



## WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

September 16, 2020

Final Minutes

Location: Teleconference via Zoom

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm.

### Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Barb McGuire, Carol DuBois, Gary Vinson, Hattie Hedrick (Winkelman Resource Management Center (WRMC) Director), Kyle Thompson (WNRCD Coordinator), and Chris Postel (Clerk).

### Agencies - Organizations

Alisha Phipps, (NRCS), Sarah Gandaria & Alison Haywood (AZGFD), Matt Jewell (AzDDFM), Elyanna Juarez (Pinal County, Pete Rios Office ), Liz Tuck (OCLG), and Jackie Thomas (AZ State Land Department)

### Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: July 3, 2020, and July 16, 2020 and no changes were identified. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. No discussion. Barb McGuire seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report (See Attached Report): District/State funds, \$729.02 and \$14,222.01. No discussion. Steve Turcotte moved to accept and file the financial reports. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

### Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

NRCS (Alisha Phipps, See Attached Report): Camp Grant, El Capitan and Broken Rail Z ranch (formerly Rafter 6 ranch, Zacy May is the new owner) have on-going plans. Four EQIP (2020) plans were funded for rangeland improvements. No CSP applications were funded. The NRCS MOA needs to be signed by 12/31/20. Emilio Carrillo is working with the NRCDs and NRCS in response to the Bighorn fire. Alisha is now the acting District Conservationist. Alvaro Campos is still on Army National Guard duty. A Local Work Group (LWG) meeting needs to be completed by November 20. Maybe schedule a combined (Winkelman, Santa Cruz, and Pima) meeting the last week in October. Pima will have a LWG meeting after their business meeting on November 10. Bill Dunn mentioned that since the WNRCD is working with NRCS on a CIS, which would provide input to the LWG; so, is a LWG still required?

Az State Land Department (Jackie Thomas): A NRCS MOA teleconference was held on September 9. A teleconference was held on August 21 to discuss the budget excel spreadsheets. In Q2, the distribution will be paid for the entire year, \$9,635 (3 x \$3,245).

AZ Department Forestry & Fire (Matt Jewell, SE Service Forester): He is working with the US Forest Service and NRCS developing plans for range management, water, riparian areas and mesquite removal. He has Federal access; so, he can assist with processing EQIP applications. Bill Dunn asked if he could assist with the Kearny area restoration efforts.

Pinal County (Elyanna Juarez, Assistant to Supervisor Pete Rios): Grants are available for food sustainability (closes this week) and business sustainability (closes Oct 13). The WNRCD was awarded a Pinal County Partnership grant for \$44,000.

Arizona Game and Fish: Per Sarah, the Landowner Relations program has habitat funding available for projects related to the Bighorn fire. The funding for habitat partnerships closed on September 1.

**Old Business**

NACD Grant Update (See attached Update): Per Kyle, is working on the Biological Assessment for US Fish & Wildlife and the restoration plans for the AZ Water Protection Fund Grant. The up-front requested funds of \$41,168 has been received.

**New Business**

NRCS Draft MOA Update: Per Bill Dunn, the NRCS MOA was sent to the board for review. Per the Clerk, based on the September 9 teleconference, this is the national agreement (came from DC) and can't be modified. The signature page needs to be signed by the board members. No further discussion. Steve Turcotte moved to approve and sign the MOA. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reports from Supervisors & District Staff:**

- Bill Dunn: The Copper Basin News published a 3-4 page article on the District.
- Steve Turcotte: 3,000 acre fire took 10 days to put out (Turcotte ranch, TNC land & Wilderness land).
- Carol DuBois: 60 acre fire on BLM land.
- Gary Vinson: 1,000 acre fire on his land.
- Barbara McGuire: She is on the November ballot for the Az Senate seat and will work on legislation to assist the NRCDs.

Call to the Public: Per Liz Tuck (OCLG), the second hoop house has been completed. They will be having a plant sale this coming Saturday to raise funds.

Adjourn: Barbara McGuire made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 2:37 pm. Steve Turcotte seconded it. Motion carried.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, WNRCD Clerk

Date: November 18, 2020

Approval of Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_