

WINKELMAN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting February 21, 2024 Final Minutes

Location: Dudleyville Multi-Generational Complex, AZ

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am.

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

Agencies – Organizations – Cooperators Mynesha Holliday & Heather Speith (NRCS), Tom McGuire (Resolution Copper), Don McDowell (AZ Deer), Alex Benford-Walsh (Archaeology Southwest) and Amy Doyle (Rancher). **Cooperators**: Becky Dunn, Roger Biede, Nick Cline, Gerry Kaufhold, Button DuBois, and Catherine Mann.

Minutes of Past Meetings

Reviewed minutes for 11/15/2023 & 12/19/2023. No discussion. Supervisor DuBois moved to approve the minutes. Supervisor McGuire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**.

Financial Report (See Attached Report) & Invoices Bank balances: District & State funds, \$114,826.17 and \$30,097.25 as of 1/31/2024. The Financial Report was reviewed. Supervisor Turcotte moved to accept the report as of January 31, 2024 and file the financial reports. Supervisor McGuire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**.

Old Business

SUNZIA Project Update

Supervisor Turcotte explained that there are two contractors involved in the project. They are installing 2 lines, one that transmits power to California and one that will deliver electric power locally. WNRCD has hired two contractors to survey the construction areas. Their purpose is to physically monitor these areas so that impact on natural resources is minimized and/or repaired. Supervisor Turcotte monitors data from the contractors and produces activity reports. Roger Biede stated that work had begun on their ranch. They have had to push back in a few cases to receive promises made by the Pattern. Bill Dunn stated that such incidents should be reported to Supervisor Turcotte so that the District has a record of them. Gerry Kaufhold suggested holding a Zoom call with affected ranchers to train them on what to look for when work is done on their property.

Grant Update Per Chairman Dunn, finalizing the Water Protection Fund contract amendment.

Grant Opportunities No discussion

2024 Elections

- **Form Election Board** Carol DuBois will run for the “one” open seat. Chairman Dunn explained how cooperators could apply for nomination to the seat. If required, an election will be held on May 3rd at the Dunn ranch. An Election Board was formed: Barbara McGuire (Inspector) and Steve Turcotte & Becky Dunn (Judges). Supervisor Vinson moved to form-approve the election board with the identified Cooperators. Supervisor McGuire seconded. **Motion passed 5-0**.

- Review/Approve Cooperator List Corrections were made & will be sent to the Clerk. Supervisor Vinson move to approve the updated Cooperator list. Supervisor DuBois seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Invest Cash in Certificate of Deposits Chairman Dunn stated local banks were not willing to invest funds from nonprofits; so, he is in conversation with Wells Fargo.

New Business

AZ Deer Assoc. Partnership Strategy Don McDowell described projects that have been done, reline tanks and ponds and erosion prevention. The Association would like to partner with WNRCD to help more ranchers with water projects. Chair Dunn suggested that Don should contact AACD because they have a grant writer and could provide expertise. Don agreed and Chairman Dunn said he would introduce them.

Reports from Agencies & Other Organizations

NRCS Update Applications for 2024 EQIP ACT NOW and other support programs have closed. During the fiscal year, a total of 14 producers in the Winkleman District received NRCS funds.

Archaeology Southwest (Alex Benford-Walsh) Per Alex, Archaeology Southwest is a non-profit whose mission is to preserve archaeology. They have discovered an agave species that is thousands of years old, few are specimens left; so, they are helping to repopulate this species.

Resolution Copper (Tom McGuire) Still waiting for EIS approval. Resolution has been able to convince DOT to build a new bridge to replace the Queen Creek bridge, providing more access to Superior. They are waiting for NEPA approval.

Amy Doyle She is relatively new to ranching and has been searching for organizations that can provide advice when issues arise. Her ranch is east of Gold Canyon. There are few ranches left in that area. East Maricopa NRCD was historically dominated by irrigated agriculture with a few ranches. Nearly all their farmland is now development, Chairman Dunn explained that there is a process to move her ranch into the WNRCD District.

Supervisor Reports None

Next Meeting Date May 15, 2024

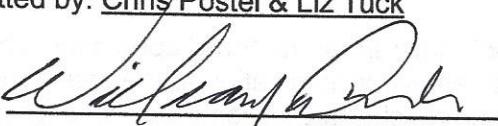
Call to Public Liz Tuck stated that AZ@WORK Pinal County is convening a community forum at CAC Aravaipa campus on February 29, 2024 from 11:00 to 1:00. The purpose of the meeting is to get input from employers and job seekers about the kind of services they can receive. The Copper Corridor's workplace needs are very different from the rest of the county, and the staff wants to know what community members think will work. CAC will reopen the Aravaipa campus if they know what training people want.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.

Final Minutes Submitted by: Chris Postel & Liz Tuck

Date: May 15, 2022

Approval of Minutes:



Date: 5/15/24