



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



Minutes of the Combined Public Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Pima NRCD and Pima Center for Conservation Education

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Meeting Location: public teleconference

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:03 PM

Attendees:

Supervisor Jim Chilton

Supervisor Cindy Coping, Chair

Supervisor Jonathan DuHamel

Chris Postel, administrative services contractor for Winkelman and Santa Cruz NRCDs

Alisha Phipps, NRCS

Alvaro Campos, NRCS

Brett Myers, NRCS

Absent: Supervisor Andrew McGibbon, Supervisor and Treasurer Patricia King

Supervisor Chilton moved to **approve the minutes** of the public meeting of January 22, 2019

Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel

Motion carried 3 Aye- 0 Nay

Supervisor Chilton moved to **table the financial report** due to the Treasurer's absence

Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel

Motion carried 3 Aye- 0 Nay

Supervisor Chilton moved to **approve invoice** of Cindy Coping

Motion seconded by Supervisor DuHamel

Motion carried 3 Aye- 0 Nay

Supervisor Chilton moved that the BOS go into **Executive Session** to discuss pros and cons of proposals received from candidate individuals for administrative services contracts

Supervisor DuHamel seconded

Motion carried 3 Aye-0Nay

After the public meeting resumed, Supervisor Chilton moved to invite Chris Postel to the next public meeting of the Pima NRCD/PCCE to make a presentation in the public meeting and another in executive session

Supervisor DuHamel seconded

Motion carried 3 Aye-0 Nay

The ranch meeting that was previously scheduled for March 19 is cancelled due to the lack of necessary manpower to publish, sufficiently in advance, a newsletter —which first requires time-consuming review and update of the outdated contact list.

The next public Board meeting instead is now tentatively scheduled as a luncheon meeting to begin at noon on Tuesday, March 19 at Club 21, 2920 N Oracle Road, Tucson. Supervisor Coping will contact Club 21 to make reservations.

Chris Postel reported that the Winkelman District has tentatively approved up to \$800 to co-fund a **tri--district supervisor training workshop** to be taught by AACD, tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2019, in Tucson. Supervisor Coping stated that she will not vote to approve funding from Pima NRCD until she has firm commitments, from all 5 Pima NRCD supervisors, that they would attend the training workshop.

With two supervisors absent from the teleconference, a vote to approve funds for the workshop was tabled.

The proposed new ASLD reporting requirements proposed by Jackie Thomas were placed on the agenda so as to provide the feedback she requested. Ms. Thomas informed the BOS chairman shortly before the meeting that she would not be available for the teleconference.

The proposed ASLD reporting forms were discussed. Chris Postel reported that he had spoken with Jackie Thomas and learned that the new proposed reports would be required, not instead of, but in addition to all the previously required annual reports. Mr. Postel will be alpha-testing the new reporting format before it will be sent to the other districts.

Supervisor Coping commented that at the presentation January 31 in Phoenix, Jackie Thomas told the audience that the proposed forms should report only the conservation programs that the district implemented independently from work done in conjunction with any other entity such as the NRCS. Ms. Coping therefore infers that the ASLD errantly presumes the Pima NRCD currently offers on-the-ground conservation programs that nobody has ever requested from the district; and furthermore, has the necessary available manpower to independently find a raise sufficient funding to create, develop, market and deliver those programs. Moreover, the district has no statutory obligation to implement on-the-ground conservation programs independently from any other supporting entity. Due to this errant presumption, the proposed forms will only serve to shame the district's current all-volunteer labor force for failing to provide conservation programs for which it lacks any identified market, and also lacks the necessary funding support, the necessary manpower, and any statutory requirement to provide.

Supervisor DuHamel moved that the board provide feedback to Ms. Thomas that the Pima NRCD/PCCE opposes the imposition of any additional “make-work” reporting requirements, including the currently proposed additional reports.

Supervisor Chilton seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3 Aye, 0 Nay

The **Local Work Group** meeting is tentatively set to be held in May.

Proposed **new operational/financial policies** were tabled due to the absence of two supervisors.

Supervisor Copping explained the current financial situation of the AACD, the benefits it provides, and the need to help recruit associate members and sell raffle tickets.

Supervisor Chilton stated that more than 200 smuggling trails cross his ranch. Hidden cameras on just three of those trails have detected more than 500 illegal crossers, many of them carrying drugs, in the last 2 years. Supervisor Chilton moved to receive the **border ranchers’ petition** and to work with the ranchers on border issues when appropriate.

Supervisor DuHamel seconded

Motion carried 3 Aye-0 Nay

Memorandi of Agreement were tabled due to the absence of two supervisors.

Supervisor Copping announced her non-negotiable **resignation** from the board, effective June 30, 2019.

Reports

Alisha Phipps reported that the application deadline for EQIP was January 18 for this cycle but the application process is continuing for future funding cycles. Of 13 total applications in this NRCS district, 4 came from cooperators of the Pima NRCD. Ranking will occur by the end of March. A written report is attached to these minutes. She concurred that scheduling a Local Work Group meeting in May would be acceptable. The Local Work Group meeting is the starting point for a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS), which focuses EQIP funding toward the priority resource concerns. This year, all three NRCDs focused on lack of range water, thus 75% of EQIP funding was spent on livestock watering systems. About \$450,000 was spent this fiscal year within the Tucson NRCS field office area of responsibility.

Practices that cannot currently be funded through EQIP include cleaning stock tanks, erosion control via one-rock dams, and converting electric pumps (connected to power lines) to solar. These are not approved practices at the current time.

Supervisor DuHamel **moved to adjourn**

Supervisor Chilton seconded the motion

Motion carried 3 Aye-0 Nay

Acceptance by the Pima NRCD/PCCE Board of Supervisors:
Date of Approval: March 26, 2019 by vote of 5-0

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Coping". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Coping, Chair, Pima NRCD/PCCE