



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

November 18, 2020

Final Minutes

Location: Teleconference

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting was called to order at 1:21 pm.

Board and Staff

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

Agencies - Organizations

Alison Haywood (AZGFD), Matt Jewell (AzDDFM), Tyler Schiess (Pinal County Sherriff), and Mario Preciado (AZ State Land Department)

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: 9/16/2020, and 10/9/2020, 2 dates were corrected. Barb McGuire moved to accept the minutes with changes. No discussion. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report (See Attached Report): District/State funds, \$13,340.16 and \$52,894.82. The Financial Report was discussed. Barbara McGuire moved to accept and file the financial reports. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

NRCS (See Attached Report): No one from NRCS in attendance. Per the Clerk, ESS-13 has been approved but certain conditions have to be met.

Az State Land Department (Mario Preciado): Per Mario, no new updates. Steve Turcotte asked who should a rancher contact if they have a question about renewing their lease or grazing questionnaire using the new system. Mario will research and send the appropriate contact information.

AZ Department Forestry & Fire (Matt Jewell, SE Service Forester): Fire season is now over and he is completing annual reports. He is now setup on the NRCS computer systems. They have been doing some proscribed burns and thinning projects (must be a minimum of 10 acres).

Arizona Game and Fish: Per Alison, the Landowner Relations program has habitat funding available for projects that would be completed by June, 2021 and more habitat funding will be available after that. They are still funding volunteer access projects from private to public lands.

Pinal County Sheriff's Office (Deputy Sheriff Tyler Schiess): He has been working on the fence cutting issue on the Myer's ranch.

Old Business

Grant Update:

- **AZ Water Protection Fund Grant.** Per Kyle Thompson, he submitted the Biological Assessment to US Fish & Wildlife and is waiting for their approval. He has completed the general plan. 20 acres of Tamarisk will be removed and they will replant with native plants. He will be doing a vegetation survey and will help with determining which species will be replanted. The plan is to start work in March, 2021 for 30 days. Replanting could begin in April thru June using Willow cuttings, native

plants and seedlings. These Willows will be cut in February with volunteer help from the Oracle Community Learning Garden. He is looking for volunteer assistance.

New Business

Education Center Bylaws (See attached Bylaws): Per Steve Turcotte, he drafted the Bylaws which were 50% re-written during the Oct 9 meeting. One primary objective is to join the 2 boards, WNRCD and Winkelman Resource Management Center (Education Center). Also, the District will be a landowner which will impact our responsibilities, insurance requirements, etc; so, we will be a fiduciary. Both Barb and Carol said that the bylaws looked good and can be amended in the future. No further discussion. Barb McGuire moved to approve the bylaws as presented. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

AACD Accounting Update: Per the Clerk, Deborah Smith (AACD Director) is too busy to do the accounting; so, AACD will contract with Carolyn Harbison (She is a clerk for 3 NRCD districts) to have her do the accounting at no cost to the District. She can do the accounting using a spreadsheet or QuickBooks. The Clerk, Barb McGuire and Steve Turcotte indicated that they preferred that a spreadsheet be used to do the accounting. The Clerk wants to make sure that the accounting process and audit trail (supporting documents) is defined and documented.

AACD Dues (See attached invoice): Per Steve Turcotte, last year the dues paid were at the \$1,500 level. Barb McGuire moved to approve the dues at \$1,500 (Conservation Leader level). Carol DuBois seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

NACD Dues Invoice: Per the Clerk, the dues last year were \$750. Steve Turcotte has not seen the invoice; so, the invoice will be tabled until the next meeting.

Reports from Supervisors & District Staff:

- Barbara McGuire: The election is over, which was won by TJ Shope. She thanked the District for their support

Call to the Public: None

Adjourn: Carol DuBois made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 2:04 pm. Barbara McGuire seconded it. Motion carried.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, WNRCD Clerk

Date: February 17, 2021

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____