



Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District

Special Meeting

February 11, 2017

Draft Minutes

Date: February 11, 2017

Location: Oracle Inn, Oracle, AZ

In Attendance

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Francie Meyer, Gary Vinson, Carol DuBois, Chris Postel (clerk) Andy Smallhouse, Joe Maloney, Ken Brown, and Chris Fletcher (All Redington), Sue Chilton and Jim Chilton (Pima), and Jim Wisbey (San Pedro), Steve Barker & Brooke Phelps (AACD).

Called to order: Meeting called to order by Bill at 11:36 pm

Discussion: Initial planning effort with AACD for multi district participation in Arizona Conservation Partnership landscape scale directed funding. Discussion led by Steve Barker:

- History of the Partnership: BLM had \$3 million in funding for brush management, salt cedar, removal and habitat restoration that would target 4 geographical areas. In the first year, BLM obligated 600,000 and NRCS matched that in the Apache Navajo area. Also, received a WPF grant to continue projects in the North. Discussed the ranking process from the Northern Arizona Conservation Partnership.
- Discussed New Mexico's model (Projects are \$30 million per year plus a match from NRCS), the RCPP process and how Districts can benefit.
- AACD (501-c3) can be the broker for this partnership. Have the cooperators to send needs proposals and then rank them. Develop a survey to send to the cooperators. Daric has a simplified survey we can use to jump start our efforts.
- Do we need of a full time person to get ranch plans done? Concerned that before we apply for money, we need to have a plan. BLM can provide some planning money but be careful, more money can go to planning than to work in NACP.
- Is our area is too large? Working together, the 5 districts together can make a bigger impact. The ranking process will create some friction but everyone will know up front the process.
- AACD can be the broker or the district can handle that if they want, but would have to follow the federal accounting guidelines to track the funds.
- You could still sign up for EQUIP. EQUIP is NRCS's programs that you need to apply for on your own. Discussed EQUIP, different funding possibilities and SB1124 Gail Griffins bill to a million to WPF.
- Discussed the pros or cons of splitting the districts? You can go either way but having 4-6 districts would make a larger impact. Discussed splitting districts up and the tiered planning opportunity.

In summary, the districts should take the lead. Create an interim assessment template to create plans quickly for the cooperators and then, do an inventory assessment. Consider hiring a full-time person to work with the cooperators to get the plans done. These cooperator plans would be used to create an overall district plan by NRCS. We need to work with NRCS to obtain funds from different programs, EQUIP, RCPP, etc.

Call to the public

Adjourn:

Motion made by Steve Turcotte to adjourn the meeting. CarolDuBois seconded the motion. The Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk

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Approval of Minutes: _____

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