

Pima Natural Resource Conservation District
Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.
NRCS Plant Materials Center
3241 N. Romero Road
Tucson, AZ 85705



Final Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of the Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (PNRCD)

Meeting Date: Monday, November 25, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

Meeting Location: Michas Restaurant, 2908 S 4th Ave #4819, Tucson, AZ 85713

Attendees:

Supervisors: Jim Chilton, Cindy Coping, Jonathan DuHamel, Patricia King, and Andrew McGibbon (Absent). Chris Postel (Clerk), Alisha Phipps, and Brett Meyers (NRCS), Sharma Torrens (AACD Education Director, and Sue Chilton (Cooperator).

PNRCD Meeting

Call to Order - 1:41 pm

Approve August 20 Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** Supervisor DuHamel moved to **approve the meeting minutes** of August 20, 2019. Motion seconded by King. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.

Agency Reports

- NRCS (Brett Myer, NRCS-See Attached Report): They have 2 on-going Conservation Plans with 4 plans being completed. These completed plans need to be reviewed by the District. They have 10 current EQIP contracts. Alvaro Campos is back from training. The Tucson NRCS office is projected to have the new flooring installed by early December.
- AACD (Sharma Torrens, Education Center Director): Sharma is now the AACD Education Director with a focus on securing funding and managing the conservation stewardship program workshops.

Financial Report (See Attached): Per Clerk Postel, the checking account balances are: \$9,244.60 (State) and \$47,327.33 (District). The financial reports are filed.

- Proposed AZ State Land Chart of Accounts (See Attached Document): The proposed Chart of Accounts will not be finalized any earlier than the end of January 2020. The new structure requires a justification or function code; so, the accounting would require another level of reporting. So, the new structure could be set up by bank account vs entity (PNRCD, PCCE, etc). The current revenue and expenses are tracked in a spreadsheet. AACD can do the accounting for the Districts at no cost to them as long as the District has paid their dues. By having AACD do the accounting, it would be one less duty that the PNRCD staff would have to themselves and show the District's support for AACD. Supervisor Coping moved to **have AACD do the accounting**. Motion seconded by

Supervisor King. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay. Clerk Postel will contact Deborrah Smith about having AACD do the accounting.

Invoices:

- Clerk: Supervisor King moved to **approve the invoices** of Chris Postel (\$1,512.56). Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.
- NACD: Per Supervisor Coping, the NACD can use the funds to have a Western area issues specialist. Supervisor King moved to **approve the NACD invoice at the Gold level** for \$775. Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.

Administration (Chris Postel)

- Mailing List: The mailing list will be updated based on Supervisor Coping's mail chimp list. Then, the mailing list will be emailed to the Supervisors and NRCS for their updates. A newsletter will be emailed and mailed to help verify the addresses.
- Newsletter: A 5-page newsletter should be published with a "Chairman's Column", an article on the Sonoran Desert Tortoises Best Management Practices Summary, and a copy of the Cooperator's agreement and questionnaire. The newsletter would be emailed and mailed in the February timeframe.
- Website: The website needs to be streamlined with additional features incorporated. The current, free hosting limits the Wordpress functionality, it would cost \$300/year to upgrade to the business plan. Per Supervisor Coping, other web hosting options are available for about \$100-150/year and she will put together a proposal for the next meeting. **Motion:** Supervisor Coping moved to **switch to another hosting site/plan based on the proposal**. Motion seconded by Supervisor King. The Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.

Old Business

- Coronado Biological Assessment (BA) Update: Per Supervisor Chilton, only applicants (permittees) can comment on the assessment and opinion. Dr. George Ruyle comments were incorporated into grazing. Flaws have been corrected, such as if the Chiricahua leopard frog was in the stock pond; then, the cows couldn't drink from it. Based on comments, that restriction has been changed and now, cows are not excluded. The BA has been submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife (USFW). Now, the applicants have an opportunity to submit comments.
- International Border Resolution Update: Per Supervisor Chilton, a memorandum was sent and emailed to: Border Patrol, Congressional Representatives, Agencies, Homeland Security. In summary, a wall is needed to secure the boarder and operating stations need to be moved forward. A response from Senator Krysten Senema was received.
- Policy – Funding Activities Outside the Pima District: Per Supervisor Coping, the District paid for a biological consultant to study species outside the District but received limited support from other Districts. **Motion:** Supervisor Coping moved to **have a policy that would focus the PRNCD's efforts on species with the District but allow for exceptions**. Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.
- Altar Valley Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Update: Per Supervisor Chilton, he has testified twice before Congress regarding WOTUS. Over the past years, the Army Core of Engineers and the EPA have rewritten rules so that more dry washes, stock

ponds, etc, were part of WOTUS. In 2013, Legislation expanding WOTUS did not pass. He spent \$30,000 to get 404 permits to build a crossing over the Arivaca wash. The Trump Administration is rewriting these rules and regulations that should be published in December 2019. After these changes have been published, these revised rules and regulations should be reviewed to determine if the jurisdiction issue has been addressed. Per Supervisor King, Altar Valley has an WOTUS issue due to being under the EPA and Army Core of Engineers jurisdiction.

- Pima Pineapple Cactus Research: Per Supervisor Chilton, the District paid Robert Schmalzel (biological consultant) to write comments for the Coronado Biological Assessment and he did a good analysis on the Pima Pineapple Cactus but his work needs to be published. Perhaps, Kyle Thompson can apply for a grant for funding this publishing effort.

New Business

- Possible Dinner to Educate Congressional Representatives Regarding Border Issues: Per Supervisor Chilton, he was contacted by Congressman Biggs administrative assistant about bringing a group of Congressional representatives for a tour of the boarder in February. This will be the 3rd tour that Supervisor Chilton, Dan Bell and Ted Noon have conducted. After the tour, a steak dinner would be held and the Pima NRCD supervisors could attend. **Motion:** Supervisor Coping moved to **fund the steak dinner**. Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.
- Sonoran Desert Tortoise Lawsuit: This topic was discuss in the PCCE meeting.

Supervisors: Per Supervisor King, a lawsuit could be filed to re-list the Pigmy Owl. Currently, USFW personnel are visiting the nest.

Call to the public (None)

Next Meeting Date: February 11, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

Adjourn: 3:02 pm. Supervisor DuHamel moved to adjourn. Supervisor King 2nd. Motion carried 4 Aye- 0 Nay.

Final Minutes: Submitted by Chris Postel, Pima/PCCE NRCD Clerk on February 12, 2020

Date Minutes were Approved by the Pima NRCD Board of Supervisors Chairman:

Signed _____ Date _____
Jim Chilton, Chair, Pima NRCD/PCCE

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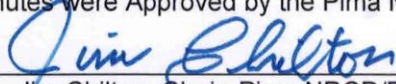
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2-14-20
Date

