

ACEP Background (Devon Cunningham, NRCS): The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) has 2 parts. The ALE (Agricultural Land Easements) can protect and restore wetlands. An experienced organization (The Nature Conservancy or Arizona Land Water Trust) needs to be involved and the NRCS can pay to 50% of the fair market value and up to 75% for special habitats. The Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) have different eligibility requirements but provides technical and financial assistance directly to the private landowners. The easements can be: permanent, 30 year easements, or term easements (Based on applicable State laws).

Conservation Easement Resolution: Andy Jackson has 2 thoughts on Conservation Easements. He is in favor of conservation but he is also concerned about larger organizations being more powerful than the small ranches or individuals. Also, he is concerned about how CEs effect the tax base of the community. Dan Bell has the same concerns as Andy and he is also concerned about taking productive land out of the tax base. Andy Jackson believes that it should be a contract between a willing buyer and seller with no 3rd party involved. Dan Bell still is concerned about the overall impact on the surrounding community and the impact on the tax base. Dan Bell moved to not approve the Conservation Easement Resolution. Andy Jackson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Memoranda of Agreement: NRCWAY and Paula & Cabot Sedgewick Family Foundation: Stephen has prepared the NRCWAY draft. The AZ Section, Society for Range Management is deciding who will sign on its behalf. The Sedgewick Foundation draft for education activities needs additional information. Stephen is waiting for Dean Fish to provide the information.

Resolutions: 30x30 and OHV Issues: Stephen Williams talked to Deb Smith (AACD) and was informed these resolutions are being rewritten. The Conservation Easement Resolution stands as written. Stephen Williams will attend the AACD Summer Conference and he needs to be able to represent the District's position during the Resolution voting. Dan Bell moved approve the 30x30 and OHV Resolutions. Andy Jackson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0.

AACD April 27 Board Meeting Update: Per Stephen Williams, the AACD Strategic Plan has five main priorities: 1) District planning and assessment, 2) Conservation education, 3) Outreach and recruitment, 4) Technical and financial support, 5) District support.

Stradling Foundation's Effort to Obtain More Scholarship Money: Dan Bell moved to approve the letter of support for the Stradling Foundation's effort to obtain more scholarship money. Andy Jackson seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0. Stephen Williams will sign and mail the letter.

Call to the Public: None

Supervisor & Clerk Reports:

- Andy Jackson: He is feeding alfalfa to about 300 deer.
- Stephen Williams: The Arizona Legislature just passed legislation adding Soil Health to the District's duties and makes them subject matter experts on this topic. Steve Turcotte of the Winkelman NRCD will lead the AACD effort to fund this effort with \$5 million.

Adjourn: Andy Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephen Williams seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0. The Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm

Next meeting date: To be determined

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

Date: July 14, 2021

Approval of Minutes: Stephen M. Williams

Date: 07/14/2021