



Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

Redington Conservation Education Center

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Andrew Smallhouse, Chairman ~ Chris Fletcher, Supervisor ~
Jess Barry, Supervisor ~ Joel Maloney, Supervisor ~ Kean Brown, Supervisor

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Business Meeting Redington NRCD and Winkelman NRCD March 6, 2018

- 1. Call to Order:** Andrew Smallhouse, Chairman, called the Redington NRCD meeting to order at 6:10pm. Bill Dunn, Chairman, called the Winkelman NRCD meeting to order at 6:18pm. Quorums were established for both districts.
- 2. Introductions:** The following were present at the meeting:
Redington NRCD: Andrew Smallhouse, Chris Fletcher, Jess Barry, Kean Brown, Kim Land.
Winkelman NRCD: Bill Dunn, Carol DuBois, Chris Misita, Samantha Misita, Becky Dunn. **Guests:** Linda Leigh and Laurie Bryant (Oracle Learning Garden), Douglas Font (SunZia), Linda Sullivan (Paralegal). The following were present by phone: Gary Vinson and Chris Postel (WNRCD), Joel Maloney (RNRCD), Anna Lands.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Joel Maloney to approve the agenda. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry to approve the agenda. All were in favor and motion carried.
- 4. CAC Nursery Project and greenhouse status:** Bill Dunn noted that no communication has been received recently from CAC. Chris Postel talked to Maria at CAC last week. Maria is trying to find out the status and should report back next week.
- 5. Oracle Learning Garden:** Linda Leigh provided an introduction to the Oracle Learning Garden. OLG helps people learn how to grow their own food. OLG is a non-profit organization. Linda stated that OLG is signing a lease with Pinal County to obtain a parcel of land in Oracle which was donated by Elizabeth Lambert Wood for use by children. OLG will be run by volunteers. Linda presented OLG's mission statement. Linda inquired about the native plant nursery at CAC that was sponsored by RNRCD and WNRCD. Linda would like to partner with Oracle Schools to develop a farm-to-table program for students. Discussion followed. Andy and Bill both agree that there is not enough interest from CAC to continued pursuit of the project. Andy suggested that both districts write down their goals and commitments to such projects. Chris Fletcher

feels that both districts would benefit from partnering with OLG. Discussion followed regarding current outreach projects and status at schools. Further discussion followed regarding the current greenhouses, materials, and status. Linda stated that their timeline was approximately two months. Andy will have Russ Burrough contact Linda directly to discuss specifications of the greenhouses purchased by the districts. Linda will prepare a preliminary plan and report back at the next joint meeting. Linda's point of contacts will be Kim Land from Redington and Chris Postel from Winkelman.

6. **Agency Reports:** No agency reports.
7. **Education Center Coordinator:** Chris Fletcher stated that the lack of education center activity was due to not having a point person to work on projects. Chris stated that it makes the most sense to have a joint district education center person. Andy stated that we need to determine a list of projects and interest from district and cooperators before moving forward. Discussion followed.
8. **Joint District Coordinator Position:** Chris Fletcher stated that both districts would greatly benefit from having this position filled. Jess has made contact with some of the cooperators and has a small list of current projects. Kean stated that he does not think that there is enough to do to warrant hiring a coordinator at this time. Andy suggested hiring more of a manager rather than a coordinator. Discussion followed. Bill Dunn stated that Steven Williams has reviewed the previous contract / advertisement and made suggestions for revision. Discussed the possibility of merging the coordinator and education center positions. Discussion followed. Briefly discussed grant opportunities for assistance with salary for this position. Will revisit and discuss further at the next meeting.
9. **SunZia Updates:** Doug Font from SunZia was present. Doug is the contract attorney for SunZia. Chris Fletcher stated that SunZia is in full swing to finalize the POD and right to proceed. Once this is complete, contractors will be hired. BLM is asking for more time and this will delay the timeline. Doug stated that the POD needs to be approved by BLM and they are current waiting for BLM's revisions. July is the newly estimated timeframe for approval from BLM. Contractors will likely be hired in August and September. The locational control permit needs to be filed in New Mexico and then financing will begin. Chris addressed the districts' concerns about use agreements for the roads. Chris determined that the current use agreements are only for the dirt roads and not the paved roads. An initial meeting has been held with Pinal County. Chris will have more information after the next SunZia meeting. Chris stated that the majority of the construction traffic will come from San Manuel direction instead of the Benson/Cascabel area. Chris is currently addressing concerns of heavy construction traffic during school bus hours. Once locations of construction yards have been determined, comments will be sought from the local school district. Chris noted that all contractors will be trained and aware in public interactions. Andy stated that best practices will go a long way with our residence. Chris stated that the BMP's are in the final stages. More meetings will be held to discuss expectations to ensure that the BMP is followed. Chris noted that the FAA is involved regarding the relocation of the towers at the San Manuel Airport. Chris stated that Winkelman needs to discuss and identify additional helicopter access areas. Chris suggested that Winkelman determine areas that will be sensitive soil areas and use San Manuel airport as the helipad. Bill Dunn suggested a site visit to view the affected areas. Chris will send a map set to Bill to review. Doug agreed that pre-plan is the best time to make these recommendations.
10. **SunZia Post-Construction Inspections:** Chris stated that it is looking very expensive for drone use for post-construction data collection. We need to look for the most effective way to review and compare the data. Chris stated that it is relevant to have a third party to review SunZia data

rather than duplicate the collection of data as different collections may yield various results and not offer true comparisons (ie, different elevations, different angles, etc). We should work together and collaborate to review the one data set for true apples-to-apples comparisons. Chris will discuss further with Cindy from SunZia. Discussion followed.

- 11. Call to the Public:** Anna Lands spoke about some of the concerns previous noted at previous meetings.
- 12. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Joel Maloney to adjourn the RNRCD meeting. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry to adjourn the RNRCD meeting. All were in favor and motion carried. A motion was made by Gary Vinson to adjourn the WNRCD meeting. A second to the motion was made by Carol DuBois to adjourn the WNRCD meeting. All were in favor and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.