



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Local Work Group meeting

November 20, 2013

Minutes

Central Arizona College, Aravaipa Campus, Room E102

In attendance:

WNRCD Supervisors and staff: Bill Dunn, Peter Else, Francie Meyer, Steve Turcotte, Diana Stirling (clerk)

Government and Agency Personnel: Ed Holloway (Coronado NF), Chrissy Pearson (Coronado NF), Kristen Egen (NRCS), Kelsey Hawkes (AZ State Land Dept.), Everett Rhodes (U of A Cooperative Extension), Celeste Andresen (TNC), Bob Rogers (TNC), Sam Hosler (mayor of Kearny)

Cooperators and guests: Tommy Deen, Ronny Deen, Becky Stambaugh Heller, Pat Reed, Miriam Reed

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Kristen Egen of NRCS presented information about the new SAC process. She explained that the Local Work Group system was established by the Farm Bill, but this new locally led conservation initiative (SAC) is now being pioneered. The process is changing from a once-a-year recommendation format to a long-term (5-year) strategic planning format involving locally led identification of assessments, priorities, practices, and measures. This group needs to decide whether we are ready to participate. Kristen explained the timeline for participation. There was discussion of some of the details of how the funding works and some issues that this new approach will address. Kristen described the step-by-step process involved in applying for and dispersing EQIP funds generally. She suggested that a proposal should include considerations on slide 15 of presentation.

The presentation was followed by a review of the list of resources and concerns that was generated at the last meeting. Bill asked for feedback and input from those present. Agency personnel described their current priorities and relevant issues involved. It was suggested that monitoring be the responsibility of EQIP fund recipients as a condition of funding. Maybe an easy monitoring system could be implemented that wouldn't require hiring a consultant, at least for some types of monitoring. Bob highlighted brush control, water quality and quantity, and soil stability, particularly as related to fire. Becky highlighted a concern for fire issues that result from not being able to run cattle on some of the properties on the river (brush control). Peter highlighted access control, soil stability, and water quantity as priorities. Everett highlighted water issues as a priority.

Bill asked if there were any concerns held by attendees that were not on the list. Francie expressed a concern that the need for technical assistance--for monitoring training as well as for monitoring--should be a priority.

There followed a discussion about how to prioritize as a district.

Francie volunteered to call other entities, people, and agencies who are stakeholders and invite them to attend the next meeting. Peter suggested that we include the headings of the priorities document in a mailing to cooperators.

The meeting adjourned at 12: 39 p.m.