



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Special Meeting

October 17, 2015

Draft Minutes

Date: October 17, 2015

Location: Teleconference

In Attendance

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Francie Meyer, Gary Vinson, Carol DuBois, Chris Postel (clerk)

Called to order

Meeting called to order by Bill at 7:03 p.m.

Discussion Item: Adobe Pro purchase, \$55 from Tech Soup.

Francie Meyer made a motion to purchase Adobe Pro. Seconded by Steve Turcotte. No discussion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Discussion Item: SunZia Strategy.

As of 3 days ago, the attorney fees incurred to date (since intervention was initiated) were about \$13,000 (Winkelman) and \$9,000 (Redington). Starting on Oct 19, the upcoming hearings will be conducted just like a trial (rules of procedure & evidence, cross examination). SunZia will have 4 attorneys and 1 paralegal attending these hearings, incurring about \$11,000 per day. Our attorney would have to attend 4-5 hearings (another \$11,000 - \$13,000). So, our attorney has scheduled a meeting on Oct 18 in Willcox with the 2 SunZia principals to discuss an agreement between SunZia and the 2 districts. Andy Smallhouse, Chris Fletcher (both from Redington) and Bill Dunn will attend the meeting. The meeting's focus: what assurances SunZia would give to the 2 districts in exchange for our neutrality. Redington had a meeting last night and authorized Andy to negotiate an agreement with SunZia, a minimum of getting back their current attorney fees. So, what items are important to us and Bill Dunn needs authorization to negotiate with SunZia.

The items that are most important to the Winkelman district are:

1. Recover our costs, such as attorney fees, our clerk's time/mileage, out-of-pocket costs and the attorney fees incurred for the NEPA comments.
2. What can they and we do to protect the land during construction and maintenance phases.
3. Encumber them to assure that they will keep their promises.

Steve Turcotte made a motion based on the 3 items listed above to empower Bill Dunn to negotiate a legal agreement with SunZia with our attorney's involvement. Carol DuBois seconded the motion. No further discussion. All supervisors agreed. Motion passed.

Next, the ranking or priority of our assurances was discussed. The following items were mentioned:

- Getting our fees/costs back.
- Having input during the construction and maintenance phase, especially during rehabilitation.
- The proposed route doesn't become another major utility corridor, need Line Siting Committee or State Land authorization.
- Utilizing aerial construction as much as possible while minimizing new roads, especially in the sensitive areas.

In conclusion, the priorities are: reparations, current construction, and maintenance. Our available funds were used to fight for the land, like the SunZia project. If we don't have the funds; then, it would be difficult to engage other projects, such as the next "SunZia", grant proposals, etc. None of the other supervisors could go to the meeting with Bill Dunn.

Call to the public

Nothing brought forward

Adjourn:

Motion made by Francie Meyer to adjourn the meeting. Steve Turcotte seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk

Date: October 17, 2015

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____