



## **WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Sun Zia Coordination Meeting

October 1, 2015

Draft Minutes

Date: October 1, 2015

Location: Central Arizona College, Aravaipa Road

The meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m.

### Board, Advisors and Staff

Bill Dunn, Francie Meyer, Gary Vinson, Steve Turcotte, Chris Postel

### Redington District

Andy Smallhouse, Jess Barry, Chris Fletcher, Bob Evans, Charlie Ffolliott & Rachel Thomas (Teleconference)

### Other Attendees

Peter Else, Rose Platt, Stefanie Smallhouse

### Review/Approval of Winkleman's NRCD September 9, 2015 draft minutes

Steve Turcotte made a motion to approve the minutes. Francie Meyer seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

### Discussion regarding Sun Zia Line Siting Committee, strategy, intervention, mitigation, etc

Both Districts are opposed to the project but to protect the resources need to engage with Sun Zia. So, the Districts need to agree on how the resources are impacted. The project has problems in New Mexico. The BLM's Record of Decision preferred route is on 90% federal land with 80% existing easements. If the project deviates more than one mile from the preferred route, a new EIS would have to be done. The NEPA is done and the last step in the overall process is the Line Siting Committee.

The key issues to be answered are:

- Is there really a need for the project? Our experience is with the impact on natural resources.
- How can we stop it?
- How do we feel about the preferred route?
- If the preferred route will be approved, what would be our mitigation requirements?
- How would these requirements be enforced?

Lat Celmins (our attorney) has filed papers with the Arizona Corporation Commission to intervene. Based on discussions with Lat, the time to mitigate is during the 60 day Line Siting process. The key question is, should we meet with Sun Zia on Oct 5 to gather information and discuss the impact on natural resources and our mitigation requirements. So, we need to meet with Lat (attorney) to discuss our strategy and finalize our mitigation requirements.

During this line siting process, a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility with Conditions would be drafted with the intervener(s) potentially participating. Some of the interveners are: Charles Haines (Az Corp Comm), Mick Meader (Casabel Working Group), Peter Else (Friends of

Aravaipa), Kristina McVie, and Lat Celmins (Winkelman & Redington NRCDs) . Pinal County is not intervening. On October 21-22, Lat Celmins will present the District's concerns and mitigation demands during this Line Siting Committee meeting. Additional meetings will be held in Willcox, Tucson, Casa Grande, and Florence.

Due to Federal co-location policies, if the route is approved; then, other routes/lines would follow in the future. The BLM preferred route is 202 miles long from Willcox to Casa Grande with 44 miles of new infrastructure. Within the Districts, Redington has 34 miles of the route (24 miles no co-location) and Winkelman has 80 miles of the route (15 miles no co-location).

Redington - Jess Barry made a motion to give a list of our mitigation requirements to Lat Celmins. Charlie Ffolliot seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Winkelman – Steve Turcotte made a motion to give a list of our mitigation requirements to Lat Celmins. Gary Vinson seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

At this point, the meeting with Sun Zia could be postponed until a meeting is scheduled with Lat to discuss our strategy.

Redington - Chris Fletcher made a motion contact Lat and give the list of mitigation requirements and to discuss the why/when to meet with Sun Zia and postpone the meeting if we can't meet soon enough. Jess Barry seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Winkelman - Steve Turcotte made a motion to approve the same Redington motion. Gary Vinson seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried.

The following mitigation requirements were identified and prioritized:

1. Bonding – the mitigation requirements would be bonded to insure enforcement.
2. Aerial construction and maintenance for materials and labor.
3. Direct advisement capacity.
  - a. Appropriate re-vegetation.
  - b. Erosion control.
  - c. Maintenance.
4. Long Term conservation investment – Define the value based on the route's mileage and impact, 5-10 million dollars.
5. Utilization of existing roads during construction, possibly closing some roads afterward.

A telephone conference call needs to be scheduled with Lat Celmins with both Districts attending as soon as possible. Earlier, a message had been left with Lat to call Bill Dunn.

Gary Vinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Francie Meyer seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk

Date: October 6, 2015

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

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