

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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

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

Others Present: Jack Ladd—Advisor, Eric Baker—BLM, Brad Fulk—AZGFD, Hans Huth—ADEQ, Don Decker—NRCS, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Nancy Neumann—Cooperator, Jo Ann Gasper—Keep Our Wells, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Tom Crosby—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 requested that when the HNRCD Board of Supervisors approve any letter to be sent to anyone representing the District that the letter be attached to the Minutes of the meeting approving said letter. Kathy Morris will check with ASLD to see if this is a requirement.

Tricia Gerrodette requested that when a vote is taken by the HNRCD Board of Supervisors if there is a “nay” vote the Minutes of the meeting should state who voted “no.” Kathy Morris will check with ASLD to see if this is a requirement.

Jo Ann Gasper—Keep Our Wells expressed her organization’s concern over the substantial amount of mesquite trees and how much water such overgrowth consumes.

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting January 15, 2020
2. Telephonic Meeting January 29, 2020
3. Telephonic Meeting February 1, 2020
4. Telephonic Meeting February 11, 2020

Motion: David Greenberg moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 15, 2020, the telephonic meeting minutes of January 29, 2020, the telephonic meeting minutes of February 1, 2020, and the telephonic meeting minutes of February 11, 2020 as written.

Second: Lucinda 2nd the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Agency and Committee Reports

1. USPP: Nancy Neumann and David Greenberg attended the last meeting. USPP and UA Cooperative Extension Water Wise have teamed up to deliver grants for saving money on water costs. Such a grant went to the City of Tombstone for \$2,000. See their website, <https://uppersanpedropartnership.org> for more information on these grants.

2. NRCS: Don Decker reported he has been working with Deborrah Smith—AACD on the HNRCD / WWDNRCD technical service provider position grant for the Douglas Field Office. The position would work within both Districts to carry out needed conservation activities. The Districts may know by April, 2020 if the grant is awarded to them. If the grant is awarded Don is hopeful the individual hired will be

able to make initial visits to small land owners with conservation needs, as well as assisting on EQIP projects.

3. United States Forest Service (USFS): No one present to report.

4. BLM: Eric Baker reported they are currently in the implementation phase of the SPRNCA RMP. Eric has been working individually with the land owners of the four grazing allotment holders currently on SPRNCA. They plan to complete land health evaluations on the four allotments this year.

BLM has done a lot of monitoring with their Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy, which is more standardized monitoring. With the AIM Strategy they are able to collect much more data that is going into a national data base. Arizona is eight to ten years behind the rest of the west with collected data.

The BLM drone program was squashed. Nationwide BLM is not able to fly drones for any natural resource purposes or collect data with the use of drones. The manufacturing of the software is in China. There is some issue with individual privacy, but national privacy is a concern as well as a trade issue.

5. AZGFD: Brad Fulk reported they have filled two of their employee vacant districts. Wildlife surveys went really well. Deer numbers are way up. Antelope numbers are trending up. AZGFD has been busy this year with some big law enforcement cases. The next HPC meeting will be March 17, 2020, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Sierra Vista Ranger District Office. The ¼ mile rule applies to any form of archery as well as rifle use when hunting.

6. CCRN: John Ladd reported the next meeting will be March 14, 2020. HNRCD submitted a letter of support for the Bella Vista Project to the State Conservation Engineer, the Arizona State Conservationist, the USDA, NRCS, Office of the Chief, and the U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture.

7. SLRP: Mike Hayhurst and Joy Banks attended. No specific decisions were made or action taken, but two presentations were made, one using satellite images to locate specific stands of vegetation, and one by Hans Huth—ADEQ. Brad Fulk reported the sub groups have an approved plan in place and the main group has an approved plan in place. Now the sub groups are going to begin to prioritize two to three projects to begin working on, pending availability of funding.

HNRCD's support of SLRP is more meaningful now that SLRP's mission has been enlarged, including more of the District and grassland restoration is a priority of SLRP.

The next SLRP meeting is April 3, 2020, 1:00 p.m., at the Sierra Vista Library.

8. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ): Hans Huth reported ADEQ has over \$400,000 available for projects. The feedback he has received from people is a need for help on State land projects, specifically those requiring archeological assessments. Drone surveys would be very helpful to establish baseline conditions and determine what needs to be done, where. Engineered prescriptions would be helpful, particularly for soil conservation.

F. District Financial Reports

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved to authorize payment of items 1-5 on the Payment Schedule.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved to file the financial reports for audit.

Second: Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Motion: Jim Lindsey moved to close the Horseshoe Draw Account and transfer that money to the local Hereford account.

Second: Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

G. Old Business

1. Society for Range Management Winter Meeting, January 22-24, 2020: No one at this meeting attended.

2. Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Winter Meeting January 28-29, 2020,

Phoenix, AZ: Jim Lindsey attended the first day. It was well attended, with over 20 districts represented. A highlight presented was that for every \$1.00 NRCDs receive from the State the districts were able to raise an additional \$93.00 from other sources towards implementing conservation practices. There was a lot of discussion regarding the local working group meetings that Keisha Tatem—NRCS wants the districts to hold every year. For the majority of districts, their priorities don't change, so the question was raised why these meetings were necessary every year. These meetings are supposed to consist of all the agencies districts work with, i.e. BLM, etc. HNRCD has *representatives from the agencies at regular meetings so did not hold a local working group last year.* However, Keisha Tatem still wants this done and along with ASLD will be coming out with some new forms that will need to be addressed by the District. It was highly recommended the Board Clerk attend this summer's AACD meeting. State funding was discussed and again it was pointed out the money that is appropriated for the districts is enough funding to just barely maintain administrative costs, so no State funds are available for "on the ground" projects. AACD is definitely working hard for the local districts and a big thank you goes out to Frank Krentz and Deborah Smith.

3. Arizona Gift Clause: The District received from ASLD a draft MOA which will need to be used for donations to such programs as the Tombstone High School FFA program.

4. Wildlife Attractors Workshop:

- ✚ March 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m.—Noon
- ✚ Jan Groth—Master Gardner, U of A Extension Service to be the main speaker. Jan has reserved the Garden Courtyard at U of A South. If the weather is good there will be seating outside in the courtyard; if the weather is bad there will be seating inside
- ✚ San Pedro Spirits 4-H group will sell lunch—hamburgers and hot dogs
- ✚ Sharma Torrens—AACD will be a speaker
- ✚ Brad Fulk—AZFGD will be a speaker
- ✚ Don Decker—NRCS will be a speaker
- ✚ ACE Hardware may be involved
- ✚ Lucinda Earven has contacted Dana—*Sierra Vista Herald* who will do an article prior to the workshop and may attend to do a follow-up article
- ✚ Lucinda Earven and Kathy Morris will do a flyer and Kathy will get 100 flyers printed and distributed to Nancy Neuman, Joy Banks, and Jim Lindsey
- ✚ The Field Guide books will be for sale at the workshop

H. New Business

1. National Association of Conservation Districts Technical & Program Assistance Grant:

Covered under NRCS report.

2. HNRCD October Meeting Date Change: Tabled.

3. HNRCD New Board Supervisor Training Class Policy: Jim Lindsey brought up the suggestion that new supervisors to the HNRCD Board should attend the training class offered by AACD at their summer meetings. Attendance will be mandatory. Jim will draft a policy for this issue.

Motion: Jim Lindsey moved the District adapt a policy that mandates new HNRCD Board supervisors attend the AACD supervisor training class.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

4. IRS Mileage Rates: According to the IRS web site the mileage rates for 2020 are 57.5 cents per mile.

5. American Stewards of Liberty Dues:

Motion: Mike moved to pay American Stewards of Liberty \$200 dues.
Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

6. National Association of Conservation Districts Dues:

Motion: Lucinda Earven moved the District not pay NACD any dues in 2020.
Second: Jim Lindsey seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

7. Project Centrl Donation:

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved to donate \$100 to Project Centrl.
Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

8. HNRCD Election—Formation of Election Board, Posting Election:

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved John Ladd be the election judge.
Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved Jack Ladd and Joy Banks be election inspectors.
Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

9. HNRCD Computer:

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved the District purchase a new computer and to spend up to \$1,000.
Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.

10. AZ Association of Conservation Districts Requested Photos: Kathy received email ideas from Board Supervisors and will use their suggestions.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Jim Lindsey had texted Amber Ford—THS Ag Instructor asking for a report on how the FFA program is progressing but has not heard back from her. Jim will call Amber.

2. Education Center Conference Call with AZ Association of Conservation Districts: Jim Lindsey will join the AACD Education Center conference call.

J. Correspondence

1. Letter from Arizona Community Foundation
2. NACD Technical Assistance Grants booklet

K. Supervisor Comments: Kathy Morris reported HNRCD received the letter from Cochise County Fairgrounds that Dusty Glidewell--NRCS mentioned last month. The letter was dated January 11, 2020 but had not arrived prior to the February agenda going out. John Ladd will call Dusty regarding the letter.

L. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

AZGFD HPC Meeting

March 17, 2020
Sierra Vista Ranger District Office

Tuesday

1:30—4:30 p.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

HNRCDC Regular Meeting

March 18, 2020
Cochise County Complex

Wednesday
Large conference room

9:30 a.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

HNRCDC Wildlife Attractor Workshop

March 21, 2020
U of A South

Saturday
Garden Courtyard

9:00 a.m.—Noon
Sierra Vista, AZ

SLRP Meeting

April 3, 2020
Sierra Vista Library

Friday

1:00 p.m.
Sierra Vista, AZ

M. Adjournment

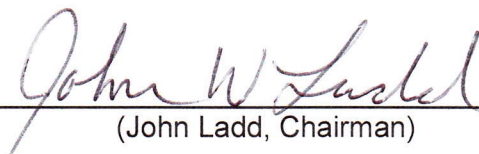
John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Approved by the Board

3-18-2020

(Date)

Signed


(John Ladd, Chairman)

ACCRONYMS

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| AACD | Arizona Association of Conservation Districts |
| ADEQ | Arizona Department of Environmental Quality |
| AIM | Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Strategy (BLM program) |
| ALWT | Arizona Land and Water Trust |
| ASLD | Arizona State Land Department |
| AZGFD | Arizona Game and Fish Department |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| CCRN | Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| 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 |
| U of A | University of Arizona |
| 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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