



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

November 14, 2018

Draft Minutes

Location: Central Arizona College (Aravaipa Campus), Room E102

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

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Barb McGuire, Carol DuBois, Hattie Hedrick, Kyle Thompson, Chris Postel.

Agencies - Organizations

Aaron Casem (AZ Dept Forestry-Fire Management), Allison Haywood (AZ Game & Fish), Jackie Thomas (Arizona State Land Department), Doug People, Jeff McCarley, Chad Nichols, Tyler Schiess (Pinal County Sherriff), Elyanna Juarez (Pinal County-Pete Rios Administrator), Kristen Egen (NRCS), Elisa Craig & Sam Rauhalammi (CAC Aravaipa), Linda Leigh (Oracle Community Learning Garden).

Members and Guests

Becky Dunn, Rick Bader, Charlie Ricker, Catherine Mann, Linda Leigh, Sam & Carol Hosler, Francie Myer, Pat Granillo, Clyde Applegate, and Sam Rauhalammi (CAC Aravaipa)

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: 08/15/2018 & 9/27/2018. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report: District/State funds, \$29,377.75 & \$7,833.63. The Balance Sheet & Income Statement were reviewed. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the financial reports. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

NACD Membership Invoice: Barb McGuire moved to approve the invoice for \$775 (Gold Membership level). Steve Turcotte seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Possible Land Gift from The Nature Conservancy:** Bob Rogers will come to CAC by 2 pm today to show a 5 acre parcel that they are willing to donate to the District. Depending on the location, the parcel could be used as a native plant nursery.
- **Proposed Arizona Trail Realignment (See Attached Meyer Letter):** Francie Meyer sent the letter to ASLD but no response yet. Per Jackie Thomas, a denial order is being processed by ASLD; so, the trail will not be changed.

Old Business

- **Kearny River Fire Grant:** Kyle is has received 2 bids and is expecting one more to remove salt cedar. Per Aaron Casem, the FEMA award letter was received on Oct 11. Nine environmental concerns were identified and six have been resolved. The other 3 are being investigated. Some of the concerns involve the Endangered Species Act (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Yellow Billed Cuckoo) for conducting pre & post work surveys. He wants to make sure that both ADFFM and WNRCD will

be in compliance. The grant period has been extended until the end of February, 2020. Trees need to be tagged to set the line by AZDFFM and Winkelman NRCD.

- **HPC Grant (Kyle Thompson):** The grant application was submitted on September 1. Per Allison, the applications were ranked in October. On Jan 5, 2019, the applications will be selected and awarded. Kyle needs to send the chemical makeup of ESS-13 to Kristen. This makeup would be sent for an engineering decision; then, the ESS-13 would be an approved treatment by NRCS to sealing ponds.
- **Water Protection Grant (Kyle Thompson):** On Nov 7, the grant application was presented and will be awarded in December. The \$75,000 grant would be used to purchase native plants, trees, and seeds.
- **Sun Zia Update (Bill Dunn):** Chris Fletcher has been in constant contact with Sun Zia. They have got a new general contractor. The construction will start in the 11 Mile Corner area (Near Florence) by next summer. They had to move the line in the San Manuel area. A Sonoran Desert Tortoise survey would be done along the construction route to determine the potential impact on the tortoise. BLM would require a biologist to be on-site.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

- **NRCS (Kristen Egen - See Attached Report):** Alvaro Compos is the new soils employee. He is from Nogales, AZ and graduated from the Univ of AZ. They are doing a reorganization and will put into teams. Kristen will retire on Dec 28 and Alisha Phipps will probably be the interim District Coordinator. No news on the Farm Bill and no new funding. The Society of Range Management will have a joint AZ/NM meeting in Silver City, NM on January 9-11.
- **Arizona Game & Fish (Allison Haywood):** Kevin Crouch is the new patrol person. BLM has given them funds for wildlife escape ramps. They would be put cattle drinkers as required. The ranchers will be contacted about this.
- **Arizona State Land Dept. (Jackie Thomas, NRCD Administrator - See Email):** The AACD winter meeting will be on Jan 30-31 in Gilbert, AZ. She will be hosting a meeting from 2-4 pm on the 31st to discuss the new annual reporting system and any issues that have been identified.
- **AZ State Forestry & Fire (Aaron Casem):** They have funding (\$700-800k) for hazardous fuels reduction that require only a 10% match and no biological or cultural survey is required.
- **Pinal County Sheriff (Doug Peobles):** The range deputies have been responding to wildcatting and fencing cutting incidences. Francie Meyer has had her fences cut 13 times.
- **Pinal County (Elyanna Jurarez):** She works for Pete Rios's office as an administrator and policy advisor. She is a recent Northern Arizona University graduate.
- **Oracle Community Learning Garden (Linda Leigh):** They still need to level the ground for the hoop house. They are planning to use it for native plants and Oracle specific plants. She is going to start a worm farm. She is working on a Farm to School grant for creating a developmental plan; so, they would need a letter of support from the WNRCD. They just recently completed a "rammed earth" project for their entrance.

Supervisors & Staff Reports

- **Steve Turcotte:** He thanked the Pinal County Sheriff Search & Rescue for rescuing 13 campers that were stranded in Aravaipa Canyon when a 12 foot of water passed thru the Canyon .
- **Bill Dunn:** The Winter AACD meeting will be on Jan 30-31.

Call to the Public

Recessed for Lunch (11:55 a.m.)

Executive Session (Review bids for AZDFFM grant)

Education Center Meeting (Convened at 12:45 p.m.)

Financial Report: Checking account balance is \$17,061.35. Motion by Steve Turcotte to accept the financial report. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Organization and Planning Meeting Update (Bylaws):** Per Steve Turcotte, still working on the bylaws. Barb McGuire asked if Bill should be registered as a lobbyist. This will be researched.
- **Hoop House (Oracle Garden):** When the area is leveled and the concrete work is done, the hoop house would be erected. The construction should be scheduled on a Friday because the CAC students could assist. Before year end, the two possible construction dates are Dec 7 and Dec 14. We would like to have the hoop house completed when the Winter Semester starts at CAC.

Call to the Public (None)

Adjourn

Steve Turcotte made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 1:09 p.m. Barb McGuire seconded it. Motion carried

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk Date: November 15, 2018

Approval of Minutes: _____ Date: _____

Winkelman NRCD Quarterly Meeting – November 14, 2018
Next Quarterly meeting: February 20, 2019