



## WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting      November 15, 2023      Final Minutes

Location: Dudleyville Multi-generational Complex, AZ

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

**Board and Staff** Bill Dunn, Steve Turcotte, Gary Vinson, Liz Tuck. A quorum was present.  
Absent- Chris Postel, WNRCD Clerk, Barb McGuire, and Carol DuBois

### **Agencies – Organizations - Cooperators**

Ashley Hall (UA Co-op Extension), Mynesha Holliday & Heather Speith (NRCS), John Windes (TNC), Jason Abplanalp (ASARCO), Nick Schobinger (AZGF), Tom McGuire (Resolution Copper). Cooperators: Roger Beebe, Shad Beebe, Becky Dunn, Hattie Hedrick.

### **Minutes of Past Meetings**

Reviewed minutes for 09/20/2023. Supervisor Turcotte moved to accept the minutes as written. Gary Vinson seconded. No discussion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

**Financial Report (See Attached Report) & Invoices** Bank balances: District & State funds, \$123,972.40 and \$18,228.56. The Financial Report was reviewed. Steve Turcotte moved to accept the report as of October 31, 2023 and file the financial reports. Gary Vinson seconded. **Motion passed 3-0.** The following invoices were discussed & approved: Bill Dunn presented invoices for materials purchased (Total Amount ??). Supervisor Turcotte moved to approve all invoices. Supervisor Vinson seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.** Chris. Fletcher's invoice of \$12,000 has been paid with the District's funds. He had been monitoring construction of the electric transmission lines.

### **Old Business**

**Electric Transmission Update** Winkelman NRCD has hired Katy Kline and Erica Erickson to monitor Lines 1 and 2. They will be paid \$30.00 an hour. Roger Beebe stated that he has been negotiating with Craig Lindsay, who stated that he would pay for 8 to 10 gates on private property at \$8,000 per gate. Supervisor Turcotte stated that the District has been promised \$70,000 to pay ranchers in the district to mitigate disturbances on their property. This would include the construction of new gates, but they could be built for less than \$8,000. Supervisor Turcotte said the District needs to straighten this out.

**Water Protection Fund Update** A grant of \$205,000 was received by the district; so far, \$73,000 has been spent. The project will be completed this spring. Since seeds have already been purchased to finish the project, it is likely that \$132,000 will be returned to the Fund.

### **New Business**

**2024 Elections** Tabled.

**Top-of-the-World Brush Management Grant Opportunity** Jason Abplanalp, Land Manager for ASARCO stated that Resolution and ASARCO will be working together to clear brush in two

areas in Pinal County. The most critical areas are Riverside and Top-of-the-World. ASARCO owns land in the Riverside area. They will engage with BFM, BLM and other organizations to clear brush. Jane Stewart will collaborate with the District during the project.

### **Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations**

#### **NRCS Update**

Team 7 received a \$1.2 million allocation for general EQIP. Taking applications now until December 1, 2023. Statewide, NRCS has \$8.4 million for the Conservation Stewardship Program. \$800,000 is planned for Tucson. NRCS is taking applications until December. Regular EQIP is taking applications till February 2, 2024.

#### **UA Coop Extension**

Ashley Hall stated that she can deliver a course for beginning ranchers. There are other courses she can deliver but prefers to hear what stakeholders in a District want to learn about. They will be conducting workshops for high school students. She asked both Districts to help promote the NRCWY camp at Mingus Mountain for high school aged kids that will occur this summer.

#### **Resolution Copper**

Tom McGuire said that an 8,000-acre solar farm is being built north of Florence. ADOT is repairing the Queen Creek Bridge at Superior. Resolution has been working with SRP to build water restoration facilities. New substations will need to be built to handle Resolution's electrical needs. Resolution has sponsored STEM programs at the dugout during baseball games in Phoenix. They also support STEM classes in Globe and Miami schools.

#### **Supervisor Reports**

Steve Turcotte stated schools in the Copper Corridor badly need support to provide the education needed for today's workplace.+. A discussion ensued about ways to bring education back to the Aravaipa CAC campus. ASARCO is collaborating with CAC to bring welding classes to the school. Supervisors would like to see more classes in skilled trades taught. Also, conservation agencies are in high need for personnel; so, it would be good to offer an AA degree in conservation courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am. The group visited the WRMC Dudleyville Education property.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel & Liz Tuck

Date: 02/21/2024

Approval of Minutes: 

Date: 2/21/24