

# HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD)

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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

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

**Others Present:** Jeri Ligon—Advisor, Jack Ladd—Advisor, Mike Hayhurst—Advisor, Steve Boice—Advisor, Donald Decker—NRCS, Eric Baker—BLM, Whitney Schack—USFS, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Lisa Wall—Cooperator, Nancy Neumann—Cooperator, Mary Rozzano—Cooperator, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

### A. Call to Order

John Ladd called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

### B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

### C. Call to the Public.

Tricia Gerrodette asked for an explanation on how supervisors are chosen. Kathy Morris gave the following explanation: Cooperators of the HNRCD elect three supervisors. Two more are then recommended by the elected supervisors to the Arizona State Land Department Commissioner, Lisa Atkins who makes the actual appointments. In the District's current situation an unexpired appointed supervisor term was vacated. The Board will recommend an individual to the State Land Commissioner as a replacement for the unexpired vacated term.

### D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, March 20, 2019

*Motion:* David Greenberg moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2019.

*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

### E. Committee and Other Reports

1. **USPP:** Lucinda Earven reported the next meeting is May 8, 2019 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. either at the Sierra Vista Public Library or at City Hall. She has not yet received an agenda to be positive of the meeting location. The meetings are open to the public.

2. **NRCS:** Don Decker reported there will be a Border Patrol Stakeholders Liaison Committee Meeting scheduled for May 7, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at their Douglas Border Patrol Station. Don said these meetings provide a good way to get updated on the latest information on the border enforcement effort. The Border Patrol uses these meetings to address ranchers' and landowners' concerns. If you're interested in participating call Sage Goodwin, co-chair, at 520-508-4690.

In the Hereford District three EQIP contracts are under preparation representing a total of over \$222,700 in ranch conservation practices. These are for Cycle One. NRCS hasn't yet been told if there will be a Cycle Two this fiscal year. An individual may sign up for EQIP programs any time during the year, but when an application is processed depends on which cycle is current.

John Ladd asked if SHPO clearances are being sub-contracted out. Don thought yes, that's the way it's currently being handled. John had been told neither Don nor Dusty Glidewell were able to approve projects for SHPO clearance. Don thought they should be able to give site approval on projects less than 100 acres. John's project has been funded and is on deeded property, yet is "on hold" waiting for SHPO clearance.



3. **USFS:** Whitney Schack reported the USFS Travel Management Rule has been completed so that means some roads will be closed/restricted to the public. Some of those roads include roads that just go to tanks, etc. and the public does not need access.

They have done a lot of fuels reduction work through hand thinning, prescribed burns, and the masticator. Many areas they still have fuel reduction work to do on have been surveyed by an archeologist and the paperwork has gone to SHPO.

Fee Implementation for Recreation should be starting up soon. Brown Canyon Ranch will have a day use fee.

4. **BLM:** Eric Baker reported April 26, 2019 the proposed RMP and final EIS on SPRNCA will be released. It will go through a *Federal Register* notice, then there will be a 30 protest period. The only accepted comments will be those from people who commented on the previous draft. If what was protested in the first draft was not recognized in the upcoming draft then the issue may be protested again. The record of decision should be signed the end of July.

5. **AZGFD:** No one present to report.

6. **CCRN:** John Ladd said there are no new updates to report. The study design phase of the Bella Vista Project is getting close to being completed. They are talking about the permitting process and CCRN is looking for funding to build the project.

Since Pat Call resigned there hasn't been action taken toward a new chairman. Montgomery and Associates facilitate the meetings.

7. **SLRP:** Jim Lindsey reported there are sub committees working to gather information and report to the main body of SLRP so they can finalize their main plan on what they want to accomplish. They're still in the data gathering phase. John Ladd clarified the purpose of SLRP, which is to preserve the environment for the Fort's communication program. All the Sentinel programs throughout the United States are first and foremost to protect specific installation's current operations.

## F. District Financial Reports

*Motion:* David Greenberg moved to authorize payment of items 1-3 on the Payment Schedule.

*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

The approved financial reports will be submitted for audit.

## G. Old Business

1. **NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, Comments Due April 25, 2019:** There was discussion with Don Decker as to whether to write to this national effort or the local people. Don will put John Ladd in touch with the local person who oversees the NRCS state technical committee, whose objective is to input practice standards.

## H. New Business

### 1. Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY) Donation

*Motion:* Lucinda Earven moved to donate \$150 to NRCWAY.

*Second:* David Greenberg seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

2. **Pima NRCD Managed Grazing Support:** The USFS is reviewing/assessing grazing allotments in the Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (PNRCD). Information from PNRCD is that a lot of outdated/obsolete studies are being used to make assessments of grazing allotments. John Ladd's opinion was that HNRCD should support PNRCD. However, through Whitney Schack—USFS the District was informed only permittees—making them stakeholders—can comment at this time on the Biological Opinion Draft (which will become the Biological Assessment). USFS and AGFD are examining



how grazing affects endangered species on these allotments. John Ladd will contact Cindy Coping—PNRCD to ask her to attend our May meeting.

**3. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests to the HNRCD:** This is on the agenda mainly to make cooperators aware the HNRCD has been inundated with a FOIA request regarding anything the District has had to do with the BLM regarding SPRNCA from January 1, 2018 through (the first request dated January 30, 2019). The only correspondence between HNRCD and BLM was the comment letter submitted during the regular BLM comment period. That has been provided to the FOIA requester. HNRCD has all meeting minutes from January 2018 on the website, herefordnrcd.com. There is nothing “clandestine...there is nothing hiding under a rock.” It was pointed out all supervisors and advisors are volunteers. Everything the HNRCD has done is trying to implement conservation practices.

**4. Open Meeting Law Webinar Report:** Kathy Morris attended a webinar on open meeting law hosted by Paul Katz, Arizona Assistant Attorney General April 12, 2019. She reported everything he covered the District is doing correctly with these exceptions: 1) Agendas can't have acronyms without the complete name also spelled out. The agendas have been corrected accordingly. Kathy pointed out that starting with last month's minutes she included a list of acronyms at the end of the document. That list will remain on all meeting minutes. 2) All email correspondence between Board members/Board Clerk/outside entities that relate to HNRCD business must be kept. 3) Board members may not whisper/speak privately to one another during a meeting.

**5. HNRCD Education Center Director's Contact Information:** Jackie Thomas—ASLD asked for the contact information of the HNRCD's Education Center. The District's Ed Center is not separate from the actual District (some districts do have a separate ed center). Kathy Morris will let Jackie know that the HNRCD's ed center is not separate and find out if that fact affects what she needs.

## I. Education Programs

**1. Tombstone High School Ag Program:** Jim Lindsey reported the Tombstone High School FFA 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet will be held April 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Tombstone High School cafeteria on 1211 Yellow Jacket Way. If you want to attend **please** RSVP at: [RSVP:https://forms.gle/7FGGzryKHu2hy4YP9](https://forms.gle/7FGGzryKHu2hy4YP9)  
Mike Hayhurst reported the new welding program is being implemented.

**2. Small Acreage Resource Concerns (SARC) Mass Mailing Postcard:** Steve Boice—HNRCD Advisor has volunteered to take over this project. David Greenberg will turn everything over to him.

## J. Correspondence

1. *Aquatics in Brief*
2. National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Report 2018

## K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

### HNRCD Regular Meeting

May 15, 2019

Cochise County Complex

Wednesday

Large conference room

9:30a.m.

Sierra Vista, AZ

**L. Executive Session:** Notice is hereby given to the members of the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District Board of Supervisors and to the general public that the Board, pursuant to A.R.S. §38- 431.02, may vote to convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. No vote will be taken in Executive Session. If authorized by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Session will be held immediately after the vote. The Executive Session will not be open to the public. All persons present at an Executive Session are hereby reminded that A.R.S. §38-431.03 imposes strict confidentiality requirements on discussions that occur in Executive Session. Generally, such discussions cannot be revealed to non-board members, unless necessary to carry out the purpose of the statutory provision that specifically permits an Executive Session. The Open Meeting Law provides for a fine of up to \$500 for violating this confidentiality requirement, and requires that this admonition be given.

*Motion:* David Greenberg moved the Board and Board Clerk adjourn to Executive Session.  
*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.  
*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

John Ladd adjourned the meeting to go into Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. He explained to all present they may return when the Board returns to open session.

---EXECUTIVE SESSION---

Executive Session meeting minutes are on file with the HNRCD.

*Motion:* Jim Lindsey moved to reconvene to normal open session.  
*Second:* Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.  
*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

John Ladd reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

David Greenberg nominated Mike Hayhurst to fill the vacated Board Supervisor position of Pat Call.

Written ballots were taken from the Board members for a supervisor to replace Pat Call's vacated supervisor position. All four ballots were for Mike Hayhurst. Mike Hayhurst will be recommended by the Board to ASLD.

**M. Adjournment**

John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Approved by the Board 15 May, 2019  
(Date)

Signed John Ladd  
(John Ladd, Chairman)

## ACCRONYMS

AACD	Arizona Association of Conservation Districts
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
AZGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCRN	Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
HNRCD	Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
NRCS	National Resource Conservation Service
NRCWAY	Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth
RMP	<i>Resource Management Plan</i>
SARC	Small Acreage Resource Concerns
SHPO	State Historical Preservation Office
SLRP	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership
SPRNCA	San Pedro River National Conservation Area
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USPP	Upper San Pedro Partnership
WOTUS	Waters of the United States

*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.*