

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

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

Board Present: Lucinda Earven, David Greenberg, Pat Call

Others Present: Jack Ladd—Advisor, Jeri Ligon—Advisor Eric Baker—BLM, Whitney Schack—USFS, Ivette Cunningham—Cooperator, Chuck Cunningham—Cooperator, Steve Boice—Cooperator, Nancy Newman—Cooperator, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Sandra Jean—citizen, Socorro Daul—citizen, Linda DeMarco—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

A. Call to Order

Lucinda Earven called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

C. Call to the Public

Tricia Gerrodette distributed a Tucson Audubon Society/Audubon Arizona/AZGFD brochure on riparian areas along washes. Tricia also brought attention to the ADEQ beginning a process to consider assuming the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit program (CWA 404). Tricia said if anyone is interested in receiving more information about this process to use this link to the ADEQ:

[Join the CWA 404 Email List](#)

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, April 18, 2018

Motion: David Greenberg moved to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2018.

Second: Pat Call seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Committee and Other Reports

1. Upper San Pedro Partnership: The meeting was cancelled. No report.

2. NRCS: Don Decker was unable to attend this meeting. He did, however, file a report. Four Hereford NRCD area applications are currently being developed and are planned to be put forward for a chance of funding in EQIP Cycle 2 which has an obligation deadline of June 22, 2018.

3. USFS: Whitney Schack reported they are working on the final Environmental Assessment (EA) for their Travel Management Rule. Nothing will be completed until the USFWS comes back to USFS with their biological opinion. The objection period for the EA should start in mid-June, 2018. The resolution period should start in September, 2018.

A big water project was completed in the SW Whetstone area. USFS flew in by helicopter five storage tanks and "a bunch" of water troughs and pipe.

Arizona forest lands are in Stage 2 fire restrictions—no camp fires, no shooting.

There are some minerals proposals in the Patagonias. There will be public meetings as part of the Harshaw Exploratory Project.

National Get Outdoors Day is a free event being held at Parker Canyon Lake on Saturday, June 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be games, a fishing clinic, BB gun range, live reptiles and more. The event's aim is to engage children in outdoor activities.

4. BLM: Eric Baker reported the SPRNCA Resource Management Plan (RMP) timelines have been shortened. The final record of decision should be April, 2019. The document they currently have will

have to be scaled down considerably due to government limitations. Eric thought before this fall will be the public comment period—BLM will let us know when dates are finalized.

5. The Arizona Rangeland Conservation Partnership: No one present to report.

6. Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN): Pat call reported there will be a meeting coming up soon that basically will be updates on the existing projects. No new projects are “in the works” presently. GSA is doing monitoring at Horseshoe Draw.

F. District Financial Reports

1. Payment Authorizations:

Motion: David Greenberg moved to approve payment for items 1-3.
Second: Pat Call seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Monthly Financial Reports

Submitted to the Board.

3. Motion to File Financial Report for Audit

Motion: David Greenberg moved to file the financial report for audit.
Second: Pat Call seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

G. Old Business

1. Board Elections: Kathy Morris reported no one opposed Lucinda Earven for the supervisor seat so no election was necessary. Lucinda remains an HNRCD Board Supervisor.

2. Non Producing Acreage Owner Mass Mailing Questionnaire: David Greenberg provided a visual presentation on the proposed questionnaire with the following points:

- Are there things you would change regarding physical aspects of your property? (y/n)
- What is the highest priority issue you face? (water-wind erosion/predators/invasive plants-weeds/poor soil/other)
- Would you attend workshops on any of the following? (water harvesting/soil retention/invasive plants-weeds/improving soil/growing structures: hoop houses-greenhouses/other)

A post card will be mailed asking recipients to respond to the survey online. The targeted public is 4-20 acre property owners in the District. David has addresses on a disk for Tombstone, Whetstone, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, Moson area, Hereford, and west of Bisbee. The expense for the online survey is one month for \$37 or multiple months for \$34.

David will develop an over-sized post card with the needed information to be reviewed at the June meeting and will get estimated mailing costs.

Suggestions to be added to the questionnaire were: contact information, including the web site address for the District, how many acres is the participant referring to and what area they reside.

3. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP): Lucinda Earven attended the last SLRP meeting. Lucinda quoted the program’s materials: “SLRP is an initiative of the Secretaries of the Department of Defense, Departments of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior, working nationwide with federal, local and private entities dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability in areas surrounding military installations.” (For the military’s benefit.) “The partners have agreed to preserve the working and rural character of the land and to strengthen the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserve habitat and natural resources; and to protect the training and missions of Fort Huachuca.”

Three priorities were highlighted: 1) encroachment areas—the ability to fly and perform their electronic missions, 2) species protection—focused on the Lesser Long-Nosed Bat because during certain seasons the Fort has to curtail their flying so as to not endanger the bats and the Mexican Spotted Owl which also affects seasonal flying, 3) fire.

Fort Huachuca SLRP identified three main working groups within their project: 1) grass/range, 2) water, 3) upland fuels.

Ralph Ware—NRCS is principal in the project said he would attend an HNRCD meeting and give more information and how the District can work with SLRP for the benefit of everyone. Some of HNRCD is within SLRP's "mitten area" and the District is interested in discovering if there are any funds to help non-producing land owners with conservation projects.

Currently SLRP meetings are held every two months—HNRCD will send a representative to those meetings.

4. Plaque for Horseshoe Draw Project: Linda Feltner needs wording and size to produce a quote for a sign. Exact wording was not decided, but it was decided acknowledgment will be made to: ADEQ, EPA, HNRCD, Howard G. Buffett Foundation, Granite Construction, the Ladd family, and Cochise County.

Pat Call and Lucinda Earven will take photos of existing water-saving project signs for more ideas as to size, type, etc. for June's meeting.

Cochise County may install the sign(s).

5. AACD Summer Meeting, July 9-12, 2018, Litchfield Park, AZ: Conference rate on the hotels is effective until June 18, 2018 and pre-registration rate is good until July 1, 2018.

6. AACD 2018 Award Nominations: Rachel Thomas has been nominated for the Conservation Heritage Award.

H. New Business

1. Proposed Paloma Trail Business Enterprise: Pat Call recused himself from this discussion.

Cooperator Ivette Cunningham distributed copies of Cochise County's Planning & Zoning paperwork on the proposed business enterprise. Several members of the public also attended this meeting to also voice their concerns over this proposed business. The main concerns included:

- Traffic on Paloma Trail which **is not** a county maintained road. During the monsoons the road is often impassable and local residents share the cost of road maintenance throughout the year.
- What a business concern will do to the overall rural/residential area, which is a desert delicate area.
- Because this will be a "camping business" what damage will be done to the San Pedro riparian area since the business is adjacent to the riparian area.
- The addition and inclusion of non-native plants and water dependent plants.
- The need for more water usage with showers and toilets.
- The depletion of ground water due to overuse that is not simply residential.
- Concerns that if this business is allowed it will set a precedent for more to come.
- Fire hazards with campers.

The opposition to this enterprise was hoping the HNRCD would write a letter to Cochise County Planning & Zoning opposing the business. It is not the purview of the HNRCD to get involved with private property matters such as this. It was suggested they circulate a petition and present that to the P & Z.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Jim Lindsey attended the FFA banquet, however no one present attended. The HNRCD was awarded a plaque stating the HNRCD is an honorary FFA member.

J. Correspondence

None

K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

HNRCD Regular Meeting

June 20, 2018
Cochise County Complex

Wednesday
Large conference room

9:30a.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

L. Adjournment

Lucinda Earven adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Approved by the Board _____

June 20, 2018
(Date)

Signed _____

Lucinda Earven

(Lucinda Earven, Vice Chairman)