

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

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

Board Present: Jim Lindsey, Lucinda Earven, John Ladd

Others Present: Jack Ladd—Advisor, Jeri Ligon—Advisor, Pat Call—Advisor, Don Decker—NRCS, Ivette Cunningham—Cooperator, Chuck Cunningham—Cooperator, Donna Witschi—citizen, Bill Witschi—citizen, Steve Boice—Cooperator, Melissa Cox—Cooperator, Tresa Boden—citizen, Carl Boden—citizen, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Katie Swaim—Tombstone HS Ag Leader, Amber Ford—Tombstone HS *new* Ag Leader, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

A. Call to Order

Jim Lindsey called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Jim announced 1) Pat Call will be the new Board Supervisor filling the slot vacated by Rachel Thomas. As soon as Pat's paperwork is received from the State he will be an acting Supervisor. 2) Katie Swaim will be in attendance later. The order of the agenda will be altered for her presentation.

B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

C. Call to the Public

Ivette Cunningham asked if the Board was aware of the proposed "oasis" to be built on Paloma Trail. The person who is proposing this wants to build a campsite (including fire pits) and wants to incorporate non native plants. Ivette's concern is the introduction of non native plants as well as the traffic the wash and Paloma Trail will have to endure. Jim Lindsey informed Ivette that the Board cannot discuss anything that isn't on this month's agenda. However, if she wants the Board to address this matter in May it will be on the agenda.

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, March 21, 2018

Motion: John Ladd moved to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 21, 2018.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Committee and Other Reports

1. Upper San Pedro Partnership: The next meeting is still scheduled to be May 9, 2018, in the Mona Bishop Room at the Sierra Vista Library. No report.

2. NRCS: Don Decker reported applications for EQIP Cycle 1 have been ranked and those that scored high enough for the cycle's available funding should be funded contracts by the end of this week. In the District five ranches are slated for funding for a total of \$416,347. Don said more HNRCD area applications will be put forward for a chance of funding in Cycle 2. The deadline for applying for Cycle 2 is June 22, 2018.

Don explained Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Sentinel Landscapes Program. Currently both these programs require an applicant to be a producer.

Don and John Ladd have spoken with Ralph Ware—NRCS about finding funding for non producing land owners. Ralph indicated there needs to be enough interest to "put it back in the budget." Apparently this isn't something new, but there was little to no interest so it was removed from the NRCS budget.

3. USFS: No one present to report.

4. **BLM:** No one present to report.

5. **The Arizona Rangeland Conservation Partnership:** For this cycle four contracts were ranked and awarded. Jim Lindsey was part of the ranking committee. The four contracts combined amounted to over \$500,000, however, ARCP still does not have concrete funding. This program is being implemented by having applicants apply, then they are ranked, then awards given to deserving applicants, then ARCP tries to find the funding.

6. **Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN):** No report.

F. District Financial Reports

1. Payment Authorizations:

Motion: John Ladd moved to approve payment for items 1-7.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Monthly Financial Reports

Submitted to the Board.

3. Motion to File Financial Report for Audit

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved to file the financial report for audit.

Second: John Ladd seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Debra Smith is still the person doing the HNRCD financials.

Due to the fact several emails between various members have not gone through, including financials, Kathy Morris will change the HNRCD email to a gmail.com address.

G. Old Business

1. **Board Elections:** To date no individual has completed the paperwork to oppose Lucinda Earven. If no one comes forward by the April 27, 2018 deadline Kathy Morris will email the State that no election is necessary and she will let the Board members know.

2. **Vacated Supervisor Position:** Pat Call will fill the vacated position.

3. **Report on Cooperators' Dues:** Almost every existing cooperator has renewed membership.

4. **Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP):** Covered under Don Decker's NRCS report. The next Sentinel meeting will be in the Sierra Vista Forest Service Building, May 9, 2018, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Lucinda Earven will attend for the District.

5. **Plaque for Horseshoe Draw Project:** Jim Lindsey spoke with artist Linda Feltner who is going to send him pricing and size information.

A suggestion was made to have a plaque at the San Pedro House on the river that would be seen more readily by the general public.

It will depend on cost as to one sign or two.

6. Discussion for 2018 New Projects:

- There was further discussion on doing a mass mailing for non producing acreage owners. A draft of the questionnaire will be ready for the May regular meeting. John Ladd will remind David Greenberg to include the Huachuca City/Whetstone area.
- Water harvesting workshop was brought up. Pat Call said Cochise College does one regularly.
- Pat Call volunteered to do a video on "what the HNRCD is all about." The video would be on the District web site. How to find the video could be in the mass mailing material.
- Senator Gail Griffin told John Ladd a Horseshoe Draw legislative workshop is of interest as soon as the present session is over.

- The District's identity problem was discussed. This obstacle has been recognized for years. One of the complications is that originally NRCD districts were organized to help producers work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service—NRCS (part of the Department of Agriculture).

7. Public Awareness Workshop: Covered under *Old Business*, #6.

H. New Business

1. New Members, Steve Boice, Bill & Donna Witschi, Kathy Morris: Jim Lindsey introduced the new cooperators.

2. Small Acreage, Mass Mailing Questionnaire: The questionnaire draft will be ready for the May regular meeting. Covered under *Old Business*, #6.

3. ADEQ New Grant Cycle: Currently the District has no probable project to apply for an ADEQ grant.

4. Granite Construction Award: Granite Construction received a statewide prestigious award for innovative technical projects for Horseshoe Draw. The award is from The Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors of America and is entitled 2018 Build Arizona Award Winners. There is a banquet at the Phoenix Art Museum for the award ceremony. Unfortunately no one for the District is able to attend. Jim Lindsey will speak with Steve Barker about attending.

5. Phoenix Legislative/NRCD Meeting: Lucinda Earven attended this meeting. She reported the meeting seemed to be a "huge whine fest" because so many districts were unhappy because the State Land Department did not support them enough. Many voiced the fact that the Annual Plans the districts are required to submit each year aren't even looked at by the State. Several legislators attended so they were able to get an idea of how the State Land Department has not supported the conservation districts. Lucinda learned that if the districts go to State Forestry there will not be more money available. If the move goes through it will not take effect until 2020.

6. AACD Summer Meeting, July 9-12, 2018, Litchfield Park, AZ

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved to approve travel and related expenses for any Board Supervisor who attends the summer meeting.

Second: John Ladd seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

7. AACD 2018 Award Nominations: The Board agreed to nominate Rachel Thomas for the Conservation Heritage Award. Kathy Morris will submit the paperwork.

8. NACD Dues Request

Motion: Lucinda Earven made a motion the HNRCD not join the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

Second: John Ladd seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Katie Swaim introduced Amber Ford who will be taking her position when she leaves the end of this school year. Katie gave a Power Point presentation on what she has accomplished with the Tombstone High School FFA students this year.

The students did extremely well at the State FFA competition out of 63,000 students, as well as taking first place for their display at the Cochise County Fair. Katie was awarded an Honorary State FFA Degree from the Arizona Association FFA.

April 28, 2018 the THS FFA banquet will be held in the high school gym—6:00-8:00 p.m.

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved HNRCD present a plaque to Katie Swaim at the FFA banquet.

Second: John Ladd seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

HNRCD had asked Katie to provide the Board supervisors with a list of things the students need to pursue their agriculture endeavors.

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved to donate \$5,000.00 from the District education funds to Tombstone High School FFA/Ag program.

Second: John Ladd seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

J. Correspondence

1. Thank You letter from Project Central
2. NACD 2017 Annual Report

K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

HNRCD Regular Meeting

May 16, 2018

Cochise County Complex

Wednesday
Large conference room

9:30a.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

L. Adjournment

Jim Lindsey adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Approved by the Board _____

5-16-18

(Date)

Signed _____

Lucinda Earven

(Lucinda Earven, Vice Chairman)

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