



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting November 16, 2022 Draft Minutes

Location: Kearny Inn, Kearny, AZ

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting was called to order at 10:03 am.

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Carol DuBois, Steve Turcotte, Gary Vinson, Senator Barbara McGuire (via phone), and Kyle Thompson. Liz Harris-Tuck (Taking meeting minutes),

Absent: Chris Postel WNRCD Clerk

Agencies - Organizations

Heather Knight & Dave Womack (NRCS), Allison Haywood, Gerald Berthelette (AZGFD), Dr. Joslyn Beard (U of A Cooperative Extension), Ana Vargas (Resolution), and Cooperators: Becky Dunn.

The September 21, 2022 minutes were reviewed, with no discussion. Supervisor DuBois moved to accept the minutes. Supervisor Turcotte seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Financial Report (See Attached Report) & Invoices: District/State funds, \$10,334.12 and \$1,641.25 The Financial Report was reviewed. Steve Turcotte moved to accept & file the report as of November 4, 2022. Carol DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Old Business

Grants Update: Water Protection Fund (Kyle Thompson):

Kyle will continue removing salt cedars along the Gila River. The plan will also include more revegetation efforts. He has asked Oracle Community Learning Garden to find volunteers to make seed balls for revegetation. The project will begin in January or February. WNRCD has AZ Conservation funds to continue salt cedar removal. In the spring, Kyle will conduct maintenance of the area. In terms of the Ed Center property, grass seed was planted but none of it came up. Recommended that the Kearny Community Garden grow plugs of sacaton grass in the spring. The water protection grant ends in 2024.

Sunzia Update:

Discussion: The AZ Corporation Commission has approved Sunzia's project, with the stipulation that they communicate with the Cascabel community.

Resource Assessment (Kyle Thompson):

Kyle needs to talk to two more landowners. In February, he will explain how to prioritize conservation concerns. WNRCD will prioritize needs and contact agencies to help producers solve problems.

Grant Opportunities:

Proposals for the Healthy Forest grant will be due in the spring. The grant requires a 1:1 match. When seeking a state grant, money from a federal grant can be used for the match. Money from one federal grant cannot be used as the match for another federal grant.

New Business None.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

Resolution Copper (Ana Vargas)

USDA is requiring Resolution to resubmit the permitting process. BLM is requiring them to write an appendix to the document that they have submitted. They have been trying to get authorization for the past 20 years. The parent company, Rio Tinto, has applications for corporate giving. An organization can apply twice. She recommended requests up to \$2,000. For more information, 480.993-7869.

NRCS (Heather Knight & Dave Womack)

Heather discussed two programs that could be of interest: Urban Agriculture and Climate Smart Practices. A new cooperator is Robert Clark who has irrigated land. NRCS can recommend a mix of plants that regenerate soil health.

UA Cooperative Extension (Ashley Hall)

UA Cooperative Extension has a series of drought resilience workshops for producers and encouraged the board to take advantage of them. The next workshop will be held in Vail on November 30, 2022. Flyers about the event have been sent to board members. Results of Ashley's research concerning number of seeds in the rangeland she tested: 642 pounds per acre, including 263 pounds of annuals and 379 pounds of perennials.

UA Cooperative Extension (Dr. Joslyn Beard)

Dr. Beard recently joined the UA Cooperative Extension. She is a Livestock specialist and will be conducting the workshop in at the Bar B Ranch in Vail. Cattle producers can achieve certification by attending the workshop.

AZGFD (Allison Haywood & Gerald Berthelette)

Game and Fish is conducting a wildlife survey that includes Oracle and San Manuel. Gerald Berthelette mentioned that the AZ Mule Deer Association has volunteers who will help install solar pumps and other duties. There are other "critter groups" that he can connect cooperators with when they need volunteers. He is working on a project to restore grass to 5,000 acres.

Reports from Supervisors & District Staff:

Carol DuBois: She has installed solar range boxes that tell when water is low in the tanks where cattle drink. Saves time because a sensor sends a signal to her phone when water is low. She spends less time inspecting the tanks.

Call to the Public: None.

Adjourn: Supervisor DuBois made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am. Supervisor Turcotte seconded it. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel & Liz Tuck

Date: Feb 15, 2023

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____