



**Willcox-San Simon Natural
Resource Conservation District**
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Supervisors:

Tina Thompson, Chairman
Larry Parker, Vice-Chairman
John Hart, Member
Eva Morin, Sec./Treas.
Matt Klump, Member
Alan Seitz, Advisor
Kolin Kramme, Advisor
Calvin Allred, Advisor
Patina Thompson, Admin. Coordinator

May 27, 2021 NRC D Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Willcox-San Simon NRC D Board of Supervisors, was held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at Maid Rite Feeds, 225 S Railroad Avenue in Willcox, AZ.

Supervisors and Advisors Present:

Tina Thompson – President
Matt Klump – Member
Eva Morin – Secretary / Treasurer
John Hart – Member
Patina Thompson – Administrative Coordinator
Deborrah Smith – AACD
Alan Seitz - Advisor
Kenny White – Technical Service Provider
Amy Humphrey – Team Lead Team 8

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tina Thompson at 9:06 AM. A quorum was present.

Welcome guests: Guest Deborrah Smith was welcomed.

Approval of Minutes: The March 31, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. Matt moved to approve the minutes. Eva seconded. Unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly financial report and budget were reviewed. The monthly financial report and budget were reviewed. The balance in the State account is \$4,786.51. The Local account balance is \$84,217.87. The balance in the Project Account is \$13,598.63. The total of all accounts is \$102,603.01. John moved to file the NRC D financials. Eva seconded. Unanimous consent.

Guest Reports:

- 1) Deborrah Smith presented a report from AACD:
 - **AACD Summer conference meeting – August 8 through 11, 2021. All NRC D Board members are encouraged to attend!** They will discuss important policy changes. August 11th is an important date that will have the Resource Needs Assessment training for all District Supervisors. Administrators are encouraged to attend and Patina can register all supervisors.
 - **Ag Resilience Act** – this Act sets aside up to \$5M per state in matching funds if there is a soil-health program in place. AACD pushed legislation to add that Districts will be in charge of funds and Deborrah is seeking volunteers to be part of a committee that will help develop program language on how Arizona will handle funds and what it will entail. The committee will meet on August 9th at the annual meeting. There will also be discussion and decision on whether or not to set aside money to hire a lobbyist to help it get pushed through legislature. Match is a requirement.

- NACD developed a Soil Health Champion program to help support these efforts to determine what practices work where. The NACD wants to see one “Soil Health Champion” in each District. The Board can select a farmer or rancher that can work with the NACD for this. These are tied to innovative efforts/measures to promote soil health, and they will mentor other farmers/ranchers and attend a few meetings. The District would sponsor this farmer and they have to be a cooperator. Deborrah will email Tina a form with information.
- AACD is available to write grants for Districts – just let them know!
- The AACD Board of Directors met in January 2020 and offered to expand and establish the professional development services within the State and they received the grant so at the summer meeting it will be discussed the voted on. Be thinking of what you want from the program and the Board had discussed coordinating a meeting with Gila Valley Supervisors.
- NACD grant has been renewed for 21-22 and has been a great success story. All of the monitoring projects have been completed.
- AACD’s annual gun raffle fundraiser is done and starts in June.
- Conservation magazine will be printed twice a year but is electronic otherwise. Each District will receive 50 printed copies to distribute.
- A \$4,000 grant was awarded to the Willcox-San Simon NRCD to support education efforts. The rain gauge workshop will count as this workshop and we can apply it to Riggs Field Day education and outreach.
- Resource Planning and Assessment training will be addressed at the summer conference and the full training will be on August 11th. Its imperative that all Supervisors attend.

Reports:

a. **Tina Thompson – AACD Update (see above)**

Resolution Submittal Forms were reviewed Matt suggested we look at the off-highway vehicle language in the Coconino NRCD Resolution because that is becoming a problem everywhere.

Conservation Easements: Pima is opposing the conservation easements, Whitewater draw is supporting them. There is a 30/30 resolution that was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The Board will do research and add it to the June agenda.

Projects Update:

Conservation Agreement: The Board discussed the Contribution Agreement (CA) with NRCS and we only received \$15,000.00 for 2021-2022 for Willcox. Team 7 and 8 will be using Amy Herbert as the Program Assistant and the funds for the Willcox CA is for technical deliverables only. Tina, Deborrah and Amy have been working on a proposal to use the money to continue field data collection within the District. Rain data will also be collected as part of the information collected in partnership with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Team 7 and 8 have both been awarded an NACD grant and will work together with AACD to combine grant funds to cover archaeological clearances and field data collection across both Districts. AACD also has a grant with the Water Protection Fund that will create a research document and publish the data that will quantify the benefits of brush management with the data collected from our CA Agreement. It’s a 75/25 match that I is 75% cash from NRCS and 25% in-kind match from the NRCD. Eva made a motion to approve the CA contract. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Eva made a motion to sponsor the rain gauge workshop and buy lunch. John seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The rain gauge workshop will be held on Saturday, June 26th.

21-22 NACD Grant: The NACD grant was renewed at \$75,000.00 and we have a \$10,000 cash match requirement. The rain gauge workshop will be one of the things the District plans to use those funds for.

b. **Matt Klump – ASLD Advisory Board Update.** No update.

New Business:

- a. Cooperator Contributions - \$4,675 to date from Klump Ranches, Diamond Mountain Retreat, Alanna Riggs, Brent & Kim Haas, Riverview, Clay Riggs (Cimarron and Oak Ranch), Shane & Patina Thompson (as of 5/18/2021).
- b. Supervisor Hours and In-Kind reports were reviewed and signed by Supervisors for our CA agreement.
- c. Water Monitoring Systems – Amy hasn't heard back from Scott Woodall yet but has a reminder to follow-up with him soon. AACD can help write the grant because two other districts have contacted Deborrah with the same request. A potential source would be a Conservation Initiative Grant.
- d. Page Bakarich update – Willcox FFA banquet was successful and Ashley Riggs was acknowledged. To date, both Ashley Riggs and Mikala Driscoll have submitted information and been awarded their first draw of the 21-22 scholarships, which were both sent to New Mexico State University.
- e. The Board reviewed the Reimbursement language and John made the motion to amend the current policy to say that a Supervisor can request workshop registration fees if they choose to. Matt seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Patina will amend the policy and present it at the June meeting.

Old Business:

- a. None

Cooperating Agency Reports:

- a. Amy Humphrey provided a Team Lead report (attached). There are two new soil conservationists in the Willcox office, Safford has a new range conservationist and the San Carlos office has a new Natural Resource Specialist.

Correspondence & Items of Interest:

- a. None.

Adjourn: Tina adjourned the meeting at 11:19 am. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, June 24, 2021 at the Maid Rite conference room at 9:00 AM.**

Respectfully submitted:

Approval, NRC Secretary
Submitted to ASLD via e-mail
Original on file in the Willcox-San Simon NRC Office

Approval Date: