



# Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District and Education Center

Santa Cruz Regular Meeting      September 6, 2023      Final Minutes

Location: Wild Horse Restaurant, Patagonia, AZ

Board Supervisors & Clerk: Stephen Williams, Dan Bell, Bill Schock, and Chris Postel (Clerk). Absent Andy Jackson and Dean Fish (Education Center Director),

Agencies & Guests: Heather Speith, Mynesna Holliday & Tom Reis (Natural Resource Conservation Services – NRCS), Christin Peterson (Cooperator) and Aiden Bell (Student).

Called to Order: 12:05 pm

Review/Approval of 2023 Minutes, April 26, June 14, & July 12: No questions were asked. Bill Schock moved to approve the minutes. Dan Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0.

Treasurer's Report (See Attached Report): Dan presented the Treasurer's Report. The State Account balance is \$19,786.91. The Ed Center Account balance is \$10,046.53. The SCNRCD Local Account balance is \$151,555.14. Stephen Williams made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report. Bill Schock seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Clerk Invoice & Administration Update (See Attached Invoice):

- Clerk's Invoice(July-August): The Clerk reviewed the invoice (\$1,479.79, 50 actual hours). The AACD meeting expenses were shared with Winkelman NRCD. Bill Schock moved to pay the invoice. Dan Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0.
- Administration Update: The State Land Annual reports, finalized and submitted on the Portal. The Clerk needs the dimensions of the fair booth display panels for the new content. A banner will be created. Articles for a Fall newsletter needs to be submitted by the end of October.

## AGENCY UPDATES

NRCS: The NRCS Team 7 Report, was reviewed by Tom Reis, was accepted as written for the record.

## OLD BUSINESS

2022 Monitoring Update (Heather Knight): Per Heather, still finalizing, tabled until next meeting.

Signage Update: Per Dan Bell, he is still researching.

Conservation Action Plan: Per Stephen Williams, Lamar Smith was working on steps 1-3 but passed away in July; so, the District needs to know what was completed. Kyle Thompson is available starting the week of September 14 to work on steps 4 and 5. Also, he needs a list of active Cooperators to contact. Stephen will provide the list. Kyle will be conducting Cooperator interviews; so, 1-2 interview locations need to be identified.

## NEW BUSINESS

Andy Jackson's Board Vacancy: Per Stephen Williams, Andy resigned effective January, 2024. Both Fox Johnson's and Andy's board vacancies are elected positions.

SC County Fair Booth Logistics: Per Stephen Williams, the Vendor contract was submitted and paid. Per Dan, we have enough bags, pencils, etc., to give to the students on Friday. NRCS will have 2-3 employees on Friday to work the booth.

2023 Monitoring Schedule & Commitment of Funds: Heather Speith reviewed the list of ranches scheduled for monitoring this Fall (20 transacts). Dan Bell moved to pay \$250/transact (total of \$5,000) for 2023 monitoring. Bill Schock seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 3-0.

Center for Biological Diversity Lawsuit Update: SACPA will be intervener and will take the lead. Per Dan, SACPA has contracted with lawyer, Norm James. Norm James said it is simpler to have one client file and have other partners support the filing. SACPA has raised funds for the initial work. The lawsuit is focused on setting aside all active USFS grazing authorizations in the Coronado National Forest that allow livestock grazing in occupied Yellow-billed cuckoo and Sonoran chub habitat. Dan is drafting a letter to the permittees regarding the lawsuit's status but needs to get the permittee's contact information.

Call to the Public: None

#### Supervisor & Clerk Reports

- Clerk: Elections will be conducted in 2024.
- Bill Schock: He is on the Monitoring committee and the drought is still bad. He plans to attend the SACPA meeting.
- Dan Bell: He is working on the lawsuit. The summer monsoon was not good, hit or miss. The range is short on tank water. The cattle market is holding
- Stephen Williams: There was a good representation of NRCS employees, at all levels of the agency, in attendance at the AACD summer meeting. There were three panels on agency coordination and partnership efforts driven by local work groups, how Conservation Districts and local work groups can drive USDA's Climate Smart Program, and a panel of four state legislators discussing how they approach water, energy and issues. He also signed a letter addressed to the NRCS Easement Program Coordinator on behalf of the District which supported a conservation easement subordination for a utility corridor on the Vera Earl Ranch. This was to enable a private land in-holder to install a power-line across the Vera Earl easement.

Adjourn: Bill Schock moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. 3-0. The Meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm.

Planned next meeting date: November 8, 2023, either at the Wild Horse or a teleconference.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel

Date: November 8, 2023

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

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