

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Palominas Fire District Training Center Facility
9222 S Kings Ranch Rd, Hereford, AZ 85615

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Ladd called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

B. Introductions

Board Present: Lucinda Earven, Mike Hayhurst, Steve Boice, John Ladd, Jim Lindsey

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Mary Francis Clinton, District Landowner
Chuck Cunningham, HNRCD Cooperator
Ivette Cunningham, HNRCD Cooperator
Don Decker, NRCS Douglas Field Officer
Kathy Morris, HNRCD Cooperator
Joanne Roberts, HNRCD Board Clerk
Deborrah Smith, Arizona Association Conservation Districts (AACD)

C. Call to the Public

NONE PRESENT

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting September 16, 2020

Motion: Chairman John Ladd moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2020.

Correction: Vice Chair Lucinda Earven requested two corrections under the Upper San Pedro Partnership report.

Motion: Vice Chair Earven moved to approve the meeting minutes with corrections.

Second: Supervisor Lindsey seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: None.

Chairman Ladd stated he would like to begin with New Business, Agenda Item 4. Mary F. Clinton, Small Land Owner Invasive Species Assist. With no objections, Ms. Clinton began her presentation. See full minutes on this topic under Agenda Item H-4 in this document.

E. Agency and Committee Reports

1. Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP)

Vice Chair Earven reported the Partnership is due to have a meeting on November 11, 2020. Agenda topics will include a review of gravity data from 2008 and (City of Sierra Vista) Environmental Operations Park groundwater level report. She further noted that this meeting is open to the public.

2. National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Mr. Don Decker provided a handout. He states that starting in fiscal year 2021, the way the NRCS will fund EQIP funds statewide is through "ranking pools." Although new, it is somewhat related to Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS). Mr. Decker further reports that the Agency is in the process of reorganizing the structure between the State and the Field Offices and what is now identified as "Teams." He refers to the second page of his handout. HNRCD is part of Team 7. Mr. Decker discussed ranking pools (EQIP funding pools) and the hiring and assignment of a District Team Leader for each team which there are a total of 8 teams. Mr. Decker discusses his approach to filing the HNRCD's two (out of five total) ranking pool profiles which are a range related and an irrigated land ranking pool. He recommends filing as Southern Cochise County (not counting Tribal ranking pool) ranking pool which combines WWD and Hereford NRCDs range CIS's. Further discussion included, other ranking pool profiles and initiatives such as air quality, Joint Chiefs Fort Huachuca funding money, working lands for wildlife, and 17 identified resource concerns.

a. Local Working group Processes and Review of November Report

Mr. Decker states by July 30, 2021, a report will be due that describes the activities of the Local Working Groups. He describes examples of the Workgroups.

Chair Ladd asks about partnering with WWD NRCD. Mr. Decker responds that it is possible and it could be beneficial in having greater partner participation by the various agencies because of competing meeting times for numerous Workgroups and believes it makes good sense.

Chair Ladd identifies list of agencies which are normally present at the monthly HNRCD Board Meeting with the exception of Cochise County and City of Sierra Vista. Mr. Decker provides a list of potential partners that were considered when the CIS was developed. Further discussion on which agency can potentially bring money to the table and lapse of Working group meetings and the value of reconstituting them.

Supervisor Lindsey notes that ADWR is missing from the potential partner and could bring funding. No money was allocated this legislative session.

Chair Ladd and Mr. Decker clarify the NRCS report date of November 30, 2020 which Mr. Decker is basing the report information from the Hereford CIS.

Chair Ladd asks about the EQIP cycle and Mr. Decker notes that he does not have the schedule yet but will advise the Board as soon as he is provided the information. Chair Ladd inquires if someone has an EQIP project in mind whether they should begin working with Mr. Decker now. Mr. Decker responds positively to make sure you are on the list of a potential applicant.

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

Chair Ladd opens a discussion to the Board on whether if an agency representative is not able (or allowed) to attend the Board Meeting, that we would request a written brief summary report prior to the meeting. He received positive responses from all of the Board Members,

4. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – No one present to report

Chair Ladd asks if anyone has had any interaction with Eric Baker. Supervisor Boice noted there was no one in the offices. Discussion continued on a list of changes to the rules for the grazing allotments on the SPRNCA. Supervisor Lindsey noted he was given information in reference to the litigation with Western Watershed and the suggested changes for the SPRNCA grazing allotments that BLM proposes that will appease the litigators. Supervisor Hayhurst further explains that there is a change for monitoring E. coli in the river and how that may affect the continuance of his grazing allotments on BLM and State Land. He further states that an NGO will be conducting the monitoring. Supervisor Lindsey believes no additional information is forthcoming until after the first of next year but believes the ultimate goal is to eliminate all grazing allotments.

Supervisor Hayhurst reminded the Board that the District put a lot of effort into saving the allotments on the SPRNCA and that it should get involved with the lawsuit as friends of the Court.

Chair Ladd provides an update from Jeff Eisenberg of the Cattle Growers Association, on the SPRNCA Amicus Brief. Additional discussion including court proceedings and schedules, a draft brief review (sometime in November from George Ruhle, U of A), signatory in a letter of support, scientific statements, allotment holder participation into the lawsuit, BLM's final SPRNCA Resource Management Plan (RMP), which allotments would be affected and replacement of allotment holders should someone lose or opt out of their lease.

Supervisors Earven and Boice suggests that at a minimum, the District should send a letter to remind them (BLM) of all the work the District completed previously for the RMP in support of grazing allotments on the SPRNCA. Chair Ladd indicated that he was advised not to bombard them with letters but initially the allotment holders should be involved and the District could follow up with a letter of support.

Ms. Deborrah Smith advised the District should take the lead on monitoring the water quality as the science based legal authority for natural resources in this District and advise BLM as such rather than hiring an NGO. A brief discussion followed on public/allotment holder comment periods, flow in the River, how the District can support Supervisors Lindsey and Hayhurst as allotment holders, and when would it be the appropriate time to do so. Supervisor Boice suggested Chair Ladd follow up with Dr. George Ruhle and that this be added to the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

5. Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) – No one present to report

6. Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN)

Chair Ladd stated they met visa vie ZOOM© recently but they do not have any money or projects at this time. He has not attended for the past two months and while they spent quite a bit of money on studies, designs, and NRCS grants in the past, they are not currently active in acquiring new funding for implementing projects. A brief discussion on pending projects and available funding mechanisms ensued.

7. Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP)

Supervisor Hayhurst understands they were allocated a lot of money and there will be a face to face (and virtual) meeting on October 28, 2020 in Tucson that he plans to attend.

8. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) – No one present to report

Ms. Smith noted Mr. Hans Huth has moved to another position. Ms. Sharma Torrens, AACD Partnership Coordinator is in the process of contacting the new person to establish a relationship with the new person.

9. Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) – No one present to report

10. Arizona Association of Conservation Districts (AACD)

Ms. Deborah Smith reviewed the highlights from the October AACD Board of Directors Meeting which was attended by Chair Ladd, Supervisor Boice, and Board Clerk Roberts. The presentation power-point is still on the website under Conference tab. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021.

AACD will be participating in the Legislators' on the Lawn at the State Capital on January 12, 2021. However, if the covid-19 numbers increase, it will most likely be cancelled. Further information will be announced in mid-December.

A Conservation AZ magazine was released and its purpose is for the Districts' to use to provide information to the public and organizations to gather support. The release of the magazine launches the outreach program identified in the AACD strategic plan. The magazine will be published biannually. Fifty copies will be printed for each District. Additional information was provided on how individuals and organizations can donate for local (HNRCD) support on the AACD website. Monies donated through this site will be added to the Districts account separate from state appropriations. In addition, there is a weekly e-newsletter that will have business updates such as an upcoming resolution on wild burros.

Ms. Smith states the BLM renewed its 5- year agreement and provided one-million dollars for the first year. She will keep the Districts advised on how the money is to be spent. She further reports that the District will receive money from an EPA education grant for workshops and/or classroom education. This is a savings account and will be tracked by Ms. Smith for grant reporting requirements. Supervisor Lindsey asked if the money can be spent or be given to the 4-H group. Ms. Smith responded negatively. The money must be spent directly by the Board for workshops, to create outreach materials, or for outreach to small landowners (e.g. sending Ms. Roberts to meet with them). Supervisor Boice inquires whether this money can be used to match 4-H money in a partnership agreement. Ms. Smith states that she would need to know what the money was being use for in advance of expenditure to be approved. The money is targeted specifically for natural resource conservation, sustainable food, composting and other items. It is specific to actual conservation and soil health practices, not raising livestock or animal feed supplies. Ms. Torrens will be leading the effort as the Conservation Director for the State and will be working directly with Supervisor Lindsey.

Chair Ladd states his understanding of the use for the money is a workshop and if a guest speaker was hired, that the District could pay a fee out of this money. Ms. Smith replies affirmatively and further clarifies that it is a Federal grant and that the money cannot be spent on food.

Other discussion included the member term limits of the AACD Board of Directors, the Water Protection Fund Board openings and representatives from the Districts including Vice Chair Earven.

F. District Financial Reports

1. Payment Schedule

Motion: Supervisor Hayhurst moved to authorize payment of items 1-3 on the Payment Schedule.

Second: Vice Chair Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.
Discussion: None

2. Financial Reports—File for Audit

Motion: Supervisor Boice moved to file the financial reports for audit.
Second: Supervisor Earven seconded the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.
Discussion: None.

G. Old Business

1. Review and Approval of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Template Letter
Ms. Smith notifies the Board that the RCPP changed their rules this year including a requirement that cash to cash must match equally. There will be another opportunity in July 2021. Item to be removed from the Agenda.
2. Local Workgroup Organization; Meeting Date TBD
Ms. Smith asks Mr. Decker if the Workgroup needs to be convened prior to his November 20 report deadline. Mr. Decker responds negatively. Ms. Smith advised that some of the Districts are having Workgroup meetings next month via ZOOM®. They are also sending out a questionnaire that should be submitted before their scheduled meeting. Further discussion on a State Committee that is being formed to study the Workgroups to evaluate how they are working and how to improve them. The Committee will be comprised of District Supervisors, Board Clerks, and NRCS staff. Training will be developed and implemented as well.

Mr. Decker indicated that for future, especially with the State emphasis, a Workgroup meeting in conjunction with or without WWD will be adventitious for the District. Ms. Smith further notes that if you hold a local Workgroup this year, AACD is available to help. Chair Ladd indicated he defers to Mr. Decker. Mr. Decker is ready to support the effort to mobilize before the November 20 report deadline.

Supervisor Lindsey inquired about the questionnaire sent out by other Districts and the time frame needed for responses. Ms. Smith noted that Willcox NRCD RSVPs to the ZOOM® meeting have been greater than returned questionnaires. Supervisor Lindsey inquired about a form letter to send out to partners and Ms. Smith stated that a template is available. Additionally, she notes a couple of Districts are only sending out a questionnaire and not holding a ZOOM® meeting. To clarify, Supervisor Lindsey asks if the other Districts that are only sending out a questionnaire, are just tabulating the natural resource concern responses. Ms. Smith responds positively. Additionally, Ms. Torrens is available to help with that effort.

Chair Ladd states he does not believe there is enough time to get it done for this year. Mr. Decker states that the “half measure,” that is sending out just the questionnaire, may be worth the effort. Supervisor Lindsey agrees and this effort at least demonstrates the Board’s due diligence.

Ms. Roberts inquires as to which list or lists should be used for the questionnaire mailing. The decision to use the names from the Districts’ Cooperator list, the previous postcard survey list (if email information was provided), and the CIS partner list provided by Mr. Decker would be used. The venue will be primarily email communication, a link on the HNRCD website, and for those Cooperators that do not have email access, a hard copy will be sent to their mailing address.

Ms. Morris asked for clarification from Ms. Smith on follow-up calls to individuals that have not responded. Ms. Smith stated Ms. Torrens can follow up with any Agency. Ms. Roberts asked the Board for a list of priority Agency contacts to send to Ms. Torrens immediately so she can make initial "heads up" calls to these individuals to look for the HNRCD questionnaire as well as follow up calls to non-responders.

Chair Ladd inquired about assigning a Board Supervisor Lead for this task. Ms. Roberts stated that the intent to assign one Supervisor as Lead is for that individual to take ownership of the task and to be responsible for the completion of the tasks to the satisfaction of the Board as well as to provide Board reports. Ms. Roberts will move forward with sending the questionnaire upon receipt of the template from Ms. Smith and any comments from the Board. She will work with AACD staff on tabulating the responses and provide the results to Mr. Decker before the next HNRCD Board meeting on November 18. Mr. Decker will incorporate the information into his November 20 report.

H. New Business

1. Benefits and Need for Replacement/New Advisors

Chair Ladd opens the discussion by identifying the structure that is in place and what expertise is needed at this time.

Vice Chair Earven stated she believes that we need to encourage Cooperators like Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham (who left this meeting just prior to this discussion). Chair Ladd asked, what is their expertise to advise the Board? Supervisor Hayhurst asked if they could represent the small land owner. More discussion on the topic of expertise, promoting participation in the District's business, the purpose and role of an Advisor, promoting Advisors to Supervisors, Advisor engagement, young people participation, meeting time and commitment.

2. Nomination of New Advisors

Motion: Supervisor Hayhurst moved to nominate Chuck and Ivette Cunningham representing small landowners.

Second: Supervisor Boice seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Supervisor Earven moved to nominate Pat Call to join as an Advisor after December 31, 2020.

Second: Supervisor Lindsey seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: None.

3. Review of the Whitewater Draw/Hereford NACD Grant. Approval for Fred Davis and John Ladd to represent the two District Boards in the hiring of staff

Motion: Supervisor Boice moved to approve Chair Ladd to represent the HNRCD in hiring the grant staff position.

Second: No second.

Vote: No vote is needed without a second.

Discussion: Supervisor Earven asked for clarification on the staff position. Ms. Smith stated the position is a technical position (assistant to Douglas NRCS Field Office). He/she

will be hired as a contract shared position between WWD and Hereford NRCD. A revised position announcement was issued and should be distributed to qualified individuals. The cut off for applying is November 1.

Ms. Smith further identified the HNRCD is allocating \$7,000.00 dollars to the grant for focusing on outreach to small landowners. Additionally, the \$64,500 NACD contribution is for the technical position. There was a meeting with the Board Clerks, Chair Ladd, and Chair Davis in which it was discussed that the Board Clerks would handle the outreach portion of the grant. Ms. Smith asks the Board if that is how they want to proceed. Further discussion on the allocation of the \$7000.00 (to be invoiced one lump sum at the end of year), the workshops planned, and the different needs between WWD and HNRCD. The Grant identifies that 20 small landowner contacts must be made in the year, 10 for WWD and 10 for HNRCD.

Ms. Smith clarifies that AACD is administering the Grant and is carrying the insurance liability and will be paying the contractor. For the Board Clerks, each will report time and tasks to Ms. Smith and AACD will pay them directly. Chair Ladd asks Ms. Smith to clarify the Grant cycle and position pay rate.

Ms. Roberts states there is a motion on the table and without a second, the motion falls to the floor. A new motion is made.

Motion: Supervisor Lindsey motions that Chair Ladd, for the HNRCD, be the main representative for decisions made for the NACD Contract.

Second: Supervisor Earven seconds the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: None.

4. Mary Francis Clinton, Small Land Owner Invasive Species Assist

Ms. Clinton provided two handouts. The first was a parcel – lot map and the second was an overview stating the reason for her to engage with the District on the invasive Russian Thistle. Ms. Clinton has requested financial support in her efforts to convert 10 acres of Russian Thistle infested pastureland to a more productive cover crop. After much discussion, Mr. Don Decker, NRCS stated that he would contact Ms. Clinton outside the meeting to schedule a site visit to review best management options for the property.

I. Education Program

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program

a. Report from Tombstone Ag Program

Supervisor Lindsey starts the discussion by saying that the Tombstone Superintendent and Principle could not make the 1:00 p.m. time change for this meeting. He is working with them to provide a presentation by Amber Ford and the Principle for the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting.

He asks the Board to refer to the letter sent late yesterday from Ms. Ford on the Tombstone program. A lengthy discussion on the District's continued support for their program and subsequently the need for a contract. Supervisor Lindsey detailed the numerous occasions beginning in 2018 requesting a detailed/itemized report from Ms. Ford on the program costs and

student achievements. Ms. Ford's responses have to date been generalized. The Board continued the discussion reviewing accountability and the best way forward for the current situation and for future support.

Discussion on the State Board's Instructional Framework for Agriscience took place as it relates to Ms. Ford's projected spending of the District's donation and if the items she lists meet State statutes on spending those funds. Ms. Ford's letter identifies a planned construction of an Ag building but that was planned prior to Ms. Ford being hired. Further discussion on how the money was intended to be spent (educational material, required FFA clothing for the students, student travel costs to the nationals, and the implementation of the welding program). Supervisor Lindsey will contact the Principal to let him know the level of detail the Board is expecting at the November 18 meeting.

Supervisor Boice and Supervisor Lindsey state that the District should respond to Ms. Amber's letter and detail the issues the Board has with her response. Supervisor Boice further states he believes Ms. Roberts should generate the reply letter from the District and with approval from Board send the response. The letter should inform Ms. Ford and her supervisor that a contract with stated deliverables will be required in future because in past the Board understood the money was being well spent and we no longer hold that opinion. The letter should also include language to the effect that what was listed in Ms. Ford's letter is not what the District was supporting and by State statute the Board needs a monetary itemized list of expenditures to date and a re-evaluation how the unspent money will be spent. Ms. Ford should be prepared to review the itemized accounting and reconciliation with the Board at the November 18 meeting. There is also a need for the Board to include school site visits.

2. San Pedro Spirits 4-H Group

Supervisor Boice contacted the Directors and they are planning on a presentation at the November 18 meeting. The list of needs was provided previously. All three programs will be presented and 5 minutes will be allocated for each speaker.

3. Approval to Adopt Memorandum of Agreement/Contract Template

Ms. Roberts notes the template was sent on two occasions to the Board as well as being included in this Meeting's Board Packet. She further states a Motion should be entertained to accept the Template as is or to be customized for HNRCD.

Motion: Supervisor Earven motions to accept the Template as written.
Second: Supervisor Lindsey seconds the motion.
Vote: Carried unanimously.
Discussion: None.

J. Board Clerk Updates Time Permitting (actions may be taken)

Ms. Roberts states due to the lateness of time, she would like to table most of the items below and requests the Board provide any comments or feedback to her on each topic before the next Board Meeting.

1. Telephone access for Board Meetings
2. Zoom®/virtual meetings, work sessions etc.

3. Cooperator 2020 Dues Received and 2021 Solicitation Letter
4. Webpage

Ms. Roberts notes that on the AACD website there is a specific tab for the HNRCD. There are no limits to how many pages but there would be no Administrative rights to the page. If the Board agreed, Ms. Roberts would phase out the local website over time. A small annual savings would be realized.

5. Newsletter
6. Tracking Volunteer Time

Ms. Roberts requests the Board begin tracking their volunteer using Ms. Smith template on a regular basis, perhaps a monthly report. Ms. Roberts would in turn send the information to Ms. Smith so she has the information in hand for future Grant application. The template was provided to the Board earlier this month.

7. Clarification on Payment Categories; Are They Still Required

K. Correspondence

1. Arizona Land and Water Trust
2. Deluxe Checks Renewal Notice
3. Cooperator 2020 Dues
4. NACD Dues (motion carried to pay \$250.00 at 16 Sept 2020 meeting)

L. Supervisor Comments (no actions will be taken)

NONE

M. Future Meetings / Agenda Items

November 18 and December 16, 2020 Regular Board Meetings:

Location: Palominas Fire District Training Center Facility

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Future Agenda Items From 16 September 2020 meeting:

San Pedro 4-H – **November**

Wildlife Attractors Workshop- **December**

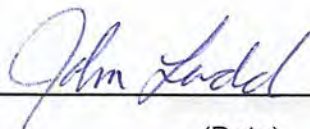
Future Agenda Items From 21 October 2020 meeting:

BLM (George Ruhle) update SPRNCA Amicus Brief - **November**

Tombstone FAA Program - **November**

N. Adjournment: Chair Ladd adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

Approved by the Board



NOV 18 2020

(Date)

Signed _____

(John Ladd, Chairman)

ACCRONYMS

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
CIS	Conservation Implementation Strategy
CRM	Coordinated Resource Management
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FLPMA	Federal Land Planning and Management Act
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
NC	Nature Conservancy
HPC	Habitat Partnership Committees
HNRCD	Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District
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
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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