

# HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Sierra Vista County Complex—Large Conference Room—9:30 a.m.

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**Board Present:** John Ladd, Lucinda Earven, David Greenberg, Pat Call

**Others Present:** Jeri Ligon—Advisor, Jack Ladd—Advisor, Don Decker—NRCS, Ralph Ware—NRCS, Brad Fulk—AZGFD, Eric Baker—BLM, Ivette Cunningham—Cooperator, Chuck Cunningham—Cooperator, Steve Boice—Cooperator, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

### A. Call to Order

John Ladd called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

### B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

### C. Call to the Public.

Tricia Gerrodette made an apology for her actions at the September 19, 2018 meeting.

### D. Board Member Statement

Lucinda Earven responded to a request to give a history of natural resource conservation districts in general; i.e., how and why they were started, and that they are primarily an agricultural based unit focusing on conservation problems for agricultural lands.

Specifically, the Hereford NRCD is involved in some federal issues because the San Pedro National Riparian Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is in our District and what happens in the SPRNCA effects the District's economy, natural resources, health of our land, etc.

HNRCD has been involved with coordination meetings with the BLM since 2014 over managed grazing in the SPRNCA. The District's comment letter to the BLM's draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the SPRNCA was a culmination of those meetings, and was not a controversial letter.

### E. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Regular Meeting, September 19, 2018

*Motion:* Pat Call moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 19, 2018.

*Second:* David Greenberg seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

#### 2. Special Telephonic Meeting September 24, 2018

*Motion:* Pat Call moved to approve the special telephonic meeting minutes of September 24, 2018.

*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously with one abstention.

### F. Committee and Other Reports

**1. Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP):** Next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Sierra Vista Library, Mona Bishop Room, Sierra Vista, AZ.

**2. NRCS:** Don Decker reported the District's Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) report has been reviewed and commented on by the state NRCS office. Most of the comments involved wording in the narrative.

In the changes Don has introduced monetary caps to the non brush management practices, such as fencing and water developments.

Don will email the new draft version to Board supervisors and advisors for comments.

There are two versions of the federal farm bill currently in congress; House version and Senate version.

**3. USFS:** No one present to report.

**4. BLM:** Eric Baker reported BLM held four public meetings for the SPRNCA RMP. The comment period closed September 27, 2018. BLM received about 500 comment letters and they are currently in the process of reviewing those comments. BLM is still being held accountable for the April, 2019 deadline on the final RMP.

**5. AZGFD:** Brad Fulk reported AZGFD did a turkey release in the Mule Mountains in January and February, 2018. Since then turkeys have been going every direction! They have dispersed eight to nine miles in different directions. The hunting of turkeys is a draw tag only and is a fairly unique tag to get.

Habitat Partnership Grants have just been reviewed. Statewide there are 81 applications competing for a pot of about two million dollars. These are on-the-ground projects such as habitat treatments, water related, fire related, that have a benefit to wildlife. The local AZGFD Habitat Partnership Committee (HPC) is very active, with 28 applications out of the statewide 81.

The HPC funds are generated from hunting tag sales for the big game species hunted annually. The tag sales generate around one and a half to two million dollars annually. All the money generated goes back "into the ground" for projects.

The sportsmen's/landowners' video has been completed (release date unknown). It's a video to educate hunters about landowners' concerns during hunting seasons.

**6. The Arizona Rangeland Conservation Partnership:** This will be removed from the agenda until further notice.

**7. Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN):** Pat Call reported Bella Vista (corner of Charleston and Moson) is the next project. The engineering should be done by the end of 2019.

Part of the Bella Vista project is "flowtopography"—a new technology to determine water flows in washes and draws.

The Bella Vista study/design grant came from NRCS.

**8. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP):** Lucinda Earven and/or Jim Lindsey have been attending these meetings. The next meeting is October 18, 2018 and Lucinda will attend and report next month.

## **G. District Financial Reports**

*Motion:* Pat Call moved to approve the payment of items 1-4 on the Payment Schedule.

*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

Financial reports will be submitted for audit.

## **H. Old Business**

**1. Horseshoe Draw Plaque:** There is approximately \$2,500 left over from the Horseshoe Draw project which will be applied toward the plaque. This item is tabled until next month.

**2. Horseshoe Draw/Palominas Project Tour:** The tour will be Friday, October 26, 2018. Presently it looks like as many as 50 people may attend, some of them AZ state legislators. There are also some staffers from the governor's office and legislators' offices. There will be a Power Point presentation at the Cochise County Complex on Melody Lane, Bisbee, a tour of the Palominas and Horseshoe Draw projects, lunch at the Bright Spot.

**3. District Boundaries:** Lucinda Earven reported she had been in touch with Jackie Thomas—AZ State Land Department over this issue of NRCD district boundaries. The NRCS office at the state level was submitting a map to Washington D.C. and they wanted clarification as to why the boundary lines were drawn up like they were. The Babocamari Ranch lies partly in the HNRCD and partly in the *old* Pima District. No problems have arisen because of the way the boundaries are, no projects have been denied. There is no issue.

## I. New Business

**1. HNRCD Advisor Policy:** Wording of the policy was agreed on. Kathy Morris will present the document for the Chairman's signature next month.

"An advisor should have a skill which will enhance the ability of the HNRCD to accomplish its mission. An advisor is expected to attend board meetings on a regular basis. An advisor shall be a member in good standing of the HNRCD."

*Motion:* Lucinda Earven moved to accept the policy as worded.

*Second:* Pat Call seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

*Discussion:* It was decided desirable skills include but are not limited to: outreach capabilities, brush management knowledge, range knowledge, local and state government knowledge, local and state information knowledge, education community, private property rights background, rural business community, rural health community. The Board reserves the right to identify skills needed as the HNRCD grows and changes.

### 2. Appointment of Advisors

*Nomination:* Pat Call nominated Steve Boice as an HNRCD Advisor.

*Second:* David Greenberg seconded the nomination.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

*Discussion:* Because of his work with *Horse N' Around* horse rescue Steve has a lot of contact with the general public. Their rescue operation attends many and varied public events. He can help "get the word out" about the HNRCD.

**3. Partnership Special Meeting, November 15, 2018:** This meeting was cancelled.

**4. Printing Costs for Public Notices:** Kathy Morris reported newspaper printing costs for public notices as follows: Bisbee Observer-\$5.00/column inch, Sierra Vista Herald-\$8.10/column inch, Tombstone News-\$3.75/column inch. The circulation of each paper is unknown.

Other methods of communication such as Facebook, websites, etc. are more effective for getting information out to the public, however, the District is required by law to post in a public newspaper information regarding District elections.

**5. Addition to HNRCD Web Site:** The information the District has compiled on managed grazing will be posted on [herefordnrcd.com](http://herefordnrcd.com).

**6. Ralph Ware—NRCS – Small Acreage Owners & Small Acreage Resource Concerns (SARC):** Ralph Ware requested to know more about the HNRCD's goals as far as small acreage owners were concerned.

For more than a year HNRCD has wanted to reach out to small acreage land owners to see if the District can be of assistance to their natural resource concerns. The District is especially wanting to find out if NRCS has any programs available to small acreage owners, rather than just large producers.

Don Decker has made several visits to individuals within the District who typically are not producers of any kind, however, they have resource concerns such as: degraded range land that could be improved, brush encroachment, and erosion (usually drainage coming from above their property). He gives his advice and expert knowledge in areas where possible but he doesn't know of any actual programs for non-producers. That kind of ownership is significant in the HNRCD.

In the past the District has done various workshops to help people with resource concerns. The District would like to broaden that with actual programs for individuals.

The NRCS Small Farm Initiative—a 2013 program through EQIP was brought up but Ralph and Don had no knowledge of that program. But because this is five years old it's "history."

Ralph brought up the Farm Bill which is a congressional five year act that is "tweaked" annually. The Farm Bill dictates what the Department of Agriculture can do, which dictates what the NRCS can do.

The District asked of NRCS a list of projects that could be applied for. Ralph said for the District not to limit their funding hopes on the NRCS but to look at other agencies as well. He distributed a handout on the SLRP partnerships.

Ralph spoke of the District hiring an employee to research funding as well as concerns but HNRCD is not in a monetary position to hire any employees.

Ralph thought identifying resource issues should be our primary concern and that the District should perform as a "broker" for individuals looking for assistance.

The question was asked if there are other districts similar to the HNRCD with so many small land parcels. Ralph said Pima NRCD and Santa Cruz NRCD have both been interactive with smaller acreage owners.

Ralph thought the HNRCD might host a workshop for other NRCDs with similar interests.

**J. Education Programs**

**1. Tombstone High School Ag Program:** The District was awarded a plaque from Tombstone High School FFA as an honorary member of their FFA program.

Wicks Oil Company has a program to support FFA. Steve Boice will find out more on this program and let the Board Clerk know so she can get the information dispersed.

**2. Small Acreage Resource Concerns (SARC) Mass Mailing Postcard:** The post card is ready to be printed and sent but it was decided last month not to mail the post card until after the November elections because of the multitude of electoral advertising.

**3. Field Trips to Horseshoe Draw & Palominas Project for School Children:** David Greenberg still intends to attend a Palominas School Board meeting and present the idea of field trips to them.

**J. Correspondence**

- 1. AZ Land & Water Trust 2018-2019 Field Trips
- 2. Thank you note from AZ Department of Agriculture
- 3. Thank you letter from the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop for AZ Youth

**K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items**

**HNRCD Regular Meeting**

November 21, 2018

Cochise County Complex

Wednesday

Large conference room

9:30a.m.

Sierra Vista, AZ

**L. Adjournment**

John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Approved by the Board \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(John Ladd, Chairman)

*Hereford NRCD does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by law.*