

# HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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

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**Board Present:** John Ladd, Jim Lindsey, David Greenberg, Mike Hayhurst

**Board Not Present:** Lucinda Earven

**Others Present:** Jack Ladd—Advisor, Brad Fulk—AZGFD, Hans Huth—ADEQ, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Tom Crosby—citizen, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

## A. Call to Order

John Ladd called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

## B. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room.

## C. Call to the Public

Tricia Gerrodette inquired if the HNRCD and HNRCD Education Center annual reports were on the District website. Kathy Morris said those reports would be posted soon.

## D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting, August 21, 2019

*Motion:* David Greenberg moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 21, 2019.

*Second:* Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

*Vote:* Carried unanimously.

## E. Committee and Other Reports

1. **USPP:** No one present to report.

2. **NRCS:** Don Decker and Dusty Glidewell attended the NRCS 2019 Arizona Operational Workshop September 16-18, 2019 in Tucson. A sizeable portion of the workshop will be spent discussing the planned reorganization of the NRCS Arizona workforce.

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

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

5. **AZGFD:** Brad Fulk reported AZGFD recently met with BLM to discuss the implementation of hunting now being allowed on SPRNCA (as a result of the new BLM SPRNCA RMP), and how to advise hunters of same. Target practice is **not** allowed on SPRNCA and there are ¼ mile buffers around the SPRNCA San Pedro House in accordance with existing state laws as to the discharge of firearms. Some of the buffers will even be extended. AZGFD will have the information on their website; however, it will not be included in this year's hunting regulations. There is a direct conflict with the BLM's new RMP and old federal laws in regard to the discharge of firearms on public lands.

6. **CCRN:** John Ladd reported there is a meeting scheduled toward the end of September.

The CCRN technicians have done the data gathering at Horseshoe Draw. They think they'll be able to determine how much recharge has been put in the ground as a result of the Horseshoe Draw Project. October is the target date for when the data will be calculated.

Funding is still being sought for the Bella Vista Project. Hans Huth reported ADEQ has offered "in kind" contributions for the Bella Vista Project. CCRN obtained \$3 million from USDA, however, they

need \$1 million cost match that must be non federal funds. Hence, ADEQ has offered “in kind” contributions which may be applied to the needed \$1 million.

**7. SLRP:** October 2, 2019 is a Restoration Partnership meeting; October 30, 2019 is a general partnership meeting. The October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting needs an RSVP.

## F. District Financial Reports

**Motion:** Jim Lindsey moved to authorize payment of items 1-6 on the Payment Schedule.

**Second:** Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Carried unanimously.

The approved financial reports will be submitted for audit.

**Motion:** Jim Lindsey moved to open a third HNRCD checking account, specifically for HNRCD funds that **are not** ASLD funds. The bank signature card for this account will include: Jim Lindsey—Treasurer, John Ladd—Chairman, Lucinda Earven—Vice Chairwoman, David Greenberg—Supervisor, and Mike Hayhurst—Supervisor.

**Second:** Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Two ayes, one abstention. Motion carried.

**Discussion:** What the District currently has is an operational State account and an operational Educational Center State account. The District funds (anything that is not ASLD money, i.e. cooperator donations) are held in a District savings account and an Education Center savings account. With the accounts set up this way any time the District needs to spend “their own money” a withdrawal will need to be made from the savings account and transferred to the checking account (which is actually for State money only). A third checking account specifically for District money will make transactions much easier and smoother.

The question was raised: why not use online banking to just transfer money from the savings to the checking. The perceived problem with this is the “paper trail” that is absolutely necessary for ASLD, as well as any future audits. To avoid a “messy paper trail” a third checking account seems to be the easiest route to take—especially for future HNRCD treasurers.

A third checking account will positively ensure no comingling of funds.

The two State accounts are under one EIN number and the local, or District accounts, are under a second EIN number. A third checking account will not require a third EIN number.

## G. Old Business

**1. Society for Range Management Winter Meeting, January 22-24, 2020:** Tabled.

**2. Soils Workshop Plans:** It was agreed to use name tags.

Tombstone High School FFA will sponsor the workshop—set up the large conference room at the high school for HNRCD use.

Mike Hayhurst will speak with Amber Ford—THS Agriculture and FFA Advisor, to finalize how much food the FFA students can “questimate” on needing and setting up the room.

Sierra Vista Herald has said they will cover the event and hopefully will have something prior to October 5<sup>th</sup>. Steve Boice arranged for him and John Ladd to advertise the workshop on a local radio program September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## H. New Business

**1. Hans Huth—Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:** Hans Huth presented a detailed Power Point report of *E. coli* in the San Pedro River and the Babocomari subwatershed. Their study began in the San Pedro at the international border and went as far north as Benson, AZ. The results do show *E. coli* impairment in the river and in the Babocomari just above its entrance into the San Pedro. The impairment starts at the Mexican border.

Hans' findings include: *E. coli* concentrates in the top one centimeter of sediment. The more sediment that “makes it” to the river the higher concentration of *E. coli*. Bovine *E. coli* impairment was

two to one higher than human impairment. Hans felt soil conservation and grassland restoration is imperative to reduce *E. coli* in the river. Storm water events always produce higher levels of *E. coli*.

Levels for copper were also high with the recognition that the watershed starts in Mexico and there is water pollution south of the border. During big storm events those polluted sediments are picked up and carried to Arizona.

John Ladd asked if Hans was familiar with the *E. coli* study Linda Searle did several years ago on the San Pedro and Babocomari. Mike Hayhurst had participated in that study. Mike said the only time they found *E. coli* above acceptable levels was during storm events. Hans was not familiar with the study although it had been funded with an ADEQ grant.

Since 1995 ADEQ has invested two point three million dollars on the San Pedro watershed; committed to watershed improvements on the Arizona side. Not a lot considering the length of time and the size of the area. Over the last 25 years about 12,000 acres have been treated for brush control and grass restoration. The entire watershed area is about 13 million acres. The money spent is not up to scale with the size of the watershed.

Watershed Management Group has a grant to work south of the international border to help address the challenges of protecting the San Pedro River. This is a new project. Hans illustrated other individual projects that have and have not worked.

Brad Fulk pointed out, "*E. coli* is always going to be there, it's a manageable issue, and it starts out with habitat restoration, primarily grasslands restoration, slowing down erosion."

As an ADEQ specialist Hans is eager to work with the San Pedro area NRCDs and discover what projects will work to mitigate the impairments on the river. Hans emphasized soil conservation equals river health.

**I. Education Programs**

**1. Tombstone High School Ag Program:** Mike Hayhurst reported THS has purchased four quite good welders. Mike has offered to build them a couple of welding tables. They're getting a roof on their welding area.

**J. Correspondence**

- 1. Thank You from Tombstone High School FFA
- 2. Cochise County Fair Program

**K. Future Meetings / Agenda Items**

**Soils Workshop**

October 5, 2019	Saturday	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tombstone High School		

**HNRCD Regular Meeting**

October 16, 2019	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Cochise County Complex	Large conference room	Sierra Vista, AZ

**M. Adjournment**

John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Approved by the Board \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(John Ladd, Chairman)

#### ACCRONYMS

AACD	Arizona Association of Conservation Districts
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
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
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FLPMA	Federal Land Planning and Management Act
HPC	Habitat Partnership Committees
HNRC	Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
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
THS	Tombstone High School
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USPP	Upper San Pedro Partnership
USPO	United States Post Office
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WPF	Water Protection Fund

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