

**HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD)
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**October 21, 2021
Regular Meeting—5:00 p.m.
Palominas Fire District Training Center Facility
9222 S Kings Ranch Rd, Hereford, AZ 85615**

Minutes

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Call to Order

Chairman Ladd called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

B. Introductions, Roll Call, and Housekeeping

Board Present: John Ladd, Chair, Steve Boice, Supervisor, and Pat Call, Supervisor

Board Absent: Lucinda Earven, Vice-Chair, Jim Lindsey, Supervisor

Others: Joanne M. Roberts, HNRCD Board Clerk
Don Decker, District Conservationist, NRCS Douglas Office
Autumn Horvath, NRCS Douglas Office
Tom Reis, NRCS Team 7 Lead, Tucson Office
Jackie Watkins, Rancher, Cochise County
Chuck Cunningham, HNRCD Advisor
Ivette Cunningham, HNRCD Advisor

A Quorum was met.

C. Call to the Public

A.R.S. 38-431.01 authorizes the Board to make an open call to the public during a public meeting, to allow individuals to address the Board on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body. The time will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

None

D. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of the September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting
2. Financial Reports File for Audit September 2021
3. Payment Schedule for September 2021
4. Minutes of the September 23, 2021 Executive Session

Motion: Supervisor Pat Call moved to approve consent agenda items D1, D2, D3, and D4.

Second: Supervisor Steve Boice seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: Chair Ladd noted the District will file financial reports for audit.

Motion stands.

Strategic Discussions: Presentations and Feedback

E. Education Center Report

1. Tombstone High School FFA Program Expenditure of Funds Update and Discussion
No update or discussion.
2. Education Committee Report
Supervisor Jim Lindsey was not present to report.

Discussion Items

F. Agency and Committee Reports

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Mr. Decker provided a NRCS Activity Report. He noted the application dates are set for FY22 Farm Bill and he highlighted two programs, the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). He further stated the deadline for EQIP application submission is 17 December 2021 while the deadline for CSP is 11 February 2022. These applications are to establish eligibility.

Mr. Decker also discussed briefly the local drought conditions.

Chair Ladd inquired about the status of the FY21 EQIP applications. Mr. Decker stated not all applications were funded. These applicants have been notified to see if they want to roll over their application into FY22. Further discussion on FY21 awards, contracts, and processes. Additional discussion about the cultural resource clearance process that is required. Supervisor Boice inquired about the status of cultural clearances for the FY21 projects to which Mr. Decker explained that he has received some disturbance/non-disturbance determinations while a few have been authorized and projects are ready to go.

Chair Ladd inquired about extensions due to delay with cultural clearance. Mr. Decker explained that if NRCS is delayed in getting the clearance and it causes a delay in getting a practice initiated within the first year of the contract, then an extension can be granted through a waiver process.

Supervisor Boice inquired about extension due to delays in getting materials. Mr. Decker stated he does see this as an increasing problem. He further stated that NRCS has been addressing pricing increases and back payments for livestock and irrigation pipeline for contracts in progress. Further discussion regarding price increases in FY21 and Mr. Tom Reis stated that there are seven practices, from a national list, that were identified nationally and only two of those are practices used in Arizona. He further noted the type of pipeline only included PVC pipeline. Mr. Reis stated there is no understanding at this time if this [price adjustments] will be carried over into FY22.

Mr. Decker stated he spoken with Mr. Frank Krentz, Director of AACD regarding actual prices for a list of items affecting EQIP projects in Arizona and he [Mr. Krentz] is addressing this directly with Ms. Keisha Tatum, NRCS State Conservationist. It was also noted solar panels and storage tanks are not on the national list.

Chair Ladd asked Mr. Reis about the delays due to cultural review. Mr. Reis recognizes this has been an issue. He stated there are now three NRCS archaeologists with one staffed in the State Office, the Tucson Office, and the Flagstaff Office. He further stated NRCS is contracted with AACD who has a contracted archaeologist who is mainly working on state land projects. There are two firms that are

contracted through Ms. Tatum' Office with and IDIQ contract for cultural services. Chair Ladd further asked about the two meetings previously held between AACD, Farm Bureau and SHPO before Covid. Mr. Reis replied he does not think much has advanced but he is no longer involved directly with that group. Mr. Reis reminded the Board that an archaeologist has to review every contract for NRCS to be in compliance with Section 102. Chair Ladd stated that SHPO, Dr. Lyons, Director of SHPO, has taken a position of anything 50 years and older needs reviewed regardless of what the item is (e.g., beer can, projectile points).

Ms. Autumn Horvath introduced herself. She stated she is glad to be here and looking forward to working with the District. Chair Ladd asked if the Douglas Office is fully staffed. Mr. Reis and Mr. Decker responded positively. Chair Ladd stated he was pleased with the Team organization and the Douglas staff.

2. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - No one present to report
3. Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN)
Supervisor Pat Call reported a meeting has been rescheduled from 21 October to 3 November 2021 and had no other updates.

Ms. Jackie Watkins of Cochise County relayed some information on maintenance and monitoring at Horseshoe Draw. She stated the County has a new LiDAR scanner and they will be scanning the basin in two weeks and new flow meters (piezometers) were installed downstream. She further stated that, this winter, there are planned repairs for the inflow and outlet. Supervisor Call asked if there are specific designs for the repair. Ms. Watkins stated there are designs for the three side culverts but the cost estimate was high. They are now looking at alternative maintenance techniques such as slope adjustments, tow-downs on the side of the inlet, use of boulders and concrete instead of shotcrete. Supervisor Call, stated the temporary barriers (k-rails) were tossed aside as thought they were nothing. He further stated the Horseshoe Draw was designed for a 50-year flood event.

Advisor Ivette Cunningham inquired whether the monsoon event on 21 August 2021 caused the soil deposition (2-feet of mud) in a wash near her property came from the breach at Horseshoe Draw. Chair Ladd replied negatively and clarified how the two washes are related and where they connect north of their property. Additional conversation on micro-bursts in August and flooding as well as the amount of damage due to the rains. Chair Ladd stated he received 18.5-inches at his ranch and Ms. Watkins stated Bella Vista received over 20-inches.

4. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Partnership (FHSL)
Chair Ladd reported there is a meeting in Tucson but he will not be attending. Mr. Decker stated he has not been attending these meetings. Mr. Reis stated Mr. Scott Stratten was covering these meetings for NRCS but just resigned his position at NRCS. No one has yet been assigned to replace him. Chair Ladd stated he believes FHSL appears to be on a better track and HNRCD is in a better position for projects through this partnership. Mr. Decker noted he attended a Malpai Borderlands Group meeting last week where Ms. Alanna Riggs and Ms. Amber Morin discussed the extension of the landscape boundary and it will include the entire Douglas Field Office and Douglas. Some discussion on past range related projects and brush management practices and whether FHSL had interest in those practices. Supervisor Boice went to one meeting a year ago but it was all about planning and not much on the ground projects at that time. Mr. Decker reminded the Board that he reviews available funding for EQIP projects, and every HNRCD range project this year came out of the pool of money from FHSL. Mr. Decker briefly discussed how the pools of money are reviewed and how projects are funded through these various pools.

5. Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management - No one present to report
Chair Ladd asked Advisors Chuck and Ivette Cunningham if they have heard anymore from Mr. Matthew Jewell. Advisor Ivette Cunningham stated she has not heard anything more and she has contacted him. Chair Ladd asked if Mr. Jewell gave them a grant application to which Advisor Cunningham responded negatively. Chair Ladd, stated that the Cunningham's are the Board's small land owner Advisors for the benefit of Mr. Reis. He continued to state they had spoken with Mr. Jewell on erosion and brush management practices for their property. Mr. Jewell had thought they would be eligible for AGFD Habitat Partnership Committee fund. Chair Ladd subsequently spoke with Mr. Brad Falk, AGFD who stated they are likely not eligible for small landowner projects. Chair Ladd also stated the District had been talking, unsuccessfully, with Mr. Ralph Ware, NRCS about bringing back an EQIP budget line item for small acreage land owner projects. Further discussion on the interaction and processes working with Mr. Jewell. Advisor Ivette Cunningham further spoke to the issues in the general area on and near their property close to the San Pedro River.
6. Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) - No one present to report
Chair Ladd stated that Mr. Chris Lohman is no longer with ASLD. Mr. Reis and Mr. Decker stated they [ASLD] are also losing their archaeologist which is a problem.
7. Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) - No one present to report
8. San Pedro NCA Uplands and Grazing Working Group
Chair Ladd had no updates to report. Supervisor Lindsey is attending these meetings for personal ranching business reasons.

G. Old Business

1. Discussion and Update on Memorial and Dedication for Mike Hayhurst
Chair Ladd reported the dedication is at Tombstone HS at 4:00pm on Friday, 22 October. Supervisor Boice stated the City of Tombstone helped install the bench and tree. Chair Ladd will unveil the bench and speak for the District. Supervisor Boice stated Tombstone HS did all of the blue staking and it was a community effort. HNRCD promoted the idea of a memorial and the high school supported the effort.

This item can be removed from the Agenda.

2. Review/Discuss updates to the Draft Policy Guidelines for Funding Student SAE, 4-H, and Small Landowner Projects Using Local District Monies
Chair Ladd asked Ms. Roberts if she had received any comments from the Board Members. Ms. Roberts replied negatively. She further stated what types of comments she had been asking for from the Board over the past several months. Chair Ladd proposed to table this item until the Board has interest and when there is an application to get money from the District. This item can be removed from Agenda until the District gets an application.

3. Status Co-Hosting Small Land Owner Workshops Fencing/Other types of Work-Shop Coordination with BLM and Friends of the San Pedro River, Others?
Chair Ladd stated that Emilio Corella, Bureau Land Management (Bureau) sent an agenda update. He further stated the Hereford District will participate in the fence portion of the workshop only and not have any part of the cattle trespass issue or the Bureau's strategies with their volunteers to identify trespass cattle. Chair Ladd and Supervisor Boice believe there are legal issues and they [the Bureau] should have a livestock inspector to identify cattle. Some further discussion on comments Mr. Scott Feldhausen provided at last month's meeting, other areas in the state where the Bureau is rounding up cattle on Gila and Verde Rivers, enhancing fences on the San Pedro, no corrals, cables that impede getting the cattle out of the

riparian area, ownership and responsibility of the boundary fence, lack of boundary fence in areas, open range law, lawsuits, and survey of the boundaries.

Ms. Roberts reminded the Board of the history of how the fence workshop came to be with discussions originally between the Bureau, the District, and Friends of San Pedro River (Friends) and eventually with Mr. Decker and NRCS. She further stated that the interests of the partners have further focused since the first discussion where the District wants to focus only on fencing and the Friends' interest is heavily weighted to identifying trespass cattle and how the Bureau follows up after the report has been made. The desired timeframe for the workshop was before 31 Dec. 2021. It is not clear that the workshop will happen before then. Ms. Roberts stated that moving forward that the District is promoting the workshop and that it not doing the actual fence work. Some discussion on the Bureau's fencing design, target communities for the workshop, response to trespass cattle, and legal issues with trespass cattle.

Supervisor Call stated that the Board agrees that if we do the workshop, we do not want to become involved with trespass cattle. The District should move forward with the fence component only.

Mr. Decker stated that there are two workshops the District had been discussing. The small landowner erosion workshop and the fence workshop. Can the fence be a small component of the erosion workshop? A brief discussion covering types of fences and the erosion workshop.

4. Update and Discussion on BOS Regular Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2022

a. "Quarterly" Meetings January 20, April 21, September 15 Location, Time

b. All "Other" Meetings, February 17, March 17, May 19, June 19, July 21, October 20, November 17 Location, Time

Ms. Roberts identified the times and locations for calendar year 2022 meeting schedule and these dates and times have been confirmed with the hosts. She asked Chair Ladd to confirm that future meetings will be in-person only. Chair Ladd replied positively.

Chair Ladd asked Mr. Reis about the meeting times and which is better for participation by the agencies. Mr. Reis stated morning meetings may be better because not all agencies are flexible and evening meetings are more difficult to attend.

This item can be removed from the agenda.

5. HNRCD Supervisor Representation on AACD Committee(s)

Chair Ladd stated this item is a carry-over from the summer convention. He spoke with Mr. Frank Krentz. AACD has assigned Districts to specific committees but you can participate in any of the committees. You just need to let Mr. Krentz or Ms. Deborah Smith know. They are conducting phone meetings. Chair Ladd asked for a list of committees, the name of the Chair, and meeting schedules from Mr. Krentz.

Chair Ladd noted the District depends on AACD for summary reports from each committee. Information will be funneled through the HNRCD Board Clerk rather than individual Supervisors.

A brief discussion on OHV damage, legislation, enforcement, and the newly formed AACD OHV Committee.

This item can be removed from the agenda.

6. Resolution and Policy Update

Chair Ladd asked Ms. Roberts if she had received any comments from the Supervisors since the last discussion. Ms. Roberts replied negatively.

Motion: Supervisor Pat Call moved to approve the resolution and policy updates as presented.
Second: Supervisor Steve Boice seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.
Discussion: None

H. New Business – No new business

Comments/Announcements

I. Board Clerk, Supervisor, Advisor Comments/Announcements

Ms. Roberts advised the Board that the District received a disbursement of \$1200.00 state education fund money.

J. Correspondence

1. NACD Membership Renewal and Flyer Information Agenda for next month.

Ms. Roberts reported that NACD collects fees by fiscal year and that the District's membership is due for FY22. Add to November's agenda.

2. Deluxe Checks Reorder Form

Ms. Roberts stated that Supervisor Lindsey reorders checks and usually does that hard copy rather than online. The reorder forms come to the District on a regular basis.

K. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 6:24 P.M.

Hereford NRCD does not discriminate against any person based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by law.

ACRONYMS

AACD	Arizona Association of Conservation Districts
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Ag	Agriculture
AIM	Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Strategy (BLM program)
ALWT	Arizona Land and Water Trust
ACGA	Arizona Cattle Growers Association
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
AGFD	Arizona Game and Fish Department
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCRN	Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network
CIS	Conservation Implementation Strategy
CRM	Coordinated Resource Management
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
CTE	Career and Technical Education
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FHSL	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape
FLPMA	Federal Land Planning and Management Act
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FY	Fiscal Year
NC	Nature Conservancy
HPC	Habitat Partnership Committees
HNRCD	Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
LHE	Land Health Evaluation
LRP	Landowner Relations and Habitat Enhancement Program
Mitten	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Boundary
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts

NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRCWAY	Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SAE	Supervised Agricultural Experience
SARC	Small Acreage Resource Concerns
SHPO	State Historical Preservation Office
SLRP	Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership
SP NRCD	San Pedro Natural Resource Conservation District
SPRNCA	San Pedro River National Conservation Area
SRM	Society for Range Management
TBD	To Be Determined
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
VPA	Voluntary Public Access
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WPF	Water Protection Fund
WWD NRCD	White-Water Draw Natural Resource Conservation District