



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

LSPI Committee Meeting

February 12, 2014

Minutes

Lower San Pedro NRC D Initiative Meeting
Central Arizona College, Aravaipa Campus

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

In attendance:

Walt Meyer, Francie Meyer, Scott Wilbor, Donna Woods, Stefanie Smallhouse, Scott Cole, Sharma Torrens, Stephen Williams, Bob Rogers, Josh T. Avey, Hattie Hedrick, Steve Spangle, Diana Stirling

Walt chaired the meeting in Bill's absence.

Motion to approve minutes from January 14 meeting made by Francie. Seconded by Josh. Motion carried

Reports by subcommittees:

Boundaries

TNC is going to reach out to the relevant local NRC Ds before applying to the Committee for inclusion of the Aravaipa and Muleshoe properties in our plan.

Coordinator Search

Josh contacted Tyce Palmer from Utah to develop an estimate of the cost for hiring a coordinator. Tyce recommended that any staff hired should be employed by the Districts.

Utah used Clean Water Act, Section 319 funding. 319 Funding requires an EPA designation of "impaired water" based on the 303D Rule. The San Pedro has this designation. These funds are administered by the State through ADEQ. Up to 20% of total funds allotted to the State may be used for planning processes.

The Committee would like to do more research on the requirements of such funding. Stephen Williams recommended some speakers who have received this funding who may be able to clarify the requirements.

Josh anticipates \$100,000 per year for a 3-year period to pay a coordinator and allow hiring of any additional staff needed.

Stefanie asked whether we need to hire a technical writer and a coordinator, or whether the Committee should hire only a technical writer initially and have the Committee serve as coordinator until the plan is written. After the writing is finished, a coordinator could be hired.

Francie expressed the desire to have some guidance right now, from a coordinator or some other experienced person. Josh also highlighted the need for a contact person to interact with other interested groups, cities and towns, and so on. Stephen Williams also pointed out that funding will likely come from grants. Stefanie said that it may be more difficult to fund a coordinator than a technical writer through grants.

Funding Sources

Steve Spangle suggested organizations within the planning area may be willing to contribute in-kind services, such as grant writing. These organizations may also have small amounts of grant funding available.

A list of possible funding sources of this kind includes

- SRP
- ASARCO
- TNC
- USFWS
- AGFD
- ASLD
- BoR
- ADWR
- BLM
- USFS
- Resolution Copper
- Pinal/Cochise/Pima Counties
- NRCS

Page 23 of the Handbook also summarizes possible funding sources.

Josh, Stefanie and Steve Spangle will work on crafting a letter to send to these agencies/organizations to present at the next meeting. The letter will address such topics as conservation, preservation of the working landscape, seed money, coordination, and the benefits to potential donors. At the next meeting we will also assign people to make contact with the various agencies in conjunction with sending the letter. The draft will state a goal of \$50,000 to start the process.

Motion by Francie to deposit any initial funds in the Ed Center account after re-establishment of their 501(c)(3) status. Seconded by Stefanie. Motion carried.

Additional Groups

Walt suggested that each Committee member make a list of potential groups that should be included. He suggested including groups such as the National Guard that may have an interest but may not immediately come to mind.

Mitigation Strategies

Funds may be available from ASARCO in conjunction with the potential tailings pond on Ripsey Wash.

Process and Objectives of Committee

Steve Spangle suggested that we consider two areas of objectives: economic/quality of life objectives and natural resource/ecological objectives.

Scott Cole and Francie will work on economic/quality of life objectives.

Scott Wilbor, Bob Rogers, Sharma and Steve Spangle will work on natural resource/ecological objectives.

Next meeting:

Friday, March 28, 2014 10:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn by Josh. Seconded by Francie. Adjourned at 11:23 a.m.