



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

January 20, 2016

Draft Minutes

January 20, 2016
General Kearny Inn

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Francie Meyer (absent), Steve Turcotte, Gary Vinson, Carol DuBois, Hattie Hedrick, Chris Postel

Agencies

Katie Cline & Alisha Phipps (NRCS), Rana Tucker (Az Game & Fish), Willie Sommers (AZ State Forestry), Darrell Tersey (BLM), Doug ?? (Pinal County Search & Rescue)

Members and Guests

Becky Dunn, Rick Bader, Sam Hosler & Anna Flores (Town of Kearny), Samuel Reidhead & Robin Barnes (Asarco), Sharman Torrens (Az Land Trust), Kemp & Judy Morris, Gerry Kaurhold (Copper Basin), Amber Barton, Pat Granillo, Ruben Granillo, Mohsen Gashasby & Chingwen Cheng (ASU), Goergie Wood,

Minutes of Past Meetings

Discussion minutes: 10/21/2015, 7/18, 8/8, 8/19, 9/25, 10/2, 10/17, 7/17, 7/28, 10/1, Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes as printed. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report: District funds, \$41,309.70, & State fund, \$4,637.70 (\$3,250 to be deposited), reviewed Balance Sheet & Income statement, Steve Turcotte moved to accept. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Bills

- National Association of Conservation Districts: Steve Turcotte moved to accept \$250 donation. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.
- Arizona Association of Conservation Districts: Steve Turcotte moved to accept \$1,200 dues. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.

Project CENTRL Presentation: By Sharma Torrens. See attached Power Point Slides.

New Business

- **Arizona Rangeland Conservation Partnership** - AACD agreement with BLM, who will provide \$3million for 5 years in priority areas. AZ State Land and CRCS will also contribute funding; for a total of \$6 million. The first project will be in SE Arizona for brush management.
- **Local Work Group** - Scheduled for 03/04/2016, location/time to be determined.
- **New Cooperators** - Steve Turcotte moved to accept Jack & Catherine Mann as cooperators. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.
- **Change WNRCD Mailing Address to Kearny, AZ** - Will change mailing address to Kearny.
- **Vacancy on Pinal County Open Space and Trail Advisory Commission** - Patrick Granillo volunteered
- **Water Protection Fund Grant Application** - Anna Flores and Chris Postel will work on grant application. Steve Turcotte moved to approve assignment. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.
- **Wild Horse Policy** - Policy was read/discussed. Steve Turcotte moved to accept policy as written. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Sunzia Status:** Received Sunzia check (\$62,913) for current and past legal/consultant fees & costs. The District will participate in the planning & development, construction, and maintenance phases. Once the planning phase starts, Sunzia will pay \$100,000/year for 3 years for the District's involvement.
- **District Facebook Page:** Per Amber Barton, doing posts with pictures, focused on eating or environment topics.
- **Kearny River Fire Initiative:** Rana Tucker & Stu Tuttle has developed a plan for the entire area. Alisha Phipps working with Kemp Morris on his plan. Met with Army Corp of Engineers, no consultation is required for discharge as long as we keep at or above the high water mark. A meeting is scheduled today with the ASU Landscape Architecture Design Studio to create a restoration plan for a park on Town of Kearny land. AZ State Forestry has \$250,000 grant money available for restoration & fire prevention plan. A clean water permit (Section 401) is needed from ADEQ.

Reports from Agency Personnel

- **NRCS:** Katie Cline. See Attached report. Working on 4 conservation plans and have 8 applications. No available RCPP funding yet.
- **BLM** – Darrel Tersey. An EIS on Ripsey Tailing wash will be out by the end of January. The priority is on the upper San Pedro area, nothing on the Gila. The ranger job in Aravaipa has been filled.
- **AS State Forestry** - Willey Sommers. Fema has provided funds for emergency and preventative uses.
- **Pinal County Search & Rescue** - The unit is based in the local area.
- **AZ Game and Fish, State Land Department & USFS** - none

Supervisors Reports

- **Bill Dunn**
 - **AZ State Land** - Meeting with Lisa Atkins, trying to put the districts into a separate division. Their budget has been cut by another \$300,000. Still issues with SHPO, over \$4,000,000 in projects are waiting for cultural/resource approval. AZ State Land has signed MOUs with NRCS, AACD, and SHPO.
 - **AACD** - State Association is working on 3 pieces of legislation.
 - **Education Center**- Reviewed new mission statement for the Ed Centers.
 - **Elections** - Bill is up for re-election in May. Hattie Hedrick will be the inspector and Amber Barton and Judy Morris will be the judges.
- **Steve Turcotte** - Pinal Rural fire will now be named, "San Pedro Fire". Working on management plan for San Manuel paramedics.
- There were no other reports from the Supervisors

Call to the Public

Sam Hosler, Kearny Mayor, thanked everyone for their efforts on the Kearny River Fire Initiative and the support from the WNRCD. Also, thanked the ASU LA students and professors for having the meeting this afternoon.

Education Center Meeting

- **Financial Report & Status**- Checking account balance is \$22,998.53. Getting Ed Center directors together in February to develop a strategy for programs to promote agriculture.
- **Funding for Spring Science Field Trip Arboretum** - Ray District Primary School (1st grade), Carol DuBois moved to approve the \$250 donation. Steve Turcotte seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
- **2016 Donation Letter** - Send out the donation request letter this year for 2016.

Adjournment

Motion by Gary Vinson to adjourn meeting at 12:46. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk

Date: January 24, 2016

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____

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