

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District (HNRCD) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday August 19, 2020

Telephonic Meeting

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

Others Present: Don Decker—NRCS, Scott Feldhausen—BLM, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

A. Call to Order

John Ladd called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

B. Introductions

People identified themselves as they logged onto the call.

C. Call to the Public: Tricia Gerrodette asked how she could be notified when the group went back into regular session after being in executive session. Kathy Morris suggested she email her telephone number and Kathy would call her, which Tricia did.

Board Clerk's Note: The group did not vote to go into executive session.

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting July 15, 2020

Motion: Jim Lindsey moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 15, 2020 as written.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Special Meeting, August 13, 2020

Motion: Jim Lindsey moved to approve the special meeting minutes of August 13, 2020 as written.

Second: Lucinda Earven seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Agency and Committee Reports

1. USPP: Lucinda Earven said there was nothing to report. The last meeting was scheduled for August 12th, but it was cancelled.

2. NRCS: Don Decker reported no Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications from the Hereford District were approved for funding this year.

The program itself involved a lot of "back and forth" between the applicants and the NRCS, and added "things they could do on their operation, be it farm or ranch." In the Douglas office there were 10 applicants, only one in the HNRCD. The Douglas office was only able to fund two of the ten applicants.

The question was asked: "What was the total funding amount for the State of Arizona?" Don didn't have the figures at hand but he thought the total for AZ was in the \$200,000+ range. These monies come from the Farm Bill.

It was questioned if applying for this program is worth the effort needed to be spent by the producer. These are five-year contracts and all the money awarded comes out of the year the contract is funded. The Douglas office has been representing CSP appropriately but not enough applicants are being funded to make the process appear worthwhile to producers.

The question was asked if it would be beneficial/constructive for HNRCD to write a letter to NRCS with the concerns and problems of the CSP program. Don thought there might be more “power” if several Districts got together on a letter. The point was made AACD needs to be a part of the letter.

Jim Lindsey and John Ladd will draft a letter for the September HNRCD meeting for approval.

The Board needed the email from Emilio Carillo on 2020 Annual Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Meeting – Cochise & Graham-Greenlee Groups resent with attachments. Don and Kathy will get this done. CRM covered further under *New Business, #2*.

3. USFS: No one present to report.

4. BLM: Scott Feldhausen reported BLM is still maintaining remote work status, field staff are still going out as available, and they are still in the middle of a very active fire season.

The question was asked if there is anything new with the lawsuit over the SPRNCA grazing allotments. The original suit has been amended to include Fish and Wildlife Service and Endangered Species Act (ESA) complaints. The plaintiffs extended their time for completing that. Early September to give a joint answer back was the last known status on the answer date.

5. AZGFD: They are still working from home or alone out in the field.

6. CCRN: John Ladd reported they have completed their inventory of data for 2019. Horseshoe Draw data showed 167 acre feet of recharge for the San Pedro River in 2019. Horseshoe Draw had the most recharge of any of CCRN’s data on recharge projects. Five floods out of Mexico went into Horseshoe Draw this summer.

7. SLRP: Scott Feldhausen reported SLRP is working on the agenda for the Fall partnership meeting which will be late October. It’s still unknown if the meeting will be remote or at least somewhat in person. The draft implementation plans are ready to “roll out” to the partnership this fall. There is continued focus on having the individual agencies and organizations work on implementation of action that will move SLRP towards the finalization of the strategic plan. Objectives are still: open space and working lands, water, endangered species restoration, and keeping Fort Huachuca functioning.

8. ADEQ: No one present to report.

F. District Financial Reports

1. Payment Schedule

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

Second: Jim Lindsey seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Financial Reports—File for Audit

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved to file the financial reports for audit.

Second: Steve Boice seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

G. Old Business

1. Wildlife Attractors Workshop: Steve Boice has spoken with San Pedro Spirits 4-H Group and they still want to provide lunch at the event. He spoke with Jan Groth—Master Gardner, U of A Extension Service and she just “needs a date.” The schools are still pretty much closed. It’s unwise to change the venue because Jan had/has growing plants to speak about at the college. Bottom line: HNRCD will still have the workshop when able to do so.

2. HNRCD October Meeting Date Change: Kathy Morris reported the Cochise County Complex building is still closed to the public. Currently no date to open has been established.

3. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Letter of Support: Sharma Torrens—AACD will attend the September HNRCD regular meeting to report on this.

H. New Business

1. Possible Board Clerk Action: No action necessary.

2. 2020 Annual Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Meeting: Don Decker reported the idea behind these meetings (which have been occurring for a long time) is to get the government agencies, NRCDs, and ranch people together to talk about places that are being coordinated on with planning efforts. This will be the first virtual meeting. These meetings originated to coordinate resource management plans on ranches; to have a single planning document that can be signed off on by all agencies involved on a single ranch. It's not uncommon for a ranch to consist of private land, BLM, and/or Forest Service, and/or State land allotments. Another aspect is to have the various agencies update one another on changes, etc. NRCDs historically send one representative to these meetings and NRCS will send the range con working with various ranches.

In the past Hereford NRCD's involvement with this was the Grassland Restoration Project, but there haven't been any projects for three years. However, HNRCD still needs to participate for any future brush management plans.

3. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat-Comments Due September 4, 2020:

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved HNRCD should send comments to AACD. Jim Lindsey will send Kathy Morris the wording to use.

Second: Steve Boice seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Nothing to report. Tombstone High School is going to open next week. Jim Lindsey will speak to Amber Ford—Ag Instructor, THS and report next month.

2. San Pedro Spirits 4-H Group: Steve Boice reported the 4-H group is in "standstill" like everyone else. It was suggested that a member of their group attend an HNRCD regular meeting to give the supervisors an idea of what needs they have and how the District can help them.

J. Correspondence: None

K. Supervisor Comments: Jim Lindsey brought up the webinar this Friday put on by ASLD concerning budget items. Jim and Kathy Morris will attend.

L. Future Meetings / Agenda Items:

HNRCD Regular Meeting

September 16, 2020

TBD

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.

Sierra Vista, AZ

May be Telephonic: If so, the meeting will be held at 8:15 a.m.

Agenda Items:
NACD Membership Dues

M. Executive Session: Notice is hereby given to the members of the Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District Board of Supervisors and to the general public that the Board, pursuant to A.R.S. §38- 431.02, may vote to convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. No vote will be taken in Executive Session. If authorized by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Session will be held immediately after the vote. The Executive Session will not be open to the public. All persons present at an Executive Session are hereby reminded that A.R.S. §38-431.03 imposes strict confidentiality requirements on discussions that occur in Executive Session. Generally, such discussions cannot be revealed to non-board members, unless necessary to carry out the purpose of the statutory provision that specifically permits an Executive Session. The Open Meeting Law provides for a fine of up to \$500 for violating this confidentiality requirement, and requires that this admonition be given.

The Board Did Not Vote To Go Into Executive Session

N. Adjournment: John Ladd adjourned the regular meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Approved by the Board 16 September 2020
(Date)

Signed John Ladd
(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 |
| 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 |

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| 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 |

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

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