



**Santa Cruz Natural Resource Conservation District  
& Santa Cruz NRCD Education Center**

**Teleconference**

**October 9, 2025**

**Final Minutes**

Location: Teleconference:

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

Called to Order: 7:03 pm

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Heather Spieth:** The MOA with Heather is for producing a report summarizing rangeland monitoring data for five years from 2021 to 2025. It will include data collected at ranches by Key Areas for: ground cover, frequency by plant species, photographs, rainfall, actual use, and dry weight rank. A graph of key species will be included to display trends. It was noted that additional years can be added to the Agreement as needed. Bill Schock moved to approve the MOA for a monitoring report for an amount not to exceed \$3,000. Christin Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Sonoran Desert Tortoise Lawsuit Update:** Stephen briefed the Board on the Desert Tortoise Council v. Burgum lawsuit, which seeks to have the Sonoran Desert Tortoise (SDT) listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The western, two-thirds of the Santa Cruz NRCD is within the range of the SDT. Representatives of the Santa Cruz, Pima and Winkelman NRCDs have discussed with the Natural Resource Use and Management Clinic at the UofA College of Law what options are available to engage in the lawsuit. Filing an amicus brief or intervening are the two likely options. The Clinic offered to track the litigation and send the Districts email alerts about motions filed, orders by the judge and summaries of important highlights.

**Call to the Public:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** November 5, 2025 at 12 pm at The Wild Horse Restaurant.

**Adjourn:** The Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm. Stephen Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Christin Peterson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Date: November 5, 2025

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

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