

Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District

CONSERVING - PROTECTING - PRACTICING WISE USE



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Fall, 2018 Newsletter Chairman's Corner

Greetings to everyone. I hope you had enough rain this summer and fall to hold you over 'til next year. I know the rain was pretty spotty this year.

There have been some good meetings the last couple of months. One was a special meeting BLM had for the District on their draft San Pedro National Riparian Area (SPRNCA) Resource Management Plan (RMP). The District agreed with BLM's *Plan C*, which was their preferred plan also. We will wait and see how it turns out. The other big meeting was a tour of the Palominas Recharge Project and Horseshoe Draw. Nature Conservancy, HNRCD, Cochise County Recharge Network (CCRN), Cochise County, and Senator Gail Griffin put this tour together to promote water conservation, show the benefit of these projects to the San Pedro River as well as the community, and to try get more funding from the State. Senator Griffin brought some more involved legislators down from Phoenix. I think it went well.

Finally, the latest on Horseshoe Draw. Nature Conservancy gave money to the County to drill a monitoring well, flow meters, and other equipment that will verify the recharge of the aquifer. They spent around \$60,000.

The other big news for the HNRCD is Steve Boice was elected as our newest Advisor. Steve is a good fit for that position.

Best wishes to everyone. Hope to see you at our regular meetings.

With Regards,

John Ladd

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**Working Together to Enhance
Our Natural Resources**

Legislative Field Tour

By Pat Call, HNRCD Supervisor

On October 19th, Hereford Natural Resource Conservation District co-hosted a legislative field tour. The purpose of the tour was to share the progress of the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN) projects and define the remaining needs for support of the full build-out of the recharge network.

The Hereford NRCD is one of the founding members of the CCRN and is a critical member jointly responsible for the success of many of the completed projects. Additional co-hosts of the tour included Cochise County, the City of Sierra Vista and The Nature Conservancy.

Attending the tour were representatives from Congresswoman McSally's staff, the Governor's office, the State Legislature, The Walton Foundation, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the Salt River Project and Darling Geomatics. Also attending were elected officials and staff from CCRN member agencies.

Water replenishment efforts along the Upper San Pedro River are working: three aquifer recharge facilities are currently storing water in the ground that would otherwise have been lost, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network and its member agencies. The regional network of projects includes a total of seven sites along 25 miles of the Upper San Pedro and Babocomari Rivers, and additional recharge projects are in design and planning stages.

The first aquifer replenishment project was Sierra Vista's Environmental Operations Park; its recharge facilities became operational in 2002, and it has served as a model for the further development of a larger, more comprehensive network of projects in the region.

Two other facilities, the Palominas Flood Control and Recharge Project and the Horseshoe Draw Erosion Control and Recharge Project have come on-line since 2014.

These facilities capture accelerated storm water runoff and increase the amount of water going into the ground to help sustain the aquifer. They both also provide additional benefits such as flood control for public safety, protecting roadways and schools that have flooded in the past, as well as erosion control and sediment reduction.

The Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network projects recharge almost one billion gallons annually. Based on the success of the initial projects, the network is looking to bring additional projects on line on properties that also show great potential for water replenishment.

"Partnerships have been the key to these projects – particularly the Palominas and Horseshoe Draw efforts," said John Ladd, Chairman of the Hereford NRCD. He adds: "By providing leadership through partnerships, the members of the network are committed to protecting the river as well as the quality of life for all residents living in the Sierra Vista Subwatershed."

Summary of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Contracts Funded by NRCS- Douglas Field Office

By- Dusty Glidewell

Total in Hereford District

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

Total Funded: 6 contracts; \$214,619.00; 10,575.30 acres

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI):

4 contracts; \$163,338.00; 6,308 acres

Working Lands for Wildlife:

1 contract; \$35,493.00; 18 acres

National Air Quality Initiative (Air Quality):

1 contract; \$15,788.00; 13 acres

RCPP- EQIP Sentinel Landscape:

Total Funded: 4 contracts; \$213,918.00; 6,204 acres

FY2018 Total: 10 contracts \$428,537.00 16,779.3 acres

Arizona Land and Water Trust 2018-2019 Field Trips

Arizona Land and Water Trust is offering field trips to visit important conservation lands and projects made possible through partnerships with the Trust.

Lunch and transportation are provided for each trip. Call the Trust (520-577-8564) or email Colleen Iuliucci, Development Coordinator, at ciuliucci@alwt.org with any questions or to reserve a spot. Space is limited. Please RSVP no later than the Friday preceding each field trip date.

Friday, December 7, 2018: San Pedro River Ranches and Desert Rivers Program Tour. Learn how livestock operators and landowners partner with the Trust to keep both local food production and river flows sustainable.

Friday, January 25, 2019: Fort Huachuca and Historic Ranch Tour. Discover Fort Huachuca's history and the nexus between Trust work and sustaining military operations. Lunch at Babacomari Ranch and explore the ranch's historic legacy.

Friday, February 8, 2019: Sandhill Cranes and Local Foods Tour. It's that time of year! Gather at Whitewater Draw to view migrating Sandhill cranes. Visit the 47 Ranch and learn about the ranch's collaborative approach to conservation.

Friday, March 15, 2019: Santa Cruz River and Protected Lands Tour. Learn about the Trust's latest work in Santa Cruz County, walk along the Santa Cruz River and tour properties the Trust is working to protect through unique partnerships.

Board of Supervisor Changes

The Hereford NRCD has made some changes to the Board of Supervisor positions.

John Ladd is the Chairman, Lucinda Earven Vice Chairwoman, Jim Lindsey Secretary/Treasurer. David Greenberg and Pat Call remain as Supervisors.

They are appreciated for their countless volunteer hours serving as supervisors.



L-R: David Greenberg, John Ladd, Lucinda Earven, Jim Lindsey, Pat Call.

HNRCD Welcomes New Board Advisor

Steve Boice (L) has joined the District as a Board Advisor. Steve was raised on the Empire Ranch in Sonoita, Arizona. He worked at heavy construction, contracting at various mines in Arizona for many years.

He is currently co-founder of Horse'n Around Rescue in Hereford, Arizona.



How NRCD Boards Are Formed

There are 42 Natural Resource Conservation Districts in Arizona organized under State and Tribal law, under the umbrella of the Arizona State Land Department.

They are governed by locally elected and appointed officials. District supervisors are public officers and subject to all laws and requirements pertaining to public officials.

NRCD boards are composed of five supervisors. Three supervisors serve in an elected capacity with staggered 6 year terms of office, and two supervisors are appointed every even year by the Commissioner for two year terms.

Qualifications to run for election or be appointed include being an active cooperater of the District and an Arizona registered voter.

AACD Recognizes Rachel Thomas

The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts awarded Rachel Thomas their *Conservation Heritage Award* at the 2018 AACD Summer Conference in Litchfield Park, AZ.

When AACD asked for nominations for this award, stating "someone who has contributed lifelong service towards the goals of the Conservation Districts in the State of Arizona" the Hereford NRCD Board immediately thought of Rachel.

Before retiring in March, 2018 Rachel *did it all*: from writing resolutions and comment letters on federal actions to serving on the HNRCD Board and AACD committees to being a major "player" in coordination meetings and workshops. She was instrumental in the Horseshoe Draw Flood & Erosion Control, Water Quality Improvement & Water Recharge Project. These are only highlights of her contributions to conservation. Congratulations Rachel!

Left in the photo is Bobbie McDermott, Chairwoman of the AACD Cropland Committee. The gentleman on the right is Mark Kuechel, First Vice President for AACD. Jim Lindsey, center, accepting award for Rachel Thomas.



My Leadership Journey with Project CENTRL

By Dusty Glidewell, Natural Resource Specialist, USDA NRCS

Over the past two years, I have had the wonderful opportunity of participating in a leadership program that has helped me grow personally and improve my skills as a professional. This program is called Project CENTRL and I would like to tell you all a little about it and how it has affected my life.

I became interested in this program when I learned that it could help me to better serve my community and assist my customers at a higher level. I realized that this would be a great time commitment on my part, especially since I was going to be doing it in my personal time away from work. I decided it was worth it so in March of 2017 I applied for the program. My leadership journey with Project CENTRL soon began when I and twelve other participants were competitively selected for Class XXVI which held its first seminar June 15-17, 2017 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Project CENTRL Class XXVI met over a period of 12 months participating in nine seminars including The Fundamentals of Leadership, Effective Communication, Emerging Trends in Rural Arizona, Public Policy in Arizona, taking an International Trip to Mexico and a National Trip to Washington, D.C. and more.



Dusty Glidewell on the roof of the Farm Bureau Building in Washington, DC. April 2018

Going into this program I was not quite sure what to expect but I had heard many great things from previous graduates. The first thing I noticed was how supportive and caring the Project CENTRL board of directors, employees, alumni, and my fellow classmates were from the get go. It was apparent that each and every one of them was there for a common goal, which was to promote excellent leadership in rural communities throughout Arizona. I was very impressed by our first seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona where Class XXVI got to learn more about themselves and their class mates through the "True Colors" personality exercise. We also got to hear from a wonderful guest speaker, Randy Frazier, who taught us about what it means to be a leader and how to

challenge yourself to improve your leadership skills.

Being from an agricultural background, some of my favorite seminars included the Natural Resources Management and Agriculture in a Border Community. I got to learn about various agricultural operations around the state and teach my fellow classmates a little of what I know about the subjects we discussed. At the Natural Resources seminar in Show Low, Class XXVI got to talk to a panel of ranchers, tour a forest management project, and visit a wood burning power plant. At the Agriculture in a Border Community seminar in Yuma, Class XXVI got to tour a farm, a feed lot, and a dairy. We also got to discuss various challenges and opportunities in a border community with Homeland Security employees, farm managers, seed producers, and a food processing facility manager. I learned that life on the border in Yuma is very similar to life on the border in Douglas and that agriculture is a common interest we share in the United States and Mexico.



Dusty Glidewell during a Project CENTRL Class XXVI visit to an Arizona dairy farm, January 2018.

The most stimulating seminars for me included Communication Skills Building, Public Policy at the Arizona State Capitol, and Public Policy at the National Capital in Washington, DC. At these seminars we learned how to improve our communication and public speaking skills and got to meet with various leaders at the state and national levels. We also had the opportunity of sharing a portion of our D.C. experience with an agricultural leadership group from Georgia. These seminars were the most beneficial to me as I learned more about my communication style and learned how to face difficult communication challenges while working with people of different backgrounds and personalities. I believe that the communication and public speaking skills I learned throughout these seminars will help me throughout my career and various community activities that I am involved in for the rest of my life.



Dusty Glidewell excited to join Class XXVI for the Salt River Project (SRP) Helicopter Tour, March 2018.

Another fun experience was taking a helicopter tour of the Salt River Project water system. I was nervous to ride in a helicopter and was amazed at what a good time I had. Flying over the various lakes and dams was a beautiful experience that I am glad I got to share with my Project CENTRL classmates.

The program concluded with a team project and presentation entitled "Make a Difference," where class graduates address how they would help resolve and solve some of Arizona's key issues and challenges. Class XXVI finished up a great year right where it all began as they proudly celebrated with board members and CENTRL alumni from across the State and welcomed the incoming class of XXVII.

Dusty Glidewell, cont.

Most recently, I got to join Class XXVII on their international trip to tour agricultural operations and community organizations in Hermosillo and Ciudad Obregon in Sonora, Mexico. I had missed this seminar when my class attended and was very honored to be welcomed by Class XXVII as one of their own for the week. Our Mexican hosts were very gracious and informative throughout our trip.

On day one, we flew from Phoenix to Hermosillo and stopped to visit a large farming and packing operation on our way to Ciudad Obregon. I was impressed by the company's sense of community as they work to provide an employment program that includes housing, child care, health and dental care, and much more for residents in need of a job.

On day two, we visited the Yaqui Valley Irrigation District headquarters in Ciudad Obregon, took a trip to the Oviachic Reservoir, sampled some local seafood, visited, a large greenhouse farming operation, etc.

On day three, we visited a shrimp farm and got to hold some shrimp, visited an agricultural cooperative that includes farmers throughout southern Sonora, sampled some more of the local seafood, and enjoyed some musical entertainment from a performer who specializes in traditional Mexican music. We also got to visit a local Mercado during our stay in Ciudad Obregon.



Instituto De Tecnologico De Sonora. Boy in daycare placing a sticker on Dusty Glidewell's shoulder. With Class XXVII in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico, October 2018.

On our last day of the tour, we visited the CIANO Agricultural Experiment Station and learned much about the contributions of Norman Borlaug. We then visited a community outreach center (Instituto De Tecnologico De Sonora). This center was built in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods and has been instrumental in turning the community around.

Our last event in Ciudad Obregon was a dinner with music and entertainment where our hosts and some of the presenters from the week joined us. We got to listen to some more wonderful traditional Mexican music and watch some traditional Mexican performers while eating delicious food. The highlight of this trip for me was visiting with local farmers and community members and learning that their daily lives are not so different from those in rural communities and small cities in the United States. There are wonderful people in rural areas and smaller cities who are trying to make a living and help their communities when they can on both sides of the border. The international trip is a wonderful experience and brings each class closer together as a group.

In conclusion, going through the Project CENTRL program was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Although I faced many personal challenges due to my health while participating in Project CENTRL I deeply cherish my experiences and look forward to using my skills and new-found confidence in both my professional and personal life. I am very grateful that I was chosen to be a part of the Project CENTRL family. I was privileged to be a part of not one but two Project CENTRL classes and every one of them will forever have a special place in my heart. I also want to thank those of you in my community who supported and encouraged me throughout this experience. I could not have done it without you!

The Center for Rural Leadership, Project CENTRL, equips and empowers leaders to meet the needs of rural Arizona. Promoting healthy, vibrant and sustainable rural communities. Project CENTRL has trained over 600 Arizona leaders since 1983. Project CENTRL's impact on rural Arizona is significant and substantial as participants hold many leadership positions around the State.

Project CENTRL is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to improving the development of Arizona's rural leaders and establishing a network of problem-solvers, decision makers and spokespersons for rural Arizona. I encourage anyone who is interested in a wonderful leadership experience to take the time to apply. Visit www.centrl.org for more information.



Dusty Glidewell holding a shrimp in San Ignacio Rio Muerto, Sonora, Mexico. With Class XXVII, October 2018.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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BOARD MEETINGS
 Third Wednesday of every month
 9:30 AM
 Sierra Vista Cochise County
 Complex Conference Room
 Hwy 92 and Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista

Note: Date, location and time is subject to change.
 We invite District Cooperators and the general public's attendance and participation.

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www.herefordnrcd.com

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All programs of the Hereford NRC D are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, age, sex, religion, political belief, marital or familial status or handicap.