



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

SC NRCD District & Ed Center Combined Meeting May 27, 2026 Draft Minutes

Location: Wild Horse Restaurant, Patagonia, AZ

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

Agencies & Guests: Yvonne Marshall & Susan Frett (Arizona Land & Water Trust), and Mynesha Holliday (NRCS).

Called to Order: 12:05 pm

Election of Officers

- **Chairman**, Stephen Williams. Bill Schock moved to approve Stephen Williams as Chairman. Chris Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.
- **Vice-Chairman**, Bill Schock. Bill Brake moved to approve Bill Schock as Vice-Chairman. Dan Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.
- **Treasurer**, Dan Bell. Chris Peterson moved to approve Dan Bell as Treasurer. Stephen Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.

Review/Approval of 2/25/26 & 5/19/26 Minutes: Bill Brake moved to approve the final minutes. Chris Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.

Treasurer's Report: Dan presented the Treasurer's Report. The State Account balance is \$17,673.49. The Ed Center Account balance is \$13,952.02. The SCNRCD Local Account balance is \$152,137.89. Bill Schock made a motion to file and accept the Treasurer's Report. Christin Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- Dan Bell submitted expenses (\$531.36) for Santa Fe Ranch Days food & a tarp & insulation- straps for the Watershed display. Bill Schock made a motion to pay Dan Bell's submitted expenses. Christin Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Clerk Invoice & Administration Update: The next meeting date will be August 26, 2026. The Clerk informed the Board that he wants to have someone take over his Clerk duties within the next year. He will provide a list of duties & responsibilities.

- **Clerk's Invoice (\$2,355.35):** The Clerk reviewed the invoice. Chris Peterson moved to pay the invoice, \$2,355.35. Bill Schock seconded. The motion passed unanimously. 5-0.

AGENCY UPDATES

NRCS (See attached report – Mynesha Holliday)

Team 7 Staffing Updates: Team 7 has not had a permanent supervisor since Tom Reis moved to a new position in December 2024. Supervisors have been serving on 120-day detail assignments. Current Acting Team Lead for Team 7 (Supervisor) – as of February 23rd, 2026 is Amy Humphrey, Team Lead for Team 8. Tucson NRCS Office staffing – there is currently no update on lifting the government hiring freeze. The priority vacancy to be filled in Tucson is the Team Lead position.

AZ Land Water Trust (Yvonne Marshall) They are working on Ranching for the Future workshops. Susan Frett is a new hire and they are looking to hire another person as an assistant. No other changes right now.

OLD BUSINESS

2026 Elections Update: Per the Clerk, all election tasks have been completed and submitted to NRC Board and posted on Google Drive. Upcoming will be video calls with Deborah Smith to learn about the new format for the Annual Plan of Work and State Financial Assistance Budget Request forms.

NRC Board Status: Per Stephen Williams, the policies & procedures are evolving especially for accounting and annual reporting. The Board is encouraging District board members to attend video calls with Deborah Smith to learn about the new format for the Annual Plan of Work and State Financial Assistance Budget Request forms.

Project WET Report: Per Stephen Williams, the event was well attended and used new equipment. Per the Project WET email, 17 teachers (Nogales High School juniors) taught 398 students from 7 schools with 43 volunteers. Lunch was provided for the teachers. The UofA Cooperative Extension invoice (\$6,916) was reviewed. The District had already approved up to \$3,000 or ½ of the invoice, whichever is less. The Dan will ask Dean where to send the \$3,000 check.

Santa Fe Ranch Day Update: Per Dan Bell, not as many students as last year. AZ Game & Fish and US Forest Service participated. They had the following stations: Ranch Tools, Watershed Display, Humming Bird and Butterfly gardens, and a petting zoo.

Friends of San Rafael Valley Event: Per Stephen Williams, he and Christin Peterson attended the event. Per Chris, over 600 people toured the Big House that they are restoring. Arizona Land & Water Trust and Audubon Society had booths at the event.

Future Workshops: The following potential workshop topics were discussed. The workshops would be held at the Santa Cruz County Fairground, and a lunch would be provided.

- **Tax Planning for Cattle Producers:** Yvonne Marshall will contact accounting firms that could participate in the workshop.
- **Agency Plans (such as US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife):** Per Bill Brake, have the new supervisors for each agency to discuss their current & future plans.
- **Fire Fighting:** Per Bill Schock, we should get the Producers and agencies together to discuss strategies, coordination, and problems with fighting fires.
- **Agency Monitoring Protocols:** Per Bill Brake, have each agency present which rangeland monitoring protocols it uses and what data it provides.

NEW BUSINESS

New Revised Plan of Work & Budget Request Forms Training Teleconferences The Clerk will attend the call on May 29, 3 pm and Stephen Williams will attend the call on June 1, 9 am. The call will be hosted by Deborah Smith, who will explain how to complete the new forms. A teleconference on June 16 at 5 pm will be conducted by the SCNRCD to review and approve the completed forms for final submission to the NRC Board, due by June 20th.

Supervisor & Clerk Reports

- Bill Schock: He went to a Babocomari Watershed Stakeholders Project presentation. They presented maps that they have generated for the area showing stock ponds, springs, etc. The group visited an area on the Babacomari Ranch to view gabions, one completely failed and the other barely survived. Then, they also visited an area on the Babacomari Creek where they have released beavers and are trying to help restore their habitat. The area has a lot of deep grass and trees. Overall, the Watershed project gets \$5-10 million grants and have put a lot money into the ground. Bill attended the Sentinel Landscape meeting on assessing wildfire risk with satellite photos. He is done treating the sand paper brush and needs more funding to continue mesquite tree removal.
- Dan Bell: He attended a permittee meeting regarding a BLM/Forest Service MOU. In April, he hosted a technology workshop for US Forest Service Nogales District permittees. Drew McGibbon (Santa Rita Ranch) is using a Starlink halter for the first year, no base station is required. Dan has installed water monitoring systems using Ranch BOT. He is using GPS ear tags for cattle monitoring, such as keeping cattle out of enclosures near the border and obtaining location history (at water, grazing, etc.). It costs \$6,000/yr./100 cattle for collars and batteries. Forest Service pays for the base station.
- Bill Brake: AZ Game & Fish has funding for different programs, and he would like to know the contact person for that information. Per Stephen Williams, Nick Schobinger is the AGFD contact.
- Christin Peterson: Still working on new tanks & pipeline project. Due to fire season, the Forest Service helicopter may be unavailable for flying in the materials to complete the project this year. One of the old tanks exploded, releasing 3,500 gallons of water.
- Stephen Williams: Nothing to report

Adjourn: Bill Schock moved to adjourn the meeting. Christin Peterson seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. 5-0. The Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Next planned meeting date: August 26, 2026

Draft Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel

Date: May 31, 2026

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____