



Pima Natural Resource Conservation District
Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.
NRCS Plant Materials Center
3241 N. Romero Road
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 971-2962



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

Meeting Date: March 26, 2019

Meeting Location: Club 21, 2920 N Oracle Rd., Tucson 85705

Time meeting was called to order: 1:00 PM MST

Attendees:

Supervisor Jim Chilton

Supervisor Cindy Coping, Chair

Supervisor Jonathan DuHamel

Supervisor Patricia King, Treasurer

Supervisor Andrew McGibbon

Cooperator Sue Chilton

Candidate Administrative Services Contractor Chris Postel

NRCS Range Conservationist Alisha Phipps

Biological consultant Robert Schmalzel

ASLD NRCD manager Jackie Thomas

Minutes for February 26, 2019-

Supervisor King moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2019

2nd-McGibbon

Motion carried 5-0.

Biological Assessment for Livestock grazing on Coronado National Forest (BA)

Supervisor Chilton explained the comment deadline is May 10, and why the Pima NRCD should submit comments to the BA. For example, the best science on warm water fishes is the published Forest Service study on the Verde River by Rinne, Neary, and Medina, but this study is unmentioned. Instead, outdated scientific papers from the early 1990's are used, and those are full of unverified hypotheses presented as scientific conclusions (e.g., cattle may ingest endangered minnows). Many

species, for which Section 7 consultation has already occurred, are not discussed or included in the BA table of contents, but are included in the appendices.

Bob Schmalzel warned that the BA has the word, “final” on it already. The USFWS Biological Opinion may likewise already be final although not signed, due to the consultation process.

Bob Schmalzel stated that the BA treatments of Canelo ladies tresses, Pima pineapple cactus and the Huachuca water umbel are all written in a manner that fail to recognize the abysmal failure of past actions taken to “protect” these species and yet promote continuance of the same failed management prescriptions.

For example, population of Pima pineapple cactus inside cattle exclosures that were built to protect species have seen a 92-98% loss of specimens, whereas in areas where cattle were not enclosed the species still can be found. When the government documentation mentions about 100 specimens that were found in surveys, it does not state that nearly all of those specimens were found outside the areas the Forest Service has historically “protected” with exclosures from livestock grazing. The history of the endangered orchid is similar.

MOTION

Supervisor Chilton moved for the Pima NRCDC to submit timely comments on the BA for the Coronado National Forest livestock grazing program and retain expert consultants to accomplish that goal.

2nd-McGibbon

Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION

Supervisor Chilton moved to ask Bob Schmalzel to submit a proposal to write comments on three species— Pima Pineapple cactus (PPC), Canelo hills ladies tresses, and Huachuca water umbel for the Pima NRCDC, to bring forth the latest best science. Due date is May 10. The proposal will be segmented by cost per species since only the Pima Pineapple cactus occurs within the Pima NRCDC.

2nd-King

Friendly amendment—Supervisor Copping moved to hold a teleconference this coming Saturday, March 30 to discuss Mr. Schmalzel’s proposal and make the proposal due by Friday, March 29.

2nd-King

Motion for friendly amendment carried 5-0

Main motion passed 5-0.

The teleconference is scheduled for 8 AM Saturday, May 30.

Supervisor Chilton asked Jackie Thomas whether Education Center funds may be used legally to pay for expert comment submission, as adult education. Ms. Thomas said she would inquire with the Arizona Attorney General’s office.

Proposed EPA regulation to re-define the “Waters of the US”

MOTION

Supervisor Chilton moved to volunteer himself to write draft comments on the proposed regulation for the Pima NRC. Comment deadline is April 15.

2nd-King

Motion Carried 5-0

Process for getting practices approved for EQIP cost sharing.

Supervisor Copping asked Alisha Phipps how to apply to get certain conservation practices, e.g., one-rock dams and use of ESS-13 for pond sealing, accepted for EQIP cost sharing. Ms. Phipps replied that some one-rock structures, such as Zuni bowls and some rock and brush structures, are already accepted practices; and that an application for ESS-13 is presently going through the evaluation process. She will provide the Pima NRC a list of the types of rock structures that are already accepted practices and will provide the District with instructions for how to apply to have new practices evaluated for EQIP cost sharing.

Website-

Supervisor Copping inquired if the Board would be willing to consider a proposal (to be presented in the future) to upgrade from the present free website to a paid website in order to get rid of uncontrollable commercial advertising content and to purchase and use our own domain name. The former domain name used by the District is currently available for purchase.

MOTION

Supervisor McGibbon moved to upgrade the website.

2nd-DuHamel

Motion carried 5-0

Financial report-

The financial report was tabled to a later meeting, as this meeting was too long and people began indicating they needed to leave.

ASLD report:

Jackie Thomas described the new reporting forms and answered questions to clear up previous misunderstandings by the Board. She warned the board not to get flustered when filling out the reports, as the forms may still require a tweak here and there. The new report forms and requirements will be linked on the ASLD website.

Jackie Thomas announced that on April 11 there will be a training by teleconference on the Open Meeting law. All District clerks are encouraged to call in and attend. She will send out a notice.

Supervisor Training-

AACD can conduct a full-day training workshop for NRC supervisors. The training covers every training module presently found on the AACD website at aacd1944.com. The cost of a one-day workshop is \$2,400. Chris Postel confirmed that the Winkelman and Santa Cruz Districts have

already each approved up to \$800 to sponsor a workshop in Tucson, to be held at a yet unspecified date in September.

Supervisor Coping asked if 5 Pima NRCD Supervisors would commit to attending the workshop. All supervisors indicated they would commit to attending.

MOTION

Supervisor Chilton moved that \$800 be approved to fund the Pima NRCD's participation in the workshop.

2nd-King

Motion carried 5-0

Arizona Society for Range Management, Natural Resource Conservation Workshop for Arizona Youth (NRCWAY)

Supervisor King moved to contribute \$600 to the workshop.

2nd-McGibbon

Motion carried 5-0

Executive Session-

Supervisor King moved to enter Executive Session to interview a candidate clerical services contractor.

2nd-McGibbon

Motion carried 5-0

All participants except the board and the candidate were asked to leave but were welcome to return after executive session ended.

NRCS Report-Ms. Phipps left a written NRCS report with the chairman on her way out.

Public Meeting At 3:12 PM the executive session adjourned and the public meeting resumed.

Pima Center for Conservation Education

Supervisor King reported that the first application to register the PCCE with the Arizona Corporation Commission was rejected for need of additional information. The application was revised and resubmitted. We await a new decision.

New PCCE Bank Account

Supervisor King moved to open new bank savings and checking accounts at Hughes Federal Credit Union for the Pima Center for Conservation Education, under its own Tax Identification Number, and close the existing PCCE accounts. This would occur after the Arizona Corporation Commission registers the PCCE.

2nd-McGibbon

Motion carried 5-0

Clerical Services Contract

Supervisor McGibbon moved that the Pima NRCD/PCCE initiate a clerical services contract with Chris Postel.

2nd-King

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 3:20 PM. Chilton moved, DuHamel 2nd. Motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting: Teleconference Saturday, March 30, 2019, 8:00 AM

Date Minutes were Approved by the Pima NRCD/PCCE Board of Supervisors: April 16, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Coping". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cindy Coping, Chair, Pima NRCD/PCCE