



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting February 15, 2023 Final Minutes

Location: Kearny Inn, Kearny, AZ

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting was called to order at 10:06 am.

Board and Staff

Bill Dunn (absent), Steve Turcotte, Carol DuBois, Gary Vinson, Barbara McGuire, and Kyle Thompson. Liz Harris-Tuck (Taking meeting minutes), and Chris Postel (Clerk-Absent).

Agencies - Organizations

Allison Haywood, Suzy Ehret and Gerry Berthelette (AZ Game and Fish AZ Game); Tom Reis, Heather Knight, and Alisha Phipps (NRCS); Zary May and Devin May (WNRCD Cooperators), Tom McGuire (Resolution Copper) and Sam Reidhead (ASARCO).

The November 16, 2022 minutes were reviewed, with no discussion. Supervisor McGuire moved to accept the minutes. Supervisor DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Financial Report (See Attached Report) & Invoices: District/State fund balances, \$14,216.37 and \$14,179.92. The Financial Report was reviewed. Supervisor McGuire moved to accept & file the report as of January 31, 2023. Carol DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Invoices:

- Kearny Inn - \$200.00 for room rent for today's meeting. Supervisor McGuire moved to pay the bill immediately. Carol DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**
- NACD Invoice: Tabled, more information needed.
- DEQ Invoice: Supervisor Gary Vinson moved to pay the invoice from DEQ. Carol DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Old Business

Grants Update: Water Protection Fund (Kyle Thompson):

Kyle Thompson reported that there is enough money in the Water Protection Fund to pay a contractor to continue clearing the grounds. He needs an auger to drill deep holes; so, he can insert short branches into the ground. This process is not as effective as planting tree stock that has already rooted, but some of the stocks should grow.

Grant Opportunities: The HBC grant will become available in Sept. Kyle has been talking with Fire Management to learn if it is feasible for WNRCD to apply for a grant to control hazardous fuel. They are interested in the prospect; however, a match is required. Steve Turcotte stated that MMR, the firm that purchased the SunZia project, may provide funds for a match. MMR has agreed to fund some WNRCD projects in return for supporting the Sun Zia project. Steve said he and Bill will talk to them about providing the match for the hazardous fuel grant. Eventually, they plan to ask MMR for the funds to construct a "brick and mortar" building on the Dudleyville site. It would be used by the Ed Center and would also host WNRCD meetings. Gerry Berthelette said a group called Quail Forever has grants for conservation and research. The grants are up to \$500.00 and could be used by the community garden. He will contact the Ed Center Director (Liz Tuck), to explain how to apply for a grant.

New Business

Water Protection Fund (WPF)

Steve Turcotte is a member of the WPF board. The group consists of 6 local AACD board members from across the state. The Fund receives \$1.5 million each year from the AZ legislature. The board and its focus have changed recently. It is now primarily concerned with funding on-the-ground conservation projects such as clearing woody materials from former pastures. They have hired a lobbyist to outreach to legislators to continue funding the board annually.

NRCD AZ Legislative Bill (HB2444)

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

Resolution Copper (Tom McGuire)

Resolution is getting closer to completing the required permits for the mine. Sam is in charge of land swaps with BLM and the state of AZ. They have land holdings along the San Pedro river. They are working on a water restoration project in Superior.

AACD and NRCS compiled a two-page document highlighting some of WNRCD's accomplishments. Steve Turcotte asked board members to review the document carefully. He thinks there may be other projects the district would like to highlight.

NRCS: Tom Reis stated that NRCS was established 80-90 years ago. The EQIP program is taking applications for projects year-round. The next deadline for EQIP is March 31st, 2023 for Eligibility. All producers who have applied need to make sure their paperwork is up-to-date FSA and any other paperwork that might be necessary. The NRCS conservation planner can help with paperwork. The Tucson Field Office currently has 28 contracts with producers, totaling \$1.9 million in allocations. Soil Health workshop in Tucson March 10th. (UofA extension)

AZGFD: will be meeting with ranchers and find money for projects. They are surveying wildlife in rangeland areas. HPC funds are for large scale land projects.

ASARCO is continuing their beautification project in the areas burned by the Telegraph fire.

Reports from Supervisors & District Staff:

Carol DuBois: They are installing one mile of pipe. The project is going well.

Steve Turcotte: His two-day old calf had a great time cavorting in the snow. During the past year and a half, they have seen 14 lions.

Call to the Public: None.

Adjourn: Supervisor Turcotte adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel & Liz Tuck

Date: May 17, 2023

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____