



Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District and Santa Cruz NRCD Education Center

SCNRCD District & Ed Center Combined Meeting August 27, 2025 Draft Minutes

Location: Wild Horse Restaurant, Patagonia, AZ

Board Supervisors & Clerk: Stephen Williams, Dan Bell, Bill Schock, Christin Peterson and Chris Postel (Clerk).

Agencies & Guests: Jennifer Krentz & Alisha Phipps (Natural Resource Conservation Services – NRCS) & Rodolpho Martinez (Univ of AZ – Cooperative Extension)

Called to Order: 12:06 pm

Review/Approval of 05/28/2025 & 07/11/2025 Minutes: Dan Bell moved to approve the final minutes. Bill Schock seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0.

Treasurer's Report: Dan presented the Treasurer's Report. The State Account balance is \$6,335.70. The Ed Center Account balance is \$14,792.02. The SCNRCD Local Account balance is \$151,736.76. Bill Schock made a motion to file and approve the Treasurer's Report. Christin Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0.

Clerk Invoice & Administration Update: The next meeting date will be November 5, 2025.

- **Clerk's Invoice (June-August, 2025):** The Clerk reviewed the invoice. Christin Peterson moved to pay the invoice, \$1,680.70. Dan Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0.

AGENCY UPDATES

NRCS (Jennifer Krentz NRCS report is attached): Team 7 Staffing Updates: Full staff level – 5. Down to 3. Alisha Phipps, Mynesha Holiday & Jennifer Krantz. Several critical vacancies have been identified but none have been filled. We don't know when we will be able to hire employees again. Rebecca De La Torre is the new Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations).

Rodolpho Martinez (Univ of Az Cooperative Extension): His group has lost 5 people. The American Leadership program will start this Friday and will be meeting twice/month from August thru May. 50 students are enrolled and will receive a professional certificate at the completion of the program. Rodolpho is still looking for program topics & presenters.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Vacancy: Per Stephen Williams, Bill Brake is still interested in being on the Board to fill Fox Johnson's elected position, which expires in 2030. Stephen talked to Deb Smith (NRC Board) about the process to get Bill appointed. Per Deb, a formal appointment needs to be made during a meeting. Bill Schock made a motion to appoint Bill Brake to the Board. Christin Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0.

Santa Cruz County Fair Update Per Stephen Williams, he signed the contract for 2 booth spaces. The cost is \$170 (2 booth spaces (discounted 50%) + an electrical connection). Proof of insurance also

needs to be provided. Dan Bell made a motion to approve \$170. Christin Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 4-0. The booth set-up will be the afternoon on September 11.

2025 Monitoring: Heather Spieth is available as a contractor (\$30/hr) to write reports summarizing the monitoring data. Per Dan Bell, the report should go back for 5 years and have trend assessment. Bill Schock suggested that other Districts should be contacted to determine what they are doing, especially in terms of report format. Stephen Williams will talk to Deb Smith about what other Districts are doing to help to define the report format.

Signs: Per Dan Bell, he has the angle iron to create a frame for the sign and he has “used” oil field pipe that can be used for the posts. So, a schedule needs to be made to install the 3 signs.

NRC Board Status: Per Stephen Williams, he & Chris Postel attended the August 13 board meeting. Deb Smith is the acting Executive Director of the Board working on items such as, budgets, minutes, funding, open meeting law, etc.

Local Work Groups (LWGs) Update: Per Stephen Williams, the LWGs are receiving more emphasis and Deb Smith wants to do training in October or November. Per Bill Schock, we need to involve the Cooperators more to determine the real needs and specific projects on the ground. So, a local LWG should be done with the Cooperators first. Per Stephen, meeting once a year is sufficient. With agency and Cooperator input, we can refine the areas of resource concern for display on the Portal. The NRCB areas are different from the NRCS areas.

Babocomari Watershed Water Sampling Project Per Bill Schock, Jonathan Hasenstab (UA graduate student) is done with his thesis; so, he will be graduating and leaving the area. \$1,066 in funding is still left and it was decided to let Jennifer McIntosh (UofA professor) use this remaining funding for future water sampling studies. So, we need a letter from Jennifer to confirm the funding status. Bill is also trying to get a copy of Jonathan’s thesis.

One Rock Dams Bill Schock is still doing erosion control. He talked to Emily Fife (NRCS Utah) who stated Utah NRCS has a practice for the Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (Not a One Rock Dam practice)”. So, a practice needs to be written up for Arizona. Bill will work with Alisha Phipps to develop the contract. Per Dan Bell, Bill should contact Nogales High School to see if students would be interested in building One Rock Dams for their Senior project.

NEW BUSINESS None

Supervisor & Clerk Reports

- Christin Peterson: Phase I of her NRCS project is completed and she has sold 2/3’s of her herd.
- Dan Bell: US Forest Service is doing a Drought & Virtual Fencing workshop on September 20 at his ranch for the Permittees. He has no tank water. Three springs are dry. He said that some tank cleaning could be done with funding from AZ Game & Fish.
- Bill Schock: He continues to do mesquite removal (has a 100% kill rate). Also, he got approval from BLM to remove mesquite on their land. He is seeking assistance for doing a soil sample on a patch of bare ground.

Adjourn: Chris Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan Bell seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. 4-0. The Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Planned next meeting date: November 5, 2025

Draft Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel

Date: August 29, 2025

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____