



# Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

LSPI Committee Meeting

April 24, 2014

Minutes

Date: April 24, 2014

Time: 10:00a.m.

Place: CAC Aravaipa Campus, room E102

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

In Attendance:

Bill Dunn, Steve Spangle, Stephen Williams, Stefanie Smallhouse, Josh Avey, Chrissy Pearson, Walt Meyer, Francie Meyer, Becky Stambaugh Heller, Jeff Heller, Scott Wilbor, Scott Cole, Lisa Vogel, Bob Evans, Peter Else, Laurie Mercer, Beverly Miller, Hattie Hedrick, Steven Turcotte, J. Chris Pfahl, Charles Ffolliott, Diana Stirling

Francie moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

## Discussion of the future of the CRMP process

Francie explained why she proposed the motion at the WNRCD quarterly Board meeting for the Winkelman District to withdraw from the watershed CRMP process. Charlie said that nobody at the Redington District meeting objected to the change.

There was some discussion about the issues with the CRMP project and how to maintain better communication between the Committee and the District Boards.

## Mitigation strategies

Bill Dunn discussed tools available to protect resources such as water, habitat, grasslands, open space, and local economies. He asked *Which of these can the Districts offer companies for mitigation?*

The group brainstormed a list of possible tools:

USFWS: 4-D Rule, SHA, CCAA, HCP, CH Exclusion, Section 7, PFW, conservation easements

State Land Dept.: SLP, term grazing leases

USDA: EQIP/WHIP (NRCD)

USFS: Conservation Easements

Land trusts: conservation easements, water lease agreements

TNC: conservation easements, purchase,

Mitigation leasing was also suggested as a possibility.

Josh suggested considering both landscape boundaries and time limitations involved with these tools.

Stefanie suggested creating a mitigation bank similar to EQIP but with private mitigation funds. She proposed creating a program that would serve ecological needs, producers' needs, and company/mitigation needs.

There was a discussion about how to convince FWS of the qualifications of any mitigation project. Bill Dunn suggested that possibly any practice that increases water downstream could demonstrate its inherent value. Steve S. agreed that this might be the case. He suggested that a spatial plan would be important for habitat conservation, but not necessarily for water-related projects.

Stefanie moved that the Committee further investigate this Mitigation Investment concept to the point that it can be presented to the Districts. Scott Cole seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Turcotte suggested that the Committee may need to look at the regulations more carefully before continuing. He suggested that the Army Corps of Engineers should be invited into the process.

Steve Spangle expressed that his involvement in designing the mitigation investment program was not in alignment with his work mission, so he would not be attending future meetings unless he could help with a specific issue related to the scope of his work. He expressed his willingness to provide such help whenever needed.

Committee members are requested to come to the next meeting prepared with ideas.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at 10:00 at this location.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.