

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

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

Board Present: John Ladd, Lucinda Earven, David Greenberg, Mike Hayhurst

Others Present: Jack Ladd—Advisor, Steve Boice—Advisor, Donald Decker—NRCS, Dusty Glidewell—NRCS, Eric Baker—BLM, Brad Fulk—AZGFD, Frank Krentz—AACD, Ivette Cunningham—Cooperator, Chuck Cunningham—Cooperator, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Nancy Neumann—Cooperator, Tom Crosby—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

Frank Krentz—AACD President attended the meeting to speak on behalf of the AACD. AACD is working in many areas in the State *and* Federal level. Frank encouraged even non supervisors to attend the AACD Summer Conference, July 9-11, 2019 in Flagstaff, AZ. He addressed the raise in the AACD annual dues. AACD has not asked for a dues increase in 15 years. Therefore, they've been working on a budget of rising costs with no increases coming in. AACD does not receive any money from the State. Frank and the other executives do not receive a salary and they are not compensated for their travel expenses within the State.

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, April 17, 2019

Motion: David Greenberg moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 17, 2019.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Committee and Other Reports

1. **USPP:** Lucinda Earven reported there was a meeting May 8th. Amy Markstein and Jamie Lopez—both BLM presented the BLM RMP results after the comment letters. Rick Coffman—Castle and Cook was approved to be on the membership. Voting in a new Chairman was postponed until the next meeting August 14, 2019.

Lucinda suggested the District select an alternate to attend the USPP meetings in the event she is unable to do so. Cooperator Nancy Neuman volunteered to be the alternate.

2. **NRCS:** Don Decker's report reiterated the EQIP statistics for Cycle One: HNRCD has three contracts which represent a total of over \$222,700 of conservation practices on ranches.

John Ladd still desires to attend an NRCS Technical Committee Meeting. Don Decker will let him know when the next meeting is scheduled or make sure he is notified of the meeting date and time.

Don brought up the *Into the Future* workshop, which is a workshop on trusts and related topics. An email on this workshop had been distributed to HNRCD members.

Dusty Glidewell spoke on the Conservation Stewardship Program. This is an enhancement program—to work “on top” of what's already been accomplished. The deadline to apply is June 7, 2019. Anyone interested should contact Dusty.

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

4. BLM: Eric Baker reported BLM is hiring a Range Technician. They currently have a Vegetation Technician. For about the last 10 years they've had to contract (usually with the U of A) for help in monitoring. This hiring will hopefully eliminate that procedure.

Eric was excited about BLM's drone program. They have taken aerial imagery. In a two to four minute flight they were able to cover a one and a half acre area. There is a three to five cm accuracy on the imagery.

The overall RMP plan "went with" the preferred alternative, which was Alternative C, but with managed grazing removed.

The question was raised if HNRCD should submit a protest letter, and if the District did so would it even make any difference.

Eric encouraged the District to submit a protest letter.

Motion: David Greenberg moved the District submit a "protest letter" supporting the majority of the BLM's SPRNCA RMP.

Second: Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

Vote: In favor: two ayes, opposed: two nays Motion was not acted upon.

Discussion: Arguments opposed writing a protest letter were: 1) if the BLM is sued and the HNRCD is named in the suit who in the organization has the time and money to "go to court," 2) the ASLD will not legally represent or fund legal representation for the HNRCD, 3) if any District person is called it would be foolish to not have legal representation.

Arguments in favor of writing a protest letter were: 1) the District has thus far put a lot of money and time into coordination with BLM, 2) the District submitted a comment letter and should "follow through" with a protest letter, 3) the District should support the BLM.

5. AZGFD: Brad Fulk reported the 2019 fall regulations are out in print. This will be the last year for paper applications—everything will be done online and the savings to AZGFD will be big.

Brad gave an employee update. There have been retirements and unforeseen openings, resulting in nearly 20 districts open in the State.

Turkey surveys have recently been conducted. Unit 35A—the Huachuca Mountains—reached an all time high.

Brad reminded everyone of the HPC workshop July 10, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 2019. An email on this had been sent to all HNRCD members.

6. CCRN: John Ladd said there are no new updates to report.

7. SLRP: Last month there was a subcommittee meeting, but no new updates to report. Brad Fulk reported SLRP hired a Coordinator. Her job is to keep all the varied organizations coordinated.

F. District Financial Reports

Motion: David Greenberg moved to authorize payment of items 1-7 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. Pima NRCD Managed Grazing Support: The Pima NRCD is working to raise over \$6,700 for expert comments to help grazing permittees respond to outdated and harmful endangered species actions prescribed in the Coronado National Forest Biological Assessment on Livestock Grazing.

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved to contribute \$100 to the Pima NRCD fund.

Second: David Greenberg seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Cooperator Dues Letters: Kathy Morris reported almost half of the current cooperators have paid their 2019 dues.

H. New Business

1. Society for Range Management Winter Meeting, January 15-17, 2020: Dusty Glidewell was representing the SRM, which is an organization that has hosted over 4,000 members in 48 different countries. They were established in 1948. Dusty is on the planning committee for the AZ Section of the SRM for their winter meeting. The meeting is tentatively planned for Bisbee, AZ. Two main topics have been discussed so far: 1) ranchers working with “adverse” land within their pasture (ie. private land in a rancher’s pasture that is not owned by the producer), and 2) prescribed burns. Dusty asked for ideas that pertain to local ranching. They are looking at having a “field day” because there is interest in the brush management the District has been doing. They are looking for monetary sponsors as well as volunteer speakers. John Ladd volunteered for a field trip of a brush management project and/or to be a speaker. He thought the District should be a monetary sponsor.

2. HNRCD Plan of Work and Education Center Plan of Work Due June 20, 2019: Kathy Morris reminded the supervisors the Plans are due June 20th. Two supervisors will probably meet with Kathy some time after June 4th.

3. HNRCD Annual Report and Education Center Annual Report Due July 20, 2019: Kathy Morris is responsible for the annual reports.

4. Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) Summer Conference July 9-11, 2019, Flagstaff, AZ: Tabled.

5. Public Lands Counsel: Tabled.

6. San Pedro River National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Protest Response Letters Due May 26, 2019: Covered under *Committee and Other Reports, #4 BLM*.

7. AACD Annual Dues

Motion: David Greenberg moved to pay \$1,500 annual dues to AACD.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

8. Into the Future Workshop, May 24, 2019, rsvp by May 17, 2019: Covered under *Committee and Other Reports, #2 NRCS*.

9. Water Protection Fund Board: Lucinda Earven was asked to serve on the WPF Board. She wanted to confirm that there is no conflict of interest with HNRCD since the District did once receive a grant from WPF on the Horseshoe Draw Project. WPF Board agreed with HNRCD Board that there is no conflict of interest. If anything arises that *could* be considered a conflict Lucinda will recuse herself.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: No one present to report.

2. Small Acreage Resource Concerns (SARC) Mass Mailing Postcard: Steve Boice reported “it’s all in the works” and the postcard will be mailed before the next HNRCD regular meeting.

J. Correspondence

None

K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

HNRCD Regular Meeting

June 19, 2019
Cochise County Complex

Wednesday
Large conference room

9:30a.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

M. Adjournment

John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Approved by the Board _____
(Date)

Signed _____
(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
HPC	Habitat Partnership Committees
HNRCD	Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRCWAY	Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SARC	Small Acreage Resource Concerns
SHPO	State Historical Preservation Office
SLRP	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership
SPRNCA	San Pedro River National Conservation Area
SRM	Society for Range Management
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USPP	Upper San Pedro Partnership
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WPF	Water Protection Fund

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