



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



Draft Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of the
Pima Natural Resources Conservation District (PNRCD)

Meeting Date: February 10, 2021

Meeting Location: public teleconference

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:17 pm

Attendees:

Supervisors-Clerk: Jim Chilton (Chair), Cindy Copping, Jonathan DuHamel, Patricia King (Treasurer), Andrew McGibbon (Absent), and Chris Postel (Clerk).

Others: Josh Grace (AZ State Land Department), Alisha Phipps, Tom Reis, & Brett (NRCS), Stephen Williams (Santa Cruz NRCD), and Mary Darling (Darling Geomatics).

Huachuca Water Umbel Downlisting Petition Plan (Mary Darling – See Attached PDF): The Umbel exists in the Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pima Counties. Recent Umbel data is very limited. A study has been done in Mexico but the results have not been released. USFWS is looking for a recovery plan. The Umbel moves downstream when their habitat gets flooded out. She wants to work with the NRCDs and document conflicts with the Agency's data. Some of the Agency's processes are not good; once listed, it is hard to prove that the listing is wrong. A better use of time is to try and down list the Umbel. Per Stephen Williams, he looked at the July 2018 recovery plan and do they have down listing criteria. Per Mary, yes they have criteria (See PDF). Per Stephen Williams, do you need funding? Per Mary, they have some funding from last year. After the first year, more funding could be available. The USFWS is looking at Cienega Creek. Per Mary, she needs updated data from Citizens. Per Supervisor Copping, what system is in place to assure confidentiality. Per Mary, she is working with a Hereford subcommittee to define the process to pass the data thru her to the attorney which would insure confidentiality. Per Supervisor Chilton, there is a new State law on confidentiality. Hereford NRCD has formed a subcommittee to gather data. Joanne Robertson is the new clerk and is a biologist that has done work in the past. Per Stephen, he is on this subcommittee as a volunteer. Per Supervisor Chilton & King, the Umbel can't live out of water; so, the Umbel is not an issue in Pima County except for the San Pedro River watershed near Tucson. Robert Schmalzel (Pima NRCD hired him to do a study in Spring, 2018) has some data and observations on Umbel. Cattle grazing had no impact on the Umbel. Per Supervisor Chilton, Pima should get participate and get involved. **Motion:** Supervisor King made a motion for the Pima NRCD to support the Water Umbel downlisting process. Supervisor DuHamel seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Review/Approve November 10, 2020 & January 8, 2021 Final Minutes (See attached): : Supervisor DuHamel moved to accept the submitted minutes. Supervisor Copping seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Review/Approve Invoices (Supervisors & Clerk – See Attached Invoices):

- Supervisor Copping submitted an invoice for \$28.26 (Border Tour Event)
- Supervisor Chilton submitted an invoice for \$325.00 (Border Tour Event)
- The Clerk submitted an invoice for \$835.02 (November thru January labor)
- The invoices were discussed with no questions. **Motion:** Supervisor King moved to accept all three invoices. Supervisor DuHamel seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Agency Updates:

NRCS (Alisha Phipps, Acting District Conservationist – See Report): The NRCS is currently updating 6 plans. Their reorganization is done; so, the new team area is: Sells, Tucson and Douglas offices (5 positions are filled). Per Tom Reis, he is the new team leader and will start on February 15. He is a resource conservationist and has been with NRCS for 23 years. He has his degree from U of A (Soil Water) and started as an intern working under Ralph Ware. Alisha will send out his contact information. Two more positions have to be filled, soils and a range conservationist. In terms of EQIP, 17 applications are being processed, 9 from Pima (6 rangeland, 3 crop). \$548,498 in funds are available for the Tucson and Douglas offices. Based on the local workgroup meeting, these funds will focus on water development, irrigation efficiency and brush management. Alvaro Campos is still on his Army National Guard assignment until the end of March

Interstate 11 Update: Per Supervisor Copping, no meeting occurred with Sharon Bronson (Pima County Supervisor). One issue is the impact that the I-11 would have migratory birds but no data was available. Pima County opened an environment control assessment that would put in retention basins which would create habitat for the birds. So, we should hold off and do nothing for now.

BLM Archaeological Clearance Programmatic Agreement (See Attached): Per Supervisor Copping, the documents were sent to the board for their review. BLM has agreements with various agencies and AACD & NRCS could also sign on. The AACD board will meet on April 27 to discuss the agreement and give direction. The Districts need to give feedback for archeological clearances to the AACD board. She is planning to attend the board meeting. Per Supervisor Chilton, Cindy can give our approval on the BLM agreement at the meeting.

Border Wall Letter to President Biden (See Attached): Supervisor Chilton discussed the letter which has been sent to appropriate agencies and the Arizona Congressional delegation. The big issue is the traffic thru the Indian Reservation which will end up going thru the King's and McGibbon's ranches. The entire planned Border Wall (42 miles) needs to be completed. It was suggested to also send the letter to AACD and Governor Ducey. Supervisor DuHamel will forward the letter to the Independent Daily for publication.

Critical Habitat for the Jaguar Update: Per Supervisor Chilton, no change since it was last discussed in previous meetings. He summarized the major milestones.

Supervisor & Clerk Reports:

- Supervisor DuHamel: None

- Supervisor King: The Alliance had a teleconference on what seeds are being recommended. The teleconference was recorded and she will send the link.
- Supervisor Copping: The Clerk suggested that Border Story videos could be created to document a rancher’s border issues and experiences; and then, add the videos to the website. Supervisor Chilton has videos that he can send to the Clerk. Supervisor Copping received a letter to set up a “Smile” account on Amazon. She suggested that we do not have one. Supervisor Chilton recommended that she write a letter to decline.
- Supervisor Chilton: The Border Tour was well attended and it provided the opportunity to highlight the border issues with the Congressional Delegation.
- Clerk: He needs to research the direct deposit issue. Education Center funds can be sent quarterly or annually. Supervisor Chilton recommended annually.
 - 01-31-2021 Financial Reports: Per the Clerk, the checking accounts balances are: PNRCD (\$19,803.28) and PCCE (\$18,940.68). The Fidelity Account balance is \$73,797.59. The Income Statements were reviewed (See Attached). The PNRCD had net income of \$11,458.32 (Revenue (\$13,131.04) less Expenses (\$1,672.72). The PCCE had net income of \$1,114.63 (Revenue (\$2,614.63) less Expenses (\$1,500.00). Supervisor King recommended to file the Financial Reports. Supervisor Copping seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Call to the Public: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm. Supervisor DuHamel moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor King seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Next Meeting Date: May 11 at 1:15 pm

Draft Minutes: Submitted by Chris Postel, Pima NRCD Clerk on February 16, 2020

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