertain to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He will start forwarding those to the Board. He has participated in the NRCS Reorganization Zoom conference hosted by Keisha Tatum (NRCS), the NRCS Memorandum of Agreement Zoom conference hosted by Jackie Thomas (ASLD) and Rebecca de la Torre (NRCS), and the AZ Association of Conservation Districts Zoom summer meeting hosted by Frank Krentz and Deborrah Smith (both AACD). He provided short summaries of each for the Board in order to keep them updated about issues that will affect the District.
- Dan Bell: They are really hurting for rainfall. This is the worst year since 1993. He will do some voluntary reductions. The Border Wall project is starting in his area.
- Andy Jackson: He is not going to add livestock. He is out of feed in the rangeland pastures, if an ag pasture is not watered, it's dead.
- Chris Postel: He is planning to have the newsletter out by the end of the month.

Call to the Public: None

Adjourn: The Meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm. Dan Bell moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Schock seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0

Next meeting on December 2 at 1:15 p.m.

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

Date: December 2, 2020

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____