



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

February 20, 2019

Draft Minutes

Location: General Kearny Inn, 301 Alden Road, Kearny, AZ

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Barb McGuire, Carol DuBois, Gary Vinson, Hattie Hedrick, Kyle Thompson (District Coordinator), Chris Fletcher (Sunzia District Coordinator), and Chris Postel.

Agencies - Organizations

Allison Haywood and Sarah Gandaria (AZ Game & Fish), Doug People & Chad Nichols, (Pinal County Sherriff), Elyanna Juarez (Pinal County-Pete Rios Administrator), Sam Reidhead (Asarco), Andy Smallhouse, Jess Barry, Joel Maloney (Redington NRC), Tom Wray & Cindy Freeman (Sunzia), and Celeste Andresen (TNC)

Members and Guests

Becky Dunn, Sam & Carol Hosler, Chris & Samantha Misita, Pearl Mast, Anna Lands, Gerry Kaufhold (Copper Basin News).

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes: 11/24/18, 12/15/18, 12/30/18 & 02/13/19. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's report: District/State funds, \$29,367.75 & \$5,291.94. The Balance Sheet & Income Statement were reviewed. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the financial reports. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.
- The Clerk presented a RayFCU document that would grant the Clerk (Chris Postel) access to the bank accounts to obtain information, (checks, deposits, fees) from their employees. It needs to be signed by the supervisors. Barb McGuire moved to grant the Clerk access to the bank account information. Gary Vinson seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

- **Sunzia Update (Tom Wray):** In Arizona, the realignment change at the San Manuel airport needs to be confirmed by the FAA. They will also have a public meeting in Oracle by April. This route change is on Arizona State Land. They are also finalizing leasing with the Arizona State Land Department. In New Mexico, the climate, soils, and plants are very different from Arizona. The transmission line is very long (520 miles in total) with about 320 miles being in New Mexico. The Department of Defense (DOD) has requested changes mostly due to the White Sands area; so, a decision needs to be made to make the route change which will increase the permitting time but should be completed in the next 90 days. Currently, construction could start in early 2020 in the west Pinal County area.
 - **Chris Fletcher (District Sunzia Coordinator):** He has been working with Sunzia and the ranchers to identify sensitive plants & soils, and to visualize potential roads. The first half of 2018 had limited activity but in the fall EC Source was hired as the contractor. They have construction experience in Arizona with our land terrain and vegetation. Chris visited an area where EC Source had done reclamation work and he will present a report in the next 20 days.

21 towers (Winkelman District) and 20 towers (Redington District) will require non-traditional construction techniques. He has met with the effected landowners and Sunzia to determine the amount of the disturbances. A public meeting will be held in the future.

- **Grants Update (Kyle Thompson):** T
 - Kearny River Fire: The grant has been awarded by FEMA but we still need to finalize and sign the agreement with Arizona Forestry & Fire Department. A contractor has been selected and we are addressing the extraction/pile/burn of the salt cedar. The reimbursement process and the disposition of plant material has been discussed. The budget/match numbers are being finalized, with the finalized budget being sent within the next few days. Then, Forestry has to prepared the final contract for the District to sign.

New Business

- **AACD Funding Raising Raffle (Working with Cal Ranch Stores):** Only 500 tickets will be sold (\$100/ticket) and a prize will be picked every day over a 30 day period. If you win a prize, your ticket will be re-entered into the raffle drawing pool until all prizes are drawn.
- **NACD Urban AG Conservation Grant:** A \$50,000 grant has been awarded to the Winkelman NRCD for funding Oracle Learning Community Garden projects such as erecting the hoop house, staffing, etc.
- **Policy & Procedures and Insurance Coverage:** Deborah Smith, (AACD Business Manager) advised Bill that the District needs to review-update their policies & procedures and insurance coverage due to the grant monies (about \$147,000) coming into the District. The Clerk has received a copy of the AACD Policy & Procedures and will be used as a starting point. Other Districts will be contacted to determine what policies-procedures they have. The Hegarty-Haynes insurance agency has been contacted and our current surety bond is \$25,000; so, the bond amount needs to be increased and a general liability policy should be evaluated and considered for purchase.
- **Fund Joint AACD Supervisor Training:** The cost of this one day training would be \$800/District with the Winkelman, Santa Cruz and Pima Districts participating. Steve Turcotte moved to fund up to \$800 for the training. Barb McGuire seconded. Motion passed. Need to determine the training date.
- **Coronado RC&D Field Guides (\$1/each):** Coronado has about 1,500 field guides, which generally sell for \$6/each and don't expire. Coronado will be contacted to determine which guides are available. Steve Turcotte moved to fund up to \$500 for the field guides. Carol DuBois seconded. Motion passed.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

- **NRCS (See Attached Report).**
- **Arizona Game & Fish (Allison Haywood):** A meeting will be held on March 18 to discuss the HPC grants, which are due September 1. They have about \$2 million in funding and EQIP funds can be used as part of the required 50% match. The Winkelman Grant is for \$27,700 and will be the first time using ESS-13 to seal the dirt tanks. Five ranches are participating in this grant. A case on Cactus Hill Rd is under investigation, driving over fences and plants. The suspect was caught after the vehicle stopped working and is now facing a felony charge.
 - **Sarah Gandaria:** Sarah is the new Land Owner Relations program administrator. Funding dollars for habitat, requires a 50% match, will be available on July 1 for individual ranches. Funding will be available for water projects. Funding for access projects is available.
- **Arizona State Land Dept. (See Attached Email).**
- **Pinal County Sheriff (Doug Peobles):** Ranger program is doing good. Received a grant from state parks for educating the public on Search/Rescue.
- **Asarco (Sam Reidhead):** Still working on the Ripsey Program, breaking ground in 2020.

Supervisors & Staff Reports

- **Steve Turcotte:** Adjacent to his ranch, BLM will be burning their Wilderness area in April-May.
- **Bill Dunn:** The Winter AACD was on Jan 30-31. The BLM/NRCS projects for brush/water with AACD have stopped; so, the AACD will have to cut expenses and staff. The AACD dues will be \$1,500 for 2019 and needs to be funded.
- **Andy Smallhouse:** He is part of the ASLD Advisement Committee and he is advocating that ASLD notify the Districts when an application comes in that requires notification to the lessee.

Call to the Public

Adjourn

Steve Turcotte made a motion to Adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. Barb McGuire seconded it. Motion carried

Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel, Winkelman NRCD Clerk Date: February 24, 2019

Approval of Minutes: _____ Date: _____

Winkelman NRCD Quarterly Meeting – February 20, 2019
Next Quarterly meeting: May 15, 2019