

Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

WNRCD Supervisors And Personnel

Bill Dunn, Chairman
Beverly Miller, Supervisor
Mickey Clark, Supervisor
Langdon Hill, Treasurer
Mary Mercer, Supervisor
Vicki France, Secretary
Jenny Cordrey, Website
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Assisted By

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AS OF NEXT ISSUE YOUR EDITOR WILL BE

Cassandra Joos
Send items for newsletter to:
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A rare sight in Arizona
Night Blooming Cereus
Photo taken in Tucson by Joyce Mercer

Regular Spring Meeting
April 15, 2009
10:00 a.m.
Kearny, AZ

The winter meeting of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District was held on April 15, 2009 at the General Kearny Inn. There were twenty three people attending.

Supervisors and District Personnel Present: Chairman Mary Mercer, Bill Dunn, Vice-Chair, Beverly Miller, and Langdon Hill; Mickey Clark was excused; and Vicki France, District Clerk.

Agency Personnel Present: Kristen Egen, and Alisha Phipps, NRCS; Douglass Witte, and Cody Hatfield, Az State Land Department; Rebecca de la Torre, Hohokam RC&D; Mike Crimmins, U of A and Stefanie Smallhouse, AzNRCD.

Members, Cooperators, and Guests Present: Miriam Reed, Hattie Hedrick, Becky Dunn, Pat Reed, Paul Schwennesen, Cassandra Joos, Dennis Kight, John Rendall, K. Glenn, Sandra Knox, Mike Mercer, Cooperators;

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: Chair Mary Mercer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Cooperators and guests introduced themselves.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Mercer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda: Bill Dunn made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Minutes of January 21 2009, the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills. Bev Miller seconded the motion, which was passed by voice vote with no nays.

1. New Business:

a) Arizona Drought Watch Reporting – Mike Crimmins

Mike defined drought for us. It is hard to comprehend all of the complex events that go into monitoring drought. There are lots of holes in the rain gauge data. What is needed is more on the ground observation which the Districts can provide. The Drought Watch Report is looking for qualitative data, even photos. Mike showed us how to input data. Langdon asked where to put rain gauges and take data on such large pieces of land such as ranches. Mike suggested that it be where we would think are the driest and wettest spots.

b) Financial Status of the District

Beverly gave the group a background on annual donations and finances. Since before time began they have been \$7.50 per year. The Board had a meeting and discussed many options to cut costs. Kristen, Rebecca, Doug and Stefanie all told us of the many ways Districts all over the state handle their meetings and donations. The group talked about changing meeting format, pot lucks pay as you go etc. Rebecca said that some districts have a "friends" group. There are various levels for various amounts of donations. They would get a 1099 at the end of the year. Langdon said that the Tucson Botanical Garden does this too. Langdon moved that we institute this program. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion carried on a voice vote with no nays. We also talked about what Cooperators get for their \$7.50 and the many issues we work on. Bev moved that we ask a donation of \$1.00 a week (\$52 per year), keep the meetings quarterly and at a restaurant. We would ask cooperators to pay for their own meal. Langdon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Langdon also suggested that the meetings be publicized to a broader audience or in different ways.

Since he had to leave for another meeting, Doug Witte brought us up to date with finances. He brought checks!!! The money for Special Plates can't be swept, because it is private money. Therefore, we will get \$1,250 as pass thru for the Ed Centers, \$384 for them directly and \$800 for the end of year. Legislators have unofficially agreed that the Ed Center money pass thru, could be held back to run District Activities. We definitely made an impression when we went to visit them in February. We got full funding restored. With potential in 2010 too.

c) EQIP Funding Comments

There has been concern that western land ownership issues were not considered in the latest Farm Bill. Bill moved that we send the letter to the D.C. office of the NRCS. Langdon seconded the motion. Kristen said that they are due Friday. Vicki would FAX it. The motion carried by a voice vote. We talked about the recent NRCS ruling that only Federal employees or volunteers conducting NRCS work can ride in vehicles. Previously, Vicki has been riding with Kristen saving gas and helping defray District expenses. Paying mileage to Vicki for a meeting is sometimes as high as \$100, or renting a vehicle for \$40. Kristen explained that she has tried to get special permission and David McKay has still said no. The bottom line is that Vicki needs medical and liability insurance to ride in an NRCS vehicle.

2. Old Business:**a) AzNRCD****o Winter Conference – February 24 and 25**

The winter conference was good and legislators were well represented. Lots of good contacts were made. Reviving of the committees was discussed

o AzNRCD By Laws Change

The change in the by laws that was presented last meeting was passed.

o AzNRCD Acting Executive Director

Stefanie said that she has accepted the position permanently. She told us about the possibility that we may be funded from Heritage Funds in the future. This has positive and negative aspects. She reviewed a 2 million dollar proposal that she is making to convert ag operations from fossil fuels to solar power. It is part of stimulus money but would come thru the state. It moves fast and she outlined the time line. For the first year most of the admin money would come to the AzNRCD. Stefanie would like to have representatives to the various committees. Cassandra Joos would be for the Invasive Species, Hattie Hedrick for Education, Langdon and Mike Mercer will be on the Grazing Committee.

We broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. The meeting was started again at 1 p.m.

b) Az Trail Update – John Rendall

In early March, the Arizona Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail, one of eleven in the country. This will help with obtaining grants. He is not sure if it is in the Forest Service or National Parks. He has seen increased horse use at Picket Post. John read the conditions in the proposed Grantor/Grantee language from ASLD. It addresses most of the issues we have been concerned with. John can't say when the transfer will take place.

c) Winkelman Resource Management Center

Hattie had nothing to report. Vicki said that our request for the EPA grant had been turned down.

d) d. Coordinated Planning Efforts

A copy of the Resolution has been passed out. The Supervisors have reviewed it. Stefanie said that cooperating is more of a friendly association. The agencies are not bound to notify Districts or ask for input. The Coordination Agency status required that we participate in planning and be notified of meetings with specific dates and time. The basis for this idea comes from the Federal Land Policy Management Act or FLIPMA which recognizes counties and irrigation districts so far. She is getting an attorney to confirm Districts status. She wants several districts to go thru the process before all Districts try it. This is the only way producers get a direct line in on the ground floor. Bill moved to pass the Resolution. Bev seconded it. The motion carried on a voice vote. Bill said that we now need a Conservation Plan. Bill moved that we adopt something similar to Hereford's. Bill read it. Langdon seconded the motion and it carried. Bill will head the committee.

e) Wildcat Dumping Taskforce

Representative McGuire tells us there is no movement on any bill until the budget issues are settled. The Wildcat Dumping Bill has been thru three House Committees. Senator Rios will carry it thru the

Senate. Rebecca de la Torre gave us an accounting of the Printing Funds. We had \$6,218.38 for printing. After three printings of the guides, the balance is \$2,826.95. ADEQ has turned down our request for funding of the printing. Vicki has the letters ready to go to the Home Owners Associations. We will not set a meeting date.

3. Reports from Supervisors and District Personnel:

Mary has two requests for contributions or dues, one from the Coronado RC&D and one from College for Kids. Due the financial state of the District, we decided to wait. Bill suggested that we write them a letter explaining the situation. Mary said that she would write the letters. The Linda Vista Ranch has made a \$50 donation.

Langdon has two things to bring before the board. The first is a request by the San Carlos Indian Reservation to expand the mineral strip by 15 miles. This is about to the San Pedro River. The second item was Red Cross Training Courses. Being so remote, in such potentially dangerous conditions, it maybe good for the district to sponsor this, especially the new method for CPR.

Vicki suggested that we get a new representative to the Local Drought Impact Group since Rob Burton is no longer involved. We will do this at the next meeting.

4. Reports From Agency Personnel:

NRCS - Kristen Egen

The move to the new offices is done and there is a new FAX number – 520.292.8809. EQIP is being ranked right now. We will know who's funded by July 1st. Pinal County is one of five counties that are eligible for the new Air Quality Program in EQIP. She reviewed the practices that were included in this. The deadline for signup is May 1. There are two up coming workshops. One in Nogales on Bat Conservation and Wildlife Waters. It is May 28 from 1-5 p.m. The second is on the Rosetree Ranch on May 16. It will cover solar issues and prescribed burns. She needs a representative from Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District for the Coordinated Resource Management Team that meets once a year, usually in the summer.

AZ State Land Department - Cody Hatfield

Cody is taking over Rachel McGee's territory. They are not replacing her. He now has over 600 leases. Steve Williams is now acting Director of his division. They expect to loose 1/3 of their personnel in the 2010 budget. Cooperators need to plan ahead for longer review and response times.

5. Call to the Public

6. Adjournment

The next meeting date is tentatively set for July 15, in Florence. Bill Dunn moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bev Miller seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. It was 2:28 pm.



Arizona

Natural Resource
Conservation
Districts
State Association

From: Stefanie Smallhouse,
Executive Director AZNRCD

To: Arizona Conservation Districts

Date: August 1, 2009

RE: AZNRCD Monthly Update – August
Attached : Summer Conference Registration
Tentative Agenda

Hello everyone, the following is the monthly update for your CD meetings in the month of August from the AZNRCD.

- 1) **Funding:** Well what can I say?? The money has been appropriated to the NRCD's and that portion of the budget was not vetoed by the Governor and should theoretically be a go. After discussions with Jim Horton and Doug Witte it was thought that the checks would be going out more than a week ago, but as you well know....no checks in the mail. We are now hearing that until the Governor actually signs the final and complete budget that no money will go out. If you are following this in the news it would seem that this signature is within reach on a daily basis, but yet has not happened.
- 2) **AZNRCD Summer Conference:** As of today I am moving forward with all planning for the Summer Conference. I had previously sent out a notice to all District contacts with the registration and tentative agenda items. **I have attached the registration to this email as well. Please make sure that your District Supervisors get this. In the interest of time and money, there will not be a postal mailing.** The best number to call for reservations at the Drury Inn is the national reservation line for group reservations 1-800-378-7946. They have put the group under the name "Arizona Natural Resources" and the cutoff is **August 14th**. The cutoff for early registration is August 18th.
- 3) **Policy/Position/Resolution Development:** If you have a recommended policy/position/resolution amendment or new PPR please distribute well in advance of the Summer Conference. Any PPR's that I have received from CD's will be going out August 3rd for your review.
- 4) **Solar/Renewable Energy Program:** I have met with the AZ Dept. of Commerce and the AZ State Land Dept. concerning the contracting and rules for the AZ Renewable Energy Conversion Program for Agriculture. It looks like the AZ Dept. of Commerce will subcontract with the AZNRCD to administer the program statewide and the Conservation Districts will administer locally for the producers. The total funds for the program will be 1.2 million, and there will be two program cycles. The details of the program and its administration will be explained at the Summer Conference, as they will not be finalized with the AZ Dept. of Commerce until that time. I am excited about this program and the involvement of the Conservation Districts in administering it on a local level.

- 5) **Local Work Groups:** Please remember the NRCS has requested CD's assistance in holding Local Work Group Meetings to address resource priorities and project costs within your Districts. They have requested to have this information to the NRCS Field Office D.C.'s by August 1st, 2009. If you have not had your LWG meeting please do so as soon as possible.
- 6) **NACD Legislative Conference:** Daric Knight, Mike Macauley, and I attended the 2009 NACD Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. July 19-21. The conference was well attended by CD representatives from across the country. It was an opportunity to hear from members of the new Administration's leaders in the various land and agricultural agencies. It was encouraging to hear that many leadership positions have been filled with former NRCS State Conservationists. I would hope this means that the national network of 3000 Conservation Districts will be called upon as a valuable partner in land use planning, Farm Bill discussions, and renewable energy opportunities, etc.

Your delegation met with AZ House members/staff (Congressman Grijalva, Congresswoman Giffords, Congressman Flake, Congressman Shadegg, Congressman Mitchell, and Congresswoman Kirkpatrick). We were unable to meet with Senators or their staff on this visit. Most discussion revolved around the Clean Water Restoration Act, Climate Change legislation, fire suppression funding, and maintaining the current funding levels for Farm Bill Conservation Programs and the NRCS.

We heard from the Deputy Chief of Staff (Carol Jett) for Secretary Vilsack on the Secretary's view point that production agriculture is vital to our nation's security and that conventional production agriculture and organic agriculture can and should coexist. He recognizes that the U.S. leads the world in biotechnology and production and this is what feeds the world. Ms. Jett quoted the Secretary as saying that "Production agriculture is the backbone of rural America."

Secretary Vilsack has coined the phrase for his Department "USDA Everyday in Everyway" as a way to motivate the Department and the Administration to see agriculture's importance in every sector of our country.

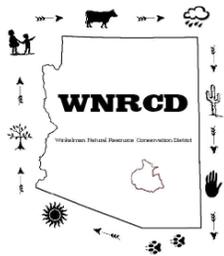
This Secretary is also focused on hunger and healthy food issues for children around the world. He would like to up the status and presence of the Forest Service in the USDA and fill key positions with science focused people. He sees rural communities as important segments of the economy and will use the Rural Development sector of the USDA to revitalize areas.

Secretary Vilsack recognizes the importance of conservation on private lands especially for water that flows through America's working landscapes first.

Among other speakers was Deputy Under-Secretary of the USDA Ann Mills. She was formerly with American Rivers and values work with partners to get things done. She sees the importance of the Conservation Districts as partners in working lands conservation. She recognizes that policies must actually work on the ground and not just look good on paper.

We visited the remodeled Capitol Court location for the NACD Headquarters in D.C. The building looks great and very professional after many needed upgrades and repairs.

See you in Flagstaff August 31-September 1!



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Regular Summer Meeting

10:00 a.m.

July 15, 2009

1140 W. Butte Ave
Florence, AZ

The hot summer meeting of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District was held on July 15, 2009 at the Wind Mill. There were twenty six people attending.

Supervisors and District Personnel Present: Chairman Mary Mercer, Bill Dunn, Vice-Chair, Beverly Miller, Mickey Clark and Langdon Hill; and Vicki France, District Clerk.

Agency Personnel Present: Kristen Egen, Katie Cline and Alisha Phipps, NRCS; Douglass Witte, Az State Land Department; Rebecca de la Torre, Hohokam RC&D; Bill Svetlik and Craig Prink NRCS-Soil Survey; Ben Brochu, Raul Vega, and Leonard Ordway, Az Game and Fish.

Members, Cooperators, and Guests Present: Miriam Reed, Hattie Hedrick, Pat Reed, Cassandra Joos, Stan and Molly Yoder, Patricia Haydon, Jan Wilson, Francie Meyer, and Dan Wolgast and Celeste Andreson (TNC), Cooperators.

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: Chair Mary Mercer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Cooperators and guests introduced themselves.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mary Mercer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda: Bill Dunn made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Minutes of April 15, 2009. Bev Miller seconded the motion, which was passed by voice vote with no nays. The approval of the treasurer's report and payment of bills was tabled until the Supervisors Meeting later in the day.

1. **New Business:**

a) **Proposed listing of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise (SDT)**

Walt Meyer has a broken collar bone so Francie Meyer presented this information. Walt has some of the longest running data on the SDT going. He has been doing this since 1980. Just this year he was amazed at how many young ones he has seen. He has seen no evidence of disease or die off. Francie reviewed the petition. A copy is attached to the minutes. The Range Education and Monitoring Team (REAM) consists of many university, range and natural resource professionals, including Walt. They are going to analyze and dispute findings in the petition. They will continue to meet with USFWS employees to monitor over all population dynamics. The REAM Team is requesting the support of the Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District in efforts to prevent the listing of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise so that we can legally receive technical assistance from the NRCS and any other federal and state agencies as necessary. Mary asked what kind of help they were asking for. Francie said that it would be existing data, maps, and help of the Staff from the Tucson Field Office. Bill asked about their funding. Francie said that it was all volunteer and no funding was needed right now. Bill moved that we support the REAM Team in their efforts to research and comment on the listing of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise. Beverly Miller seconded the motion and it carried by voice vote. Mary asked Kristen to provide maps and assistance to the group.

Because she has to leave, Francie wanted to mention something under "Call To The Public". It was about the forest plans that are being written. To start they are very general. But we need to review

them carefully when it comes to the specifics. For example the Apache-Sitgraves requires that antelope fawning cover and height be generally 15-19 inches. In lower elevations the Blue Grama Grass rarely gets that high and in the high elevations, the snow packs it down. These requirements are impossible to meet. If a permittee does not meet these, they could be in default. Bill said that Coronado's draft plan is due out in October.

Francie also mentioned the ADWR Sub Flow Zone Delineation Report for the San Pedro Watershed. It is very large and expensive. Kristen said she would download it and make it available. Objection forms are available on line. They are due by December 28, 2009.

b) Sponsorship Letters and Mailing List – Vicki France

Vicki presented the group with draft versions of the letter going out to cooperators for donations. Also included is a draft version of the Support letter that she will send to Businesses. For each level of support, they get a list of benefits such as free lunches and advertising space in the news letter. Supervisors and Cooperators are asked to give Vicki a list and she will send them. Sending the letters is just a means of introduction. A follow up visit will definitely be needed. Rebecca had some changes for each letter.

c) State Funding – Doug Witte

Doug reports that funding for Conservation Districts is now from the Heritage Fund. Warrants should be cut next week for full funding for Districts and Education Centers. Each individual district is to decide if the money is passed thru to the Education Centers. There is now a list of every conservation district supervisor and contact info on the ASLD Web site. The solar powered stimulus money is definite and information will come out next month from AzNRCD.

d) Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS – Kristen Egen

This agreement is reviewed every ten years or so to stay current as conditions change. The major change is to Farm Bill and Local Workgroups. Also items relating to the Freedom of Information Act, vehicle use and discrimination were added. The District could have Mary sign it now or at the next meeting. Bill and the other supervisors wanted to look at it so they will consider it at a later meeting. Kristen said that it was okay.

e) Clean Water Restoration Act - Bill Dunn

Bill told the group that the EPA is close to removing "navigable" from the Waters of the US. This would mean any cow tank or pond would be under their jurisdiction. Bill asked Leonard if Game and Fish was taking a position. Leonard said that traditionally navigable was any body of water that transported goods or people. Their liaison is looking into this.

Beverly Miller moved that the following resolution be passed by the District and sent to AzNRCD.

"The AzNRCD opposes S787. Conservation Districts in Arizona were created to, among other things, for the preservation of water rights and the control and prevention of soil erosion (ARS-1001). If S787 is enacted, control of all waters, large or small will come under the control of the federal government effectively extinguishing vested water rights in Arizona. Arizona conservation districts will lose the ability to accomplish their mission. Therefore, AzNRCD opposes F787." Langdon Hill seconded the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried. Congressman Mitchell is actually on this committee and we need to send him a copy.

2. Old Business:

a) Coordinated Planning Efforts

Bill said that the next step was to form a committee to continue this process. The District needs to send letters to all of the Agencies such as Coronado NF, State Land for the Az Trail, USFS, BLM and ADWR for the Sub Flow Report. Bill moved that we form a Coordinating Agency Status Workgroup of himself along with Cassandra Joos, Vicki France, Miriam Reed, Jan Wilson, Katie Cline and Bev Miller. Bill reviewed the process for the committee. Beverly Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

We broke for lunch at 11:30 p.m. The meeting was started again at 12:05 p.m.

b) Wildcat Dumping Taskforce

▪ **Debriefing on EPA Grant** The reason that our grant was found “ineligible” was due to the fact that our “collaborative group” did not demonstrate to their satisfaction that we followed the first criteria of Level II applications. The criteria required our “collaborative group” to research and document all of the risks to our community (e.g. air, land, and water quality risks, as well as, social and economic risks). After all risks are identified, then the group reaches a consensus on the most problematic risk. Then.....priorities are determined to address that problem. We did not adequately demonstrate that we looked at all risks.

The only other recommendation she had to increase our score, if we so choose to re-apply for another CARE grant, was to include more community residents and groups to our Task Force and letters of support.

▪ **Legislative Update** As we all know The Wildcat Dumping Bill moved as much as it could in this crazy session. It had good support and Representative McGuire will re introduce it next year.

▪ **Guide Distribution** Over 80 Garbage Guides and letters were sent out to HOA's in our District. No calls came back asking for some to distribute. So now we will contact the Realtor's Associations and see if we can't get some moving there.

c) Winkelman Resource Management Center

Hattie had nothing to report.

3. Reports from Supervisors and District Personnel:

Mary asked if the new cooperators from The Nature Conservancy would serve on the Local Drought Impact Group.

Bill gave dates for the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. They start on July 29. All are in Florence and cover different segments of the plan. Go to www.PinalCountyPlan.com for details.

Vicki told the group about the State of Arizona providing the National Christmas Tree. It will be decorated with 5,000 hand made ornaments from Arizonans. Any group or individual of any age can contribute an ornament. There will also be 65 small trees indoors that need ornaments. The ornaments need to be at the Apache-Sitgraves National Forest by October 5. The web site is www.capitolchristmastree2009.org for details.

4. Reports From Agency Personnel:

NRCS - Kristen Egen This round of EQIP request for the state totaled 36 million and there was only 16 million available. Thus only 4 of 12 applications were funded. However since they were funded so late, those on the waiting list will be funded next year which is coming up October 1. She talked a bit more about the Air Quality program and said that this was a pilot program and not available every year.

NRCS - Bill Svetlik The website now has Winkelman's soil survey up. He gave the group hand-outs on how to use the site. If you can't get information from the internet, calling NRCS Tucson Field Office is still an option.

AZ State Game and Fish - Leonard Ordway Born in Florence, Leonard told us he has worked for Game and Fish for 30 years in many capacities. He is currently the Regional Director. Although the vast majority of Arizonans don't hunt, they all value watchable wildlife and knowing it is “out there”. The Agency is currently visioning for 10-20 years out. The seven positions for OHV Enforcement will soon be announced. There are currently six vacancies in the region and this will be down to two by December of this year. **Ben Brochu** is conducting a pilot study east of the San Pedro River in the Galiuro Mountains called the Route Evaluation Project. He is using historical photos and data to determine historic travel routes. He hopes to expand this into the

entire unit (37B). This will help in enforcement of wildcat road problems. Bev asked who determines these routes, and Ben said that the Agencies do.

Hohokam RC&D – Rebecca de la Torre They got good results from the survey. Hohokam RC&D are now formulating the five year plan. She would like Bill, Vicki, Hattie and Kristen to give detailed input into two areas. They are Community Development and Land Conservation and Management. The final plan will be reviewed on August 26. SMART guidelines should be kept in mind.

AzNRCD

- o **Summer Conference – August 31 – Sept 1., Flagstaff. AZ**

Contact Vicki for registration forms, vicki.france@az.nacdn.net or 520-292-2999 x 111

- o **AzNRCD Policies**

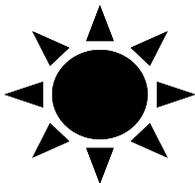
Equine Management issues may be come larger in rural areas in the near future if laws continue to be passed restricting the sale and transport of horses. Much like unwanted trash and dogs, people will simply take horses to the country and dump them. AzNRCD would like to form a policy on this before it becomes a problem.

5. Call to the Public

Jan Wilson told us about an email she had received asking for donations of old farm equipment. Langdon told the group about the proposed Sunzia/BLM 500KW Transmission line that would go thru the Avra Valley along a similar path that the I-10 by pass took. It should meet all of the objections that the By Pass met. Just Google it and it should come up on the internet with a map.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting date is tentatively set for October 21, 2009. Bill Dunn moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bev Miller seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. It was 1:30 pm.



“Thank You!” to all of the cooperators and agency personnel who contributed funds to help cover the meal at the last meeting, and also “Thank You!” to those who made their annual contribution to the WNRCD.

Your support for the district is appreciated!

**ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK
WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FISCAL YEARS 2009-10 AND 2010-11**

The overall objective of the Winkelman NRCD is to promote sound and wise use of the soil, plant, water, wildlife and other resources within and outside the district boundaries. The following is a generalized Plan of Work:

(I) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Hold meetings of the district Board of Supervisors and membership quarterly in July, October, January and April on the third Wednesday of the month, and hold special meetings to address topics of concern.
2. Submit minutes of the meetings to the State Land Department and others interested within seven days following the meetings. Minutes of previous meetings will be approved as part of the consent agenda, with copies mailed to all supervisors.
3. Invite district cooperators, county, state and federal agency personnel and others interested to attend and participate in the district meetings.
4. Accept donations from district cooperators and others to support district activities.
5. Work proactively with county, state and federal agencies in the development of and application of natural resource programs.
6. Attend the Inter-Agency Coordinated Planning Meetings to keep informed of planning and management activities on ranches within the district.
7. Encourage young people to participate in the WNRCD.
8. Prepare and distribute Annual Reports and Annual Plans of Work when required.
9. Provide input to local units of government to guide land use planning and Wildcat Dumping issues.
10. Hold supervisor elections according to state law.
11. Act as a mediator for cooperators and district members in the event of land use conflicts.
12. Notify federal and state agencies of WNRCD's intent to attain Cooperating Agency status.
13. Actively recruit sponsoring businesses and organizations who have a presence in the district by making them aware of the benefits to them by what WNRCD does.

(II) INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

1. Continue to Provide a quarterly newsletter to cooperators, members and others.
2. Keep informed and inform others about existing, proposed and needed legislation affecting the use and management of natural resources.
3. Promote youth awareness and conservation education.
4. Sponsor field days and workshops for district members and guests.
5. Continue to cooperate with the Coronado Resource Conservation & Development Area on the publication of a series of Educational Bulletins.
6. Cooperate with the Hohokam Resource Conservation & Development Area on various projects and issues.
6. Prepare, update and reprint district bulletins in cooperation with Arizona NRCDs, the University of Arizona, other agencies and interested parties.
7. Continue to develop a Long-Range Plan for the district.
8. Encourage the positive presentation of ranching to the public.

(III) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

1. Promote and encourage land users to develop sound management plans.
2. Support members' efforts to seek funding for conservation practices on rangeland and farmland and other lands as prioritized by the district.
3. Promote and encourage conservation on cropland and rangeland.
4. Continue to work with the Plant Materials Centers of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
5. Promote prescribed burning as a management tool for improving rangeland where appropriate.
6. Pursue the district goals for reclamation of mining lands and despoiled areas within the district.
7. Encourage conservation plans, pursuing a goal of 100% cooperation from district members.
8. Complete the update of the Long-Range Plan for the district.
9. Address the problem of "wildcat dumping" within the district as needed.
10. Address the problem of conflicts with recreational use on our lands as needed.
11. Continue to update the district boundary maps.
12. Cooperate and interact with other Natural Resource Conservation Districts and with the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts.
13. Develop and implement a program for range monitoring proficiency.
14. Support the Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey.
15. Continue to encourage the Forest Service to practice sound monitoring methods.
16. Address the problems of noxious weed incursion within the district.
17. Participate in efforts to update ecological site descriptions and transition zones within major Land Resource Areas.
18. Continue to cooperate with local law enforcement personnel within the district.
19. Continue to cooperate with other Districts and the NRCS on Emergency Response.
20. Become involved with the development of Forest and BLM Management Plans.
21. Become involved with the development and implementation of the Arizona Fish and Game's OHV Education Program.
22. Begin to monitor actions of federal and state agencies, as a Coordinating Agency, to make sure their actions and contemplated actions are compatible with our conservation plans and goals.



Please note: Starting with the next newsletter, your editor will be Cassandra Joos, from Asarco. Her contact information is on the heading of the first page. Please send any items of interest to her, with "WNRCD" in the subject line. I know Cassandra will produce an excellent newsletter for the district! I've enjoyed putting the news together for you for the past years, and I feel very confident handing this endeavor over to Cassandra!

**WINKELMAN NRCD
ANNUAL REPORT/ACTIVITIES
2008-09**

1. The district works with district cooperators, members and local citizens on natural resource concerns, and continues to provide services and information to our district members and cooperators.
2. The district continues its work developing solutions for wildcat dumping within the district, in conjunction with other districts, the State of Arizona and Pinal County.
3. The district re-published and re-distributed the Guide To All Things Garbage, which was developed by the Wildcat Dumping Task Force.
4. The district maintains an inventory of educational booklets on the subjects of conservation and range management. These are available to local schools and other interested groups.
5. The district holds workshops and field days throughout the year for members and interested citizens.
6. The Winkelman Resource Management Center became a 501 C3 non-profit agency.
7. The district sponsored the development, printing and dispersal of plant field guides.
8. The district supports the Center for Desert Archeology in their work of preserving cultural resources within our district.
9. The district continues to work with BLM on their Range Resource Team on reviewing BLM grazing permit renewals.
10. The district was actively involved in working with the Soil Survey Teams.
11. The district continued to work with professional organizations on projects to bring conservation education programs to the public.
12. The district actively participated in the Inter-Agency Coordinated Planning meetings.
13. The district stays involved with livestock issues.
14. The district cooperated with other NRCDs on all issues of common concern.
15. The district actively participated in Arizona NRCD.
16. The district worked with the Pinal County Sheriffs on law enforcement issues on our lands.
17. The district worked with the Forest Service to encourage sound science on Forest Service lands.
18. The district is trying to seek fair resolution to water issues within the district.
19. The district is developing working relationships with individual legislators.
20. The district is pursuing the removal of invasive species within the district.
21. The Winkelman, Reddington and Santa Cruz districts are developing an Emergency Response Program to aid local community response to natural and man -made disasters.
22. The district is involved with the EQUIP ranking criteria committee.
23. The district is involved with the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.
24. The district supports the U of A's Integrated Rangeland Monitoring program for Arizona.
25. The district has made efforts to see that the Ag and Range courses remain available at the U of A.
26. The district will become involved with the long range plan on the Ironwood National Monument.
27. The district is involved in addressing Right of Way issues within the district.
28. The district was actively involved in the proposed Aravaipa I-10 Bypass route issue.
29. The district was actively involved in developing the proposed Wildcat Dumping legislation.
30. The district actively sought ways to deal with the financial hardships of the reduced budget.
31. The district continued to work on OHV issues with Jody Latimer of the State Land Dept.
32. The district is pursuing Coordinating Agency Status for the district.
33. The district regularly invites speakers to our meetings who can share important relevant information.
34. The district continues to work on issues related to the Arizona Trail.
35. The district participates in the Local Drought Impact Group Steering Committee for Pinal County.

The Supervisors of the WNRCD make every effort to be responsive to the requests and needs of the members. The requests come from major mining companies, environmental organizations, small towns and small land owners. The membership includes all the above, but most are involved in agriculture, ranching and farming.

Our meetings are held quarterly and are made up of agency personnel, members, and interested public. Agency personnel include Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Land management, Arizona State Land Department, Forest Service, Game and Fish and Pinal County who often attend meetings and share current information relevant to the district. The average attendance is between 30-45 people. The strength of any organization comes from its membership. We appreciate everyone who is involved with the WNRCD, and we encourage everyone in the district to attend meetings. It is the sharing of concerns, knowledge and experience during our meetings that makes our organization effective.

Submitted July 20, 2009

**Minutes**

**Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District
State of Arizona
Supervisors Meeting
2:00 p.m.
July 15, 2009
1140 W. Butte Ave
Florence, AZ**

Supervisors Meeting

1. Call to Order Action

The meeting was called to order by Mary Mercer at 1:45 pm. Present were Bill Dunn, Vicki France, Bev Miller, Cassandra Joos, Hattie Hedrick, Langdon Hill, and Mickey Clark.

2. Approval of Final Financial Report, Annual Report and Annual Plan Action

Mary needed the Board's input on several end of year matters. The first was the finances. Because of the funding cut, she was paying a lot of expenses out of the District Account. This totaled \$1,946.46. The State Fund Balance was \$2,175.16. The supervisors discussed paying back the District Account from the remaining funds and what previous requests that we had had that could be paid now. There would be a \$228 cushion incase there were expenses before the next check came from the state. Bill Dunn moved that we reimburse the District account for \$1,946.46, donate \$100 to the Center for Desert Archeology and pay the Hohokam RC & D dues of \$150 from the District Account. Bev Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

There is also \$4,232.94 sitting in the District account earmarked for the Ed Center. Bev Miller moved that we transfer \$4,232.94 to the Winkelman Resource Management Center because they may someday need funds for an office space. Landon Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Bill also wanted money ear marked for the REAM Team's efforts in documenting the Sonoran Desert Tortoise. Bev moved that we earmark \$500 for support of the REAM Team. Langdon seconded the motion and if carried by voice vote.

Mary would complete the state forms and send in the final financial statement.

The supervisors reviewed the annual report and made several additions and corrections. Bev Miller made the motion to accept the Annual Report. Bill Dunn seconded the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

3. 2009-10 Finances, Budget and work assignments.

Action

Mary Mercer told the Board that she was resigning as Chair of the District to pre pare for her eventual stepping down as a Supervisor in May 2010. She gave us a list of the duties that she currently does. Bev wanted to spend as little money as possible on this and hoped it could be done by volunteers as much as possible. Cassandra Joos will do the newsletter. Bill Dunn was nominated to take the Chairmanship and Langdon Hill was nominated to be Treasurer. A voice vote was taken and they were elected by the board to these positions. The three people on the checking account will be Langdon Hill, Bill Dunn and Vicki France. The mailing address will change to: P.O. 68 Mammoth, AZ 85618. We will share a mail box with the Education Center. Vicki will take over the routine financial reports, with over site by the treasurer. She will also do the miscellaneous office work such as annual plans, meeting notices, agenda's and minutes. It was un decided who will post the notices at the post office. We hope Miriam Reed will continue to locate and schedule our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

On May 6, the Western Watersheds Project (think John Marvel) gave it's 60 day notice of intent to sue the Bureau of Land Management to protect the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, lesser longnosed bat, loach minnow and spikedace. They contend that the BLM has failed to protect these T&E species in the Middle Gila Resource Area by improperly managing livestock grazing on 18 allotments. All are within the Winkelman NRCD district. They include the Myers, Whitlow, Teacup, Cochran, LEN, A Diamond, Battle Axe, Rafter 6, Hidalgo, Piper Springs, Christmas, Mescal Mountain, Smith Wash, Dripping Springs, Ponderosa, Kearny, and Government Springs allotments.

To read the complaint search: western watersheds project+Arizona.

Submitted from Cyndi Alvarez on this issue:

As defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Gila District, Bureau of Land Management, has reinitiated formal Sect 7 Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Livestock Grazing Program in southeastern Arizona. While the emphasis of the biological opinion from USFWS will address all phases of the administration of the Bureau grazing program, we expect specific guidance where necessary to protect both threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat. Currently, the final biological opinion is expected to be completed by September 30, 2009.

Thanks,

Cindy A. Alvarez
Assistant Field Manager
Tucson Field Office

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

United States Department of Agriculture



NEWS RELEASE

USDA-NRCS Release # 09-12

George Couch 602-280-8806
George.couch@az.usda.gov

Money, Technical Help Available to Agricultural, Forestry Producers from New Conservation Program

PHOENIX, August 12, 2009— Agricultural and forestry producers who want to improve their land's natural resources can apply for help from the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Sept. 30 is the first application deadline for CSP, although applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

CSP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation work and adopt new conservation activities. The program was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill and is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Eligible applicants include operators of private agricultural land, private forest land, and Indian tribes. CSP is a national program, but each state has the flexibility to determine its own resource concerns. In Arizona, priority will be given in the following areas:

Agricultural Land: Air Quality, Animals, Energy, Plants, and Water Quantity

Forestry: Animals, Plants, Soil Erosion

To apply for CSP, applicants are asked to use a self-screen checklist. The checklist is available on the Web at www.az.nrcs.usda.gov or at your local NRCS field office. After the self-screening, applicants will meet with their local NRCS field office staff and complete an assessment that will determine eligibility, ranking, and funding.

Visit the Web at www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/contact to contact your local NRCS office at 520-292-2999 ext 105 for more information.

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Cooking a Frog

As your new Chairman, I wanted to write this letter thanking Mary Mercer for twenty years of service to this organization. She has held various leadership jobs over the years until the last few where she was doing the jobs of Chairman, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. Three people have been assigned to do her job. I will be chairman, Langdon Hill will be treasurer, and Cassandra Joos will be the newsletter editor.

Do you know how you cook a frog? If you boil the water in a pot then throw a frog in there, he will immediately jump out, but if you put the frog in a pot of cool water then put it on the stove and turn on the gas, it will slowly heat up the water until when the frog realizes he's cooking, it's too late.

A couple of years ago Mary asked me if I would take over as Chairman. I declined telling her I didn't have the time. She was very gracious about it, simply smiling. Slowly though, just like cooking a frog, she asked me to do a few things at a time, until I was cooked, then she handed the reins over.

Few people deserve to take it easy as Mary does. Drop her a line and thank her for a job well done.

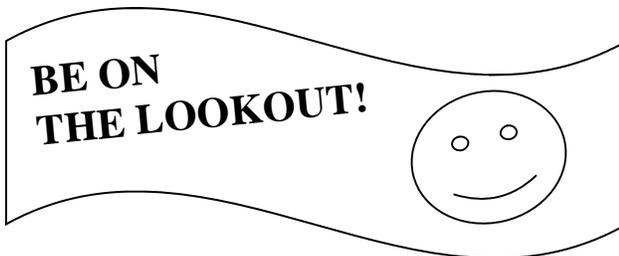
I'm not going to do this for twenty years. Since I became a cooperator about thirty five years ago, the Winkelman NRCD has had only three Chairmen; Virgil Mercer, Walt Meyer, and Mary Mercer. I've already asked Vicki to scour the Districts records for potential cooperators, so we can introduce some new blood into our NRCD. There are plenty of producers in the district who don't even know what we do, so how can we expect them to become involved. I intend to advertise what the Winkelman NRCD does for it's cooperators. There are many people out there that are receiving benefits from us and don't even know it. If we can get their participation, in district activities, we will become stronger for it.

We have to tell them what we do for them, from our cooperation with the NRCS on their behalf, to the Wildcat Dumping taskforce, to Hattie Hedrick's new Education Center, and now to the newly formed Coordination Agency Committee, that will become involved in planning with federal and state agencies that have natural resource administration powers in the district.

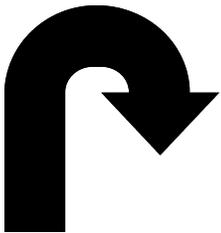
How many of you know about the districts involvement in trying to stop a new I-10 bypass that was being planned to go right through the middle of the district from east to west? If not, that's our fault. It won't be in the future.

There are plenty of talented people in the district, I think, that would be glad to help out. They just haven't been asked. It's time to start tooting our horn. Apply guilt whenever possible. It's a great motivator. Come to the meetings. Bring your neighbor. Participate.

From the frog pot,
Bill Dunn



You will be receiving a request soon regarding your preference for receiving the WNRCD Newsletter, either via electronic copy (email) or paper copy (via snail mail.) This is an effort to cut costs, and many will probably prefer an electronic copy.. Cassandra will be sending out a preference form for you to complete and return along with your current email address. We went through this process some years back, but we felt it would be best to get updated information from everyone. So thank you in advance for your participation!



Time sensitive issue !!

You may have heard about the proposed SunZia transmission line which could be built through certain areas of the WNRCD lands. If you would like more information, go to their website www.sunzia.net , or google sunzia southwest transmission line project. Comments are being accepted through August 28, 2009.

**Winkelman Natural Resource
Conservation District
State of Arizona
Special District Meeting
10:00 a.m.
September 10, 2008
General Kearny Inn
Kearny, AZ**

The topic for consideration will be the decision for the District to pursue Coordinating Agency Status with the BLM for the SunZia Transmission Line crossing the District. It is important that Cooperators make every effort to attend this short but important meeting.

For more information, contact any of your District Supervisors:

Bill Dunn

Bev Miller

Mickey Clark

Langdon Hill

Mary Mercer