



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

November 15, 2017

Draft Minutes

Location: Oracle Union Church (Trowbridge Hall), 705 E American Ave, Oracle, AZ 85623

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Francie Meyer, Gary Vinson, Carol DuBois, Hattie Hedrick, Chris Postel.

Agencies

Kristen Egen, Brett Myers, & Alisha Phipps (NRCS), Jeff Hampton (Az Land Water Trust), Tyler Schiess, & Jeff McCarley (Pinal County Sheriff), Ashley Hall, UofA Coop Ext, Rana Tucker (AZGF), Willie Sommers (DFFM), Mario Preciado (Az State Land Department).

Members and Guests

Becky Dunn, Rick Bader, Chris Fletcher (RNRCD), Robin Barnes (Asarco), Charlie Recker, Nick Cline, Molly Yoder, Celeste Andersen (TNC), Jack and Catherine Mann.

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: 08/16/2017 & 10/9/2017, Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. Francie Meyer seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report: District/State funds, \$32,818.74 & \$8,369.89, reviewed Balance Sheet & Income Statement. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the financial reports. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Invoice Approval

NACD dues: Francie Meyer moved to approve the dues for \$750 (same as last year). Steve Turcotte seconded. Motion passed.

AACD dues: Carol DuBois moved to approve the dues for \$1,200 (same as last year). Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

- **Land Exchange Update:** Robin Barnes (Asarco). The Land Exchange application was filed and in 1993 and a Record of Decision was issued in 2000. Environmental groups challenged BLM's EIS & ROD; so, BLM did a Supplemental EIS and submitted the NOA package in May 2015. The NOA package was cleared on October 19, 2017 and will be published on November 17, 2017, beginning the 90 day comment period. She needs letters of support during this comment period by Feb 15, 2018. See attached the Power Point Slides.
- **CAC MOU Review:** The attached Memo of Understanding has been submitted to CAC for their review by Finance and Legal. Need to wait for their response to finalize the details for the CAC Greenhouse (Native Plant Nursery). The land has been cleared & leveled and need to install water line.

Old Business

- **Kearny River Fire Grant:** Per Willie Sommers, the SHIPO package will be sent this Friday and the review will take 30 days. The grant should be approved by January and is about \$90,000 (Treatment of 105 acres, Town of Kearny land). In December, a detailed project plan will be prepared for salt cedar removal and restoration. Bids for salt cedar removal need to be obtained, planned to spend \$800/acre for grubbing and mastication
- **AACD:** The summer meeting was on September 11-14. The AACD board voted to move the NRCD agency from State Land to Fire & Forestry. It would be a budget-based transfer.
- **Sunzia:** Per Chris Fletcher, the FAA requested to have 10 towers moved due to the San Manuel airport; so, archeological, soil work, etc., has to be done. Contractors are re-bidding based on larger parcels. Construction is still scheduled to start in mid April, 2018 at Pinal Central. The key concern for the districts is soil disturbance which would impact erosion; so, key areas have been identified and need to be walked. Another task is the removal/replanting of other 3,300 saguaro cactus and the potential impact this will have on the Lesser Long Nose bat's habitat. Robin Barnes (Asarco) suggested that Sunzia talk to them about providing replacement saguaro.
- **District Project Coordinator Position:** Still have only 2 applicants. Redington NRCD will now use consultants for their identified projects. NACD has grants to help Districts fund consultants for NRCS tasks. NRCS needs cultural resources help. The job description needs to be reviewed, talk to Stephen Williams.

Reports from Agency Personnel

- **NRCS:** Kristen Egen (See attached report): Farm bill funding should be available by Feb, 2018. 10 applications need to be ranked. Developing a resource plan for Camp Grant Ranch. Kemp Morris has been treating 300 acres for salt cedar removal, using 240D (weed killer) for re-sprouts.
- **AZ Game & Fish:** Rana Tucker: Stu Tuttle (State Biologist) retired but is doing consultant work. Nick Foley is the new officer for 33N district. Another officer has left but still have a temporary game specialist. Rana needs a detailed nursery plan from us to be able to request funding from them.
- **Az Land Department:** Mario Preciado: He is one of the Ranger Managers. State Land is looking for a manager for the NRCD group.
- **AZ State Forestry:** Will Sommers: Working on a project in Oracle with their fire department for urban fuels reduction, a \$60k grant. They hire a planner to do the 5 year Forest Action Plan; so, assessing condition and planning strategy and will be done next year.
- **UA Coop Ext:** Ashley Hall: The VBarV Ranch will be kept and used for more workshops. Need to have more utilization, conducting about 2 workshops/year. Pond Sealing was suggested as a topic.
- **Pinal County Sheriff:** Setting up a range deputy program & still busy with search & rescue. Updating a list of Ranches. Need a letter of support for the range deputy program for Sheriff Lamb.
- **Arizona State Land Trust:** Jeff Hampton: Did Ranching in the Future workshop last year and was well attended. Still need workshop topics.
- **USFS & BLM** - absent

Supervisors Reports No reports from the supervisors.

Call to the Public Nothing brought forward

Adjourn (Adjourned at 12:19 p.m. for lunch)

Education Center Meeting (Convened at 1:24 pm)

- **Financial Report:** Checking account balance is \$15,201.10
- **AG in the Classroom:** No update on the program.

Call to the Public

Ag & Science Career Day for High School students: Per Francie Meyer, the District needs to sponsor an event that would expose the students to a good hands-on experience on Ag and Science. Different speakers and topics would be presented. Ashley Hall would work with us. A teleconference would be held on December 18, 2017 at 6 pm to discuss status and next steps. Motion by Francie Meyer to develop a workshop for the spring/fall term. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion by Francie Meyer to adjourn meeting at 1:56. Steve Turcotte seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk Date: November 20, 2017

Approval of Minutes: _____ Date: _____

Winkelman NRCD Quarterly Meeting – August 16, 2017