

HEREFORD NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (HNRCD)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday May 20, 2020

Telephonic Meeting

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

Others Present: Steve Boice—Advisor, Hans Huth—ADEQ, Don Decker—NRCS, Sharma Torrens—AACD, Joy Banks—Cooperator, Tricia Gerrodette—citizen, Anne Kramer—citizen, Kathy Morris—Board Clerk

A. Call to Order

John Ladd called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

B. Introductions

People identified themselves as they logged onto the call.

C. Call to the Public: *Tricia Gerrodette said she wanted to inform the HNRCD Supervisors and Hans Huth—ADEQ that there have been recent photos taken of cattle damage to the SPRNCA to the north of the Hereford Bridge, on the west side of the river. Tricia said when the flood waters come “an awful lot of erosion” will occur so there will be silt carried downstream. She said she would like to make sure Eric Baker—BLM knows about it. The question was asked: who took the photographs—was it an individual or an organization? Tricia disclosed that a friend of hers took the photos but the photographer wanted to remain anonymous.*

The District comment was: this is a BLM issue.

Clerk's Note: After the meeting Tricia emailed the photos to the clerk. Anyone interested in seeing the photos please email nrcdhereford@gmail.com.

D. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting April 15, 2020

Motion: Mike Hayhurst moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2020 as written.

Second: David Greenberg seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

E. Agency and Committee Reports

1. USPP: Lucinda Earven reported the last meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2020.

2. NRCS: Don Decker reported EQIP applications are due for ranking today. By May 22, 2020 the top scoring applicants will be preapproved. All contracts are to be funded by June 22, 2020. There are seven applicants from the Hereford District and they are all rangeland resource related.

3. USFS: No one present to report.

4. BLM: No one present to report.

Mike Hayhurst brought up that BLM is involved in a lawsuit with the Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watershed over the four existing cattle allotments on SPRNCA. Mike would like the District to respond to this issue with a support letter of BLM's RMP.

5. AZGFD: No one present to report.

6. CCRN: There is a scheduled meeting May 20, 2020 to review benefits of existing projects and to review the status of proposed projects.

7. SLRP: Nothing to report.

8. ADEQ: Hans Huth reported the grassland subcommittee of SLRP had a meeting a couple of weeks ago to identify the priority projects for rangeland, focusing on water projects—the Babocamari River in particular. Hans will be presenting two projects today to the Water Quality Division Director of ADEQ; one a fencing project and the other a rangeland restoration project.

F. District Financial Reports

1. Payment Schedule

Motion: David Greenberg moved to authorize payment of items 1-2 on the Payment Schedule.

Second: Mike Hayhurst seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

2. Financial Reports—File for Audit

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

Second: Jim Lindsey seconded the motion.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

G. Old Business

1. Wildlife Attractors Workshop: The workshop is still postponed, with no new date yet set.

2. HNRCD October Meeting Date Change: Still tabled. Kathy Morris will keep checking and trying to contact the room reservationist at the Sierra Vista County Complex.

H. New Business

1. Sharma Torrens—AACD: Sharma reported the AACD annual conference scheduled for July 7-9, 2020 has been cancelled until next year due to COVID 19. AACD, on behalf of the NRCDs, is going to be seeking the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership grant. The focus will be on soil health for this region. It's going to be basically education and outreach to producers, to encourage them to implement the conservation stewardship program and/or NRCS practices that revolve around soil health. The first focus will be in the Wilcox area, then all of Cochise County. An essential goal is water conservation. Healthy soil equals longer and better water retention.

2. Nomination for Appointment of Two Supervisors:

Nomination: Mike Hayhurst nominated John Ladd to continue and Steve Boice to fill David Greenberg's post who is retiring the end of May, 2020 to the two appointed supervisor seats.

Second: Jim Lindsey seconded the nomination.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

Discussion: Jim Lindsey mentioned the email from Jackie Thomas—ASLD stating one signature will suffice on the ASLD candidate nomination form as long as the meeting minutes are attached.

3. Comment Letter—Critical Habitat for the Northern Mexican Gartersnake and the Narrow-headed Gartersnake: The District officially commented on this in 2013. According to the current *Federal Register* if comments were made earlier there is no need to comment again.

4. 2020 Annual Plan of Work—Due June 20, 2020: John Ladd and Jim Lindsey will meet with Kathy Morris to complete the computer work. Mike Hayhurst and Steve Boice will each “take a turn” with John or Jim and Kathy to familiarize them with the process.

Jim Lindsey is working with Deborah Smith—AACD on the District and District Education Center financial reports/requests for ASLD.

I. Education Programs

1. Tombstone High School Ag Program: Nothing to report. No one has any knowledge when/if school will resume.

2. Supervisor Contact San Pedro Spirits 4-H Group?: Due to the fact HNRCD is always searching for educational projects Lucinda Earven suggested the District contact the SPS 4-H group. It was collectively agreed that one or two supervisors would do so.

J. Correspondence

1. *NACD 2019 Annual Report*

K. Supervisor Comments: David Greenberg thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the HNRCD Board. The supervisors thanked David for his service.

L. Future Meetings / Agenda Items:

HNRCD Regular Meeting

June 17, 2020

Cochise County Complex

Wednesday

Large conference room

9:30 a.m.

Sierra Vista, AZ

May be Telephonic: If so, the meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Item: BLM/Center for Biological Diversity lawsuit.

M. Adjournment

John Ladd adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

Approved by the Board _____

6/19/20
(Date)

Signed _____

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
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FLPMA	Federal Land Planning and Management Act
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
NC	Nature Conservancy
HPC	Habitat Partnership Committees
HNRC	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
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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