



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Quarterly Board Meeting

April 9, 2014

Minutes

Location:

Dunn Ranch
55175 E. Ray Junction Road

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

In attendance:

WNRCD Board and Staff

Bill Dunn (chair), Francie Meyer, Peter Else, Gary Vinson, Steve Turcotte, Hattie Hedrick, Diana Stirling (clerk)

Other Agencies

Alisha Phipps (NRCS), Kelsey Hawkes (Arizona State Land Dept.), Amber Morin (Arizona State Land Dept.), Kristen Egen (NRCS)

Guests and Cooperators

Celeste Andresen (TNC), Sam Hosler (Town of Kearny), Nick Cline, Walt Meyer, Beverly Miller, Bill Stambaugh, Becky Stambaugh Heller, Becky Dunn, Gregg Vinson

Consent Agenda:

Francie moved to approve the minutes of the January 15 meeting, as amended, and the minutes of the February 5 meeting held by teleconference. Gary seconded. Motion carried.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$3500 in district funds and \$23,000 in Ed Center funds.

The clerk's bill was \$1127.21. There was a bill from the newspaper in the amount of \$51.92 for our election announcement. And the bill for the public official bond in the amount of a \$100 premium payment was submitted. Peter moved to pay the bills. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Report on the Lower San Pedro Initiative

Bill summarized the work of the Committee thus far on the Lower San Pedro watershed CRMP. Francie expressed serious concerns about some aspects of the project. Her concerns included the fact that the major landowners had not been contacted to see if they would support the Initiative and the reality of the length and depth of commitment the CRMP would require. The commitment could result in the neglect of other important issues of the WNRCD due to lack of time and resources.

Francie proposed the following motion:

I move to terminate our planned joint Coordinated Resource Management Plan on the San Pedro River in favor of developing more achievable, timely and relevant efforts that will address our original concerns regarding the proposed refuge designation, for example pursuing Bill's proposed mitigation district and developing best management practices for other species of concern.

Steve seconded. There was some discussion about the possible ramifications of this action. Motion carried.

Rural Fire Districts

Steve Turcotte made a brief presentation about local rural fire districts and capabilities.

New Business

Francie moved to pay the \$1,200 Arizona NRCD Association dues. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Bill suggested that any application to the Arizona Water Protection Fund for grant monies should wait until next year.

Bill moved to send out cooperator donation reminders every year in the spring. Francie seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

There was no update on the Local Work Group planning. It was decided that a meeting needs to be scheduled by July to discuss gathering data for the technical writing project. Kristen would like our District to participate next year.

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors is still considering whether or not to fund the Desert Tortoise project. There is a question about whether the project will affect the listing outcome due to the new committee process.

April 15 is the deadline for ballot requests, but this is not really necessary this year. We may not need to have an election if no other cooperator runs for a seat.

Reports from Supervisors

Bill distributed a copy of an endorsement letter written by the Board in 2011 regarding intergovernmental coordination between the District and the Coronado National Forest. He suggested that the District may want to pursue a similar agreement with the Tonto National Forest.

There were no other reports from supervisors.

Reports from Agency Personnel

Kelsey gave a brief update on her work in range management. Amber Morin's report is appended to the end of these minutes. Kristen Egen's report is also appended at the end of these minutes.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:13 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Call to the Public

Celeste Andresen gave a summary of the activities planned for the upcoming (May 3) San Pedro River Festival.

Mayor Hosler announced an event in conjunction with the Arizona Trail Association to be held in Kearny on Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned for an Executive Session at 1:09 p.m. and reconvened at 1:22 p.m.

Francie moved to approve the plan for the Zapata Ranch. Gary seconded. Motion carried.

Ed Center Meeting

The Ed Center reports a balance of approximately \$23,000 in the account.

Hattie read a letter from the IRS delineating the process and timeline for reinstatement of the 501(c)(3) exemption status. It may be six months or more before this process is completed.

Gary moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$200 for a booth at the San Pedro River Festival on May 3, 2014. Steve seconded. Motion carried. Beverly and Becky will staff the booth.

Peter moved to hire Diana to develop a proposal in conjunction with the Ed Center Committee to expand Ed Center programs and create a job description for an Ed Center Manager. Francie seconded. Motion carried.

Kristen volunteered to print 100 copies of the brochure that was created by Katie Cline.

Gary moved to sponsor 10 students at \$210.00 per child for the Central Arizona College, College for Kids program at the Aravaipa Campus. Francie seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Amber Morin- NRC D Manager
Winkelman NRC D Meeting
April 9, 2014

- **News from the State Land Department:**
 - Land Exchange Director: Rick Thompson - will be assembling, developing and leading our new land exchange team. This team became a high priority when in November of 2012 the voters of Arizona passed Proposition 119, which amended the Arizona Constitution to authorize exchanges of State Trust lands for public lands.
 - Fillable NRC D financial forms online!
 - Updated ASLD NRC D Handbook!
- **NRC D Updates:**
 - The ASLD NRC D Budget Request should be the same as the previous year. I will know more when the state passes a budget.
- **AZ Legislative Bills Benefitting NRC Ds**
 - **SB 1214** - Strike everything amendment to S.B. 1214, relating to natural resource conservation district; expertise * Successful
 - **SB 1292** – AZ Resource Advisory Council- amended to not include rangeland resources pg. 2 line 37.
- **NRC D Manager goals for the NRC Ds:** Continue what you are doing! Winkelman NRC D shines as one of the most outstanding districts in the state. Thank you!
- **Specifics for Winkelman NRC D**
 - NRC D elections should be on your agendas. Francie and Steve are up for election and I have received petitions for both. The established election board is responsible for election proceedings, if one is held.
 - Appointment Request form is attached for the next quarterly meeting.
 - NRC D and Ed. Center Financial Forms are Due June 20th
 1. Applications for State Supplemental Funds
 2. NRC D and Ed. Center Plans of Work
- **In Conclusion:** I ask that the NRC D keep me informed about any special events that your District will be holding. It is important that I understand the accomplishments, goals, and issues of the NRC Ds and Education Centers so that I can represent your Districts on a statewide level and maintain a level of solidarity among the Arizona NRC Ds.



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Winkelman NRCD Meeting

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NRCS Report:

1. Conservation Planning

- Willow Springs field work has been completed for some time, but, no response from owners. Katie is trying to get follow up done.
- Zapata Ranch plan ready for review by the Board today. Jack & Catherine Mann are also sub-leasing 7B from Mercer's and want a plan update for this.
- Armando Rodriguez plan on irrigate pasture is currently being completed. Chris is providing alternatives and will meet with him in the next week to see what he would like to select as alternative. Sprinklers were reviewed and decided not to work with water available. May level and place pipelines.

2. Programs

- Farm Bill passed; NRCS is starting program Roll Out. Some changes in eligibility and requirements for some programs. EQIP funding for Tucson Field Office is approximately \$314,000. We have 6 EQIP applications in the Winkelman NRCD, 1 for Air Quality; we have 13 applications for ranking under EQIP in the office.
- Ranking and Eligibility deadline is extended to April 18 due to Farm Bill just passing. All applications not meeting Eligibility will be deferred to FY2015.

3. Field Office Operations

- Katie Cline is at economics of planning training this week. Kristen is at Area Wide training later this month and Alisha is at UTV training in May.