



WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting May 17, 2023 Draft Minutes

Location: Dudleyville Multigenerational Complex, Dudleyville, AZ

The Winkelman Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting was called to order at 10:09 am.

Board and Staff

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

Agencies - Organizations

Allison Haywood and Suzy Ehret (AZ Game and Fish); Tom Reis & Heather Knight (NRCS); Stacy Walker, Becky Dunn, Catherine Mann, Katie Cline, and Hattie Hedrick (WNRCD members); Tommy Dean (WRMC); Gerry Kaufhold and Todd House.

Minutes The 2/15/2023 minutes were reviewed, with no discussion. Supervisor Turcotte moved to accept the minutes. Supervisor McGuire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Financial Report (See Attached Report) & Invoices: District/State fund balances, \$12,979.78 and \$8,575.66 The Financial Report was reviewed. Supervisor Turcotte moved to accept & file the report as of April 31, 2023. Supervisor McGuire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Invoices: No invoices were presented.

Old Business

Grants Update: Water Protection Fund (Kyle Thompson): Kyle has tried to start 1800 trees. He bought seeds and planted poles. The cost of seeds was \$14,000 – not a single plant emerged. Anne LeSenne, Pinal County Extension, recommended having the seeds tested; may be able to ask for money back if they fail the test. Gerry Kaufhold said Future Forward is a nonprofit in Florence. They raise desert willows and could be a good resource. The grant report is due on Dec 31, 2023; so, he will work on the project in Sept and October.

Needs Assessment Update (Kyle Thompson) The results of the statewide needs assessment will be presented at the AACD meeting this summer. Kyle has a few more cooperators to interview to find out what their natural resource needs are.

Grant Opportunities: DFFM has grants available for flooding caused by wildfires. Each district can apply for funding for two areas. The agency prefers to fund large areas. Top of the World and [REDACTED] have been chosen in the Winkelman district. There is no match required.

NRCD AZ Legislative Bill (HB2444) Supervisor Turcotte reported on the bill and its purpose. All but seven states have a Natural Resource Commission that can apply for grants to do water preservation projects. This bill is to create a Commission for Arizona. The commission would be able to receive federal funding and pass the funds to the districts through competitive grants. The bill passed the Senate, but failed in the House. Governor Hobbs vetoed the bill. People are working through back channels to resurrect the bill. Districts don't have a way to accept money from the Legislature.

New Business

AACD Summer Conference The conference will be held on August 7-9, 2023 at the Conquistador Hotel, 10000 N Oracle Rd. in Tucson. The following people will be attending: Hattie Hedrick, Barb McGuire, Carol DuBois, and Liz Tuck.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

NRCS: Tom Reis. The Equip program is now taking applications year-round. The Tucson field office received 55 applications. Funding for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was announced. The funds will expand access to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation. The funds require input from the Districts. Mr. Reis asked if WNRCD wanted to hold a work group meeting. After discussion, the group said they didn't see a need at this time; one can be held at any time during the year.

AZGFD: Bears have been seen in Oracle. September 1, 2023 is the deadline for shovel ready projects.

Reports from Supervisors & District Staff:

Steve Turcotte is on the board of the Los Charros Foundation. They give 4-year, 2-year and trade school scholarships. They focus on funding rural students.

Bill Dunn passed out tickets to be sold for the gun raffle.

Call to the Public: Todd House introduced himself and stated that he is running for County Supervisor in District 5, which includes Kearny.

Adjourn: Supervisor Turcotte adjourned the meeting at 11:23 am.

The attendees adjourned for lunch and a tour of the WRMC Dudleyville property

Draft Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel & Liz Tuck

Date: May 22, 2023

Approval of Minutes: _____

Date: _____