

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

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

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

Others Present: Jeri Ligon—Advisor, Jack Ladd—Advisor, Don Decker—NRCS, Dan Coxworth—Cochise County, Brad Fulk—AZGFD, Ivette Cunningham—Cooperator, Chuck Cunningham—Cooperator, Steve Boice—Cooperator, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Lori Kilpatrick—citizen, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

A. Call to Order

Jim Lindsey called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

C. Call to the Public

Lori Kilpatrick is running for LD14 Arizona Senate Seat. She thanked the HNRCD for having an open meeting she was able to attend. She also attended one of the Sierra Vista SPRNCA Draft RMP public meetings.

Tricia Gerrodette distributed two booklets: *Bringing Birds Home; Enhancing Grasslands, and Enhancing Rivers.*

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, July 18, 2018: This did not need to be on this agenda. These minutes were approved at the Special Meeting, July 20, 2018.

2. Special Meeting, July 20, 2018

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the special meeting July 20, 2018.

Motion carried with one abstention.

E. Committee and Other Reports

1. Upper San Pedro Partnership: Lucinda Earven reported there was a meeting and she attended. The technical committee is being organized. There should be another meeting in November, 2018. At the meeting Lucinda gave them an overview on what the HNRCD has accomplished since their last meeting, which was 11 months ago.

Lucinda was asked if the HNRCD had ever engaged Ray Archuleta as a speaker. He is an expert on soils and soil health. His speaking engagements are not complimentary, therefore maybe the HNRCD could get together with some of the other NRCDs and share the cost of his service.

2. NRCS: Don Decker reported that in the Hereford District three Cycle 3 applications have been approved for funding through the Sentinal Landscape and the NWQI funds. The applications total \$104,242 in rangeland conservation practices.

There are already applications submitted for the next fiscal year in the HNRCD.

John Ladd is the new liaison for the museum coordinating with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). The first meeting is September 14, 2018 and John asked if Don could be present.

3. USFS: No one present to report.

4. BLM: No one present to report.

5. AZGFD: Brad Fulk reported on the upcoming Habitat Partnership Committee meeting. Committee grants/proposals deadline is September 1, 2018.

Regional pronghorn surveys have been completed. In the Sonoita/Elgin area the survey showed the numbers are down this year. There was a fawn count of 14; the lowest since their last year of coyote control—spring, 2016. After the coyote removal the count was 306 animals, 2017 the count dropped to 250, this year the count again dropped to 209. The fawn count went from 45 fawns per 100 does in 2016 to 17 in 2017 and 14 in 2018.

An increased coyote population as well as quite dry winter and spring have been attributed to the decline.

Starting in the spring, 2019 for three consecutive years, AZGFD plans to do another coyote removal by hunting.

There is a proposed pronghorn capture January 8-10, 2019 in Prescott. If the Prescott capture is a "go" there is a possibility of the Tombstone High School FFA students participating.

Archery deer season opens August 24th; mountain lion season opens on August 24th.

6. The Arizona Rangeland Conservation Partnership: There is still no definite result on how much money will come from whom.

7. Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN): Bella Vista is the ongoing project.

8. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP): Jim Lindsey attended the last meeting. He reported it was mainly an administrative meeting—they were trying to outline how they wanted to organize projects.

Brad Fulk also attended the meeting and he said they tried to poll all the agencies and document what had been accomplished in the past. Because there are so many agencies involved, the data base is quite large and difficult to manage and try to present in an orderly fashion.

The big goal is to protect open space through conservation easements.

Gerry Payne is supposed to be stepping down and Ralph Ware is supposed to be taking his place but at this point they are both active. Ralph still has not been able to make a commitment to attend an HNRCD meeting. Jim Lindsey will contact Gerry Payne and see if he is able to attend an HNRCD meeting.

F. District Financial Report

A motion was made to approve the payment of items 1-6 on the payment schedule.

Motion carried unanimously.

The financial report will be filed for audit.

G. Old Business

1. Small Acreage Resource Concerns (SARC) Mass Mailing Postcard: David Greenberg presented the refined post card mock-up. The next step is to take the mock-up to the USPO and make sure it is acceptable for a mass mailing. It looks like there will be 5,000 plus pieces to mail. David will find out the cost of printing and mailing by September's meeting.

David suggested we not mail the post card until after the election due to the fact of people's mail boxes being inundated with political material.

2. Horseshoe Draw Plaque: Jim Lindsey heard back from Linda Feltner and she needed to know if the District wants a design drawing and what it would entail because that will partially determine her price. Bronze is very expensive. Jim will get back with her and ask for prices with and without a design drawing.

3. Horseshoe Draw/Palominas Project Tour: The Nature Conservancy is partnering with the HNRCD to put this tour on. It is set for August 30, 2018. It is by invitation; the targeted invitees are state legislators, especially out-of-the-District area legislators. There will be vans from Phoenix and the tour will include the Palominas Recharge Project, Horseshoe Draw Project, lunch, and possibly a Power Point presentation. John Ladd spoke with Gail Griffin so she will help with alerting people in Phoenix.

4. Immigration Reform Law Institute vs. Homeland Security Update: Julie Axelrod is the attorney handling the lawsuit. The suit itself has not changed—Julie has changed law firms. She needs Board approval for involvement of the HNRCD since law firms have changed. The suit is not monetary. The basis of the suit is the environmental damage done because of illegal immigration.

A motion was made for the HNRCD to continue in the lawsuit.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Field Trips to Horseshoe Draw & Palominas Project for School Children: This item was tabled for the time being but it's a viable project and will remain on the agenda.

6. HNRCD Brochure: Kathy Morris will make the appropriate copy changes and insert photographs rather than leaving a blank space for a mailing label. She will email the Board a final sample.

H. New Business

1. Appoint Two Board Positions Currently Held by John Ladd & David Greenberg

A motion was made to reappoint John Ladd and David Greenberg as Supervisors on the HNRCD Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Internal Board Positions:

Chair

Jim Lindsey was nominated for Chairman.

Discussion: Jim was asked if he is willing to fulfill the position and he said yes but if anyone else was interested in running he was fine with vacating the position.

John Ladd was nominated for Chairman.

Ballots were distributed among the Board. Three votes, John Ladd; two votes, Jim Lindsey.

John Ladd was elected Chairman of the Board.

Vice Chair

Jim Lindsey was nominated for Vice Chairman.

Lucinda Earven was nominated for Vice Chairman.

Discussion: Jim Lindsey did not accept the nomination for Vice Chairman.

Lucinda Earven was elected Vice Chairman of the Board unanimously.

Secretary

Jim Lindsey was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer.

Jim Lindsey was elected Secretary/Treasurer unanimously.

3. HNRCD Policy for Cooperator Fees

A motion was made to approve the Cooperator Annual Fee Policy as written and submitted.

Discussion: The question was asked if a fee amount should be part of the policy. The concept behind leaving an amount off is if/when the amount changes a new policy will not need to be written and approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. HNRCD/BLM SPRNCA RMP Meeting: John Ladd and Lucinda Earven attended the meeting. It was an agreed opinion the meeting was beneficial and the HNRCD is appreciative of the BLM holding the meeting. Amy Markstein—BLM gave a Power Point presentation on the SPRNCA Draft RMP alternatives. The BLM's preferred alternative is "C" which the HNRCD also favors. John and Lucinda will get together with Kathy Morris to draft a comment letter for the BLM before the September regular meeting.

Brad Fulk gave an overview on the BLM public SPRNCA meeting he attended. He said it was well attended with over 100 people. The biggest concerns were: 1) water 2) allowing grazing 3) hunting.

5. Approval to Print Additional Cooperator Forms

A motion was made to print additional cooperator forms as needed.

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Jim Lindsey has spoken with Amber Ford, the new Ag Adviser at Tombstone High School. She said she's very happy with her decision to join Tombstone High School. She emailed Jim about T-shirts HNRCD has sponsored in the past for FFA fundraising.

J. Correspondence

1. AZ Land & Water *Trust Celebrating 40 Years*
2. Thank You letter from American Stewards of Liberty
3. *Forestry Notes*

K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

HNRCD Regular Meeting

September 19, 2018
Cochise County Complex

Wednesday
Large conference room

9:30a.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

L. Adjournment

Jim Lindsey adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Approved by the Board

19 Sept. 2018
(Date)

Signed

John W Ladd
(John Ladd, Chairman)