



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

February 19, 2019

Final Minutes

Location: General Kearny Inn, 302 Alden Road, Kearny, AZ

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Board and Staff

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

Agencies - Organizations

Alisha Phipps & Alvaro Quiros (NRCS), Sarah Gandaria (AZGFD), Jess Berry & Andy Smallhouse (RNRCD), Elyanna Juarez (Pinal County – Pete Rios), Jen Parra (Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce), Sharma Torrens & Deborrah Smith (AACD), Jackie Thomas (AZ State Land Department), Liz Tuck (OCLG), Robin Barnes (ASARCO), Celeste Andresen & Bob Rogers (TNC).

Members and Guests

Becky Dunn, Catherine Mann, Jonah Cude, Jack Townshend, Katie Cline, Francie Myer, Marge Jones, and Daniel Deen.

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: November 20, 2019, December 22, 2019 and January 30, 2020. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report (See Attached Report): District/State funds, \$20,597.09 and \$8,075.24. Steve Turcotte moved to accept and file the financial reports. Barb McGuire seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

HPC Grant (See Attached Coordinator Report): Per Kyle, ESS-13 was applied to a tank in May. ESS-13 is now approved to receive EQIP funding. Tanks need to be done on the Triangle Bar and 4 more tanks need to be identified. He will be contacting Shad Beebe. The grant is for 3 years.

NACD Grant Update: Per Liz Tuck, the first hoop house has been installed. They will have workshops on Feb 29 (Watershed Management) and March 8 (Microbes). She will put together a final budget for the remaining six weeks and will send to the board. As Jack Townshend has been retained by the District, Liz was asked to coordinate with him on making sure her financial records are sufficient to pass an audit by NACD.

Sonoran Desert Tortoise Update: Per Deborrah Smith, 17 sites need to be monitored but AZGF needs about \$30,000/site to do the work. Legislation has been submitted for funding, \$300,000. It has been proposed by Representative Tim Dunn in legislation to contract with the NRCDs to conduct the monitoring. As this may be problematic, the legislation is in a holding pattern now. Robin Barnes said the Cactus Ferruginous Owl is more of a problem currently than the tortoise as there is little data on them south of the Mexican border. She also said there is someone working on that data with some new monies.

TNC Land Donation Update: Per Bob Rogers, TNC owns 4 small parcels on the Lower San Pedro and they had contracted with Salt River Project to manage them. Bob said the two parcels that they are interested in transferring to the Winkelman Ed Center come with a \$17,000 endowment. The TNC board met in January to approve the parcel transfer but we are still waiting to receive the contract.

New Business

Water Protection Fund Grant (See Attached Coordinator Report): Kyle has been working on the contract and will begin the Tamarisk Management Plan for tamarisk removal and revegetation. \$205,000 is the grant amount for a three-year period

Legislative Update (See Attached Report): Per Deborrah, the AACD has been educating the legislators about the NRCDs. There are four piece of legislation that affect the NRCD that AACD is monitoring.

2020 Elections (See Attached Elections Checklist & AD): Per Jackie, our election laws need to be updated since they haven't been since they were enacted over 70 years ago. The election board was created for upcoming supervisor election: Chris Postel (Inspector) and Carol DuBois and Katie Cline will be judges. Steve Turcotte's position is up for election and two appointed positions will expire and need to be appointed this year. Per Chris Postel, an election notice will be placed in the Copper Basin and also posted on the website. Jackie also said that advise from the Attorney General's office, she is urging districts to only use non-state fund monies for things like scholarships, field trips, etc. without an MOA with the entity you are funding that states how those monies will help the district accomplish its legislative mandates. Deborrah agreed and suggested that the district have three checking accounts. One for state monies, one for district monies and one for grant monies.

Future Meeting Locations (GKI, Trowbridge Hall): Per Bill Dunn, the District has been trying to hold meeting at other locations but the cost is about \$200/location. With investment that has been made in the GKI (Meeting room, patio and outside meeting areas), weddings and meetings are being charged \$50/hour. Bill moved that we go back to moving around the district for our meetings. Steve seconded it. Motion carried. Steve moved that since nearly everywhere we meet there is a cost, we pay the fee wherever it is held, and that shouldn't be a consideration. Carol seconded. Motion carried. Alyanna said the county has buildings around the district and she can help get us in them without cost.

EPA EE Grant (Sharma Torrens) Sharma is working on several grants and contacting companies and individuals to secure funding for the districts with private funds. If anyone has suggestions on who she might contact, let her know.

CSP Workshops (Sharma Torrens) Through the CSP workshop agreement, AACD is helping districts put on workshops for their cooperators. She asked for suggestions of what things our cooperators might be interested in. Suggestions were; tortoise BMPs, water rights and well monitoring.

Resource Assessment (Deborrah Smith). AACD entered into agreement with NRCS for a multi-year funding to help the districts conduct resource assessments around the state. They had a ranking test to see what districts are closest to being ready to conduct these. Winkelman and Redington ranked the highest so we will be first for this program. The two districts will need to have aa joint meeting with her to determine logistics of how this study will be conducted, who will be the lead for the districts and who will be the fiscal agent.

ADFF Grant (Deborrah Smith). Deborrah asked if the district wants her to apply for funding again for the district with the Department of Fire and Forestry. We agreed that our plate is pretty full right now and to wait.

Program Support (Deborrah Smith): AACD is requesting NRCDs to pay annual dues, \$1,500, and to help sponsor the AACD Summer Conference. Steve Turcotte: Motion to fund AACD program support for \$1500 (Program Support) and \$500 (Summer Conference sponsor). Carol DuBois seconded it. Motion carried.

District Supervisor Training (Deborrah Smith): A date needs to be determined to conduct the supervisor training for the Districts (Winkelman, Pima, Santa Cruz). She will send out a “doodle poll.”

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

NRCS (Alisha Phipps, See Attached Report): Conservation Plans have been completed for the Hidalgo and Dripping Springs ranches. The On-going plans are Camp Grant and El Capitian. Under the EQIP program in the Winkelman NRCD, the district has 11 current contracts. Applications are being taken for EQIP CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) for range water improvements. A new CIS for Crop and Irrigated Systems is being developed. Brett Myers will be the Acting District Conservationist until February 28.

Arizona State Land Department (Jackie Thomas): The Arizona Gift Clause only applies to State funds. So, it is recommended that the NRCD signs a MOA with the non-profit, such as CAC, NRCWAY, to be able to donate funds for scholarships or sponsorships. The NRCDs need to be set up on electronic deposit by June 20, 2020.

Reports from Supervisors & District Staff; None

Call to the Public None

Adjourn

Steve Turcotte: Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 2:49 pm. Carol DuBois seconded it. Motion carried.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, WNRCD Clerk

Date: May 20, 2020

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____