



# Redington Natural Resource Conservation District

## Redington Conservation Education Center

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**Andrew Smallhouse, Chairman ~ Charles Ffolliott, Vice-Chairman ~ Max Madsen, Supervisor**

**Chris Fletcher, Supervisor ~ Jess Barry, Supervisor**

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## MEETING MINUTES

### Regular Business Meeting Cascabel Community Center April 14, 2015

**Call to Order:** Andrew Smallhouse, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

**Welcome & Introductions:** The following were present at the meeting: Andrew Smallhouse, Charlie Ffolliott, Jess Barry, Chris Fletcher, Kim Land, Stefanie Smallhouse, Bob Evans (Cascabel Working Group), Penny Daye Driscoll (NRCS), Sharma Hammonds Torrens (AZ Land & Water Trust). The following were absent from the meeting: Max Madsen, Supervisor.

**Call to the Public:** Sharma Hammond Torrens, AZ Land & Water Trust, gave a brief introduction and presented an upcoming workshop on April 16, 2015.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for today's meeting was distributed to all attendees for review. A motion was made by Chris Fletcher to approve the agenda as presented. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry. All were in favor and motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** The typed minutes from the Regular Business Meeting on 02/10/15 were distributed for supervisor review. A motion was made by Jess Barry to approve the minutes from the Regular Business meeting on 02/10/15 as presented. A second to the motion was made by Chris Fletcher. All were in favor and motion carried.

#### **Conservation Education Center:**

- Education Center Report – Andy discussed the upcoming field day with Steve Barker.
- Discussion / Proposals for Upcoming Workshops – Continued discussion on ecological site survey areas with Steve Barker. . Penny stated that she had discussed the proposed workshop on the wildlife watering troughs with Chase and he is willing to assist. Chris does not feel that this is a good time as permits and additional planning will have to take place. Discussed holding a workshop and presentation with Sharma. Kim will work directly with Sharma on specific topics and dates in May to hold the workshop.

#### **Financial:**

- Conservation Education Center & RNRCD Financial Report – Printed copies of financial reports were distributed for supervisor review. Kim Land reviewed financial information including beginning balances, transactions, and ended balances of all accounts.
- Reimbursements – Andy Smallhouse noted that he would have a reimbursement for hotel accommodations for the NACD Winter Meeting in Phoenix. This was previously approved. Kim will disperse payment immediately.

**Reports:**

- Supervisor Report(s) – Andy Smallhouse reported that he attended the recent winter meeting in Phoenix. It was a well-attended meeting. They were able to meet with legislatures. Specifically, Gail Griffin recommended that the AZNRCD not hire the lobbyist as discussed previously. David McKay is searching for grants, most of which are cost-sharing grants to help fund a state Education Center / Communications position. More information to follow in “New Business”. Discussion followed.
- Agency Report(s) – Penny Daye Driscoll, NRCS, reviewed all available plans. Penny stated that they are currently ranking the 3<sup>rd</sup> EQUIP cycle applicants. July 1 is the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle deadline. Penny is following up on the RCCP funds available for Redington NRCD.

**Old Business:**

- LSPI (Lower San Pedro Initiative) – Charlie gave brief updates on the current strategies of the committee. Stefanie Smallhouse gave a summary of the past history of this committee including the initial direction and how they have changed direction and where they are now. Charlie stated that the group has a lot of good ideas, but they seem to have trouble focusing. Stu will give a presentation at the next meeting on 4/21/15. Discussion followed.
- NACD Winter Annual Meeting – Please see Supervisor Report given by Andy Smallhouse.

**New Business:**

- New Cooperator Application(s) – None.
- New Website – Kim Land reiterated the need for a new website as the current provider is very outdated and not user-friendly. Kim has been working on building a new website for the board’s review today. Kim presented the new website. The final step in converting will be to publish the new site so that it will be live. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott to move forward with the new website. A second to the motion was made by Chris Fletcher. All were in favor and motion carried.
- Election of Officers – New officers need to be elected as we now have new supervisors. After a brief discussion, Chair will be Andy Smallhouse, Vice-Chair will be Jess Barry, and Secretary / Treasurer will be Chris Fletcher. A motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott to approve the new officers as noted. A second to the motion was made by Chris Fletcher. All were in favor and motion carried.
- Approval of A7 Ranch CRM Plan – Stefanie Smallhouse presented the CRM plan for A7 Ranch. Redington Livestock currently leases this ranch from Pima County. The CRM plan is a requirement by Pima County in order to maintain the lease. Stefanie reviewed the plan in detail and noted that Redington NRCD is asked to sign off on the plan. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Chris Fletcher to approve and sign the A7 CRM plan. A second to the motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott. All were in favor and motion carried. Discussion followed.
- Adoption of Sonoran Desert Tortoise BMP (Best Management Plan) document – Stefanie Smallhouse discussed the history of the original petition on the tortoise. Stefanie presented the BMP plan and stated that it was created with agency involvement. The document has now been submitted to Fish and Wildlife and is currently under review.
- Adoption of Resolution of for Ranching in Sonoran Desert Tortoise Habitat – Stefanie Smallhouse presented the resolution document and discussed the need for conservation districts to adopt and pass the resolution. Under this resolution, districts will have to submit an annual survey from landowners within the district. Stefanie showed example of the survey. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott to adopt the resolution. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry. All were in favor and motion carried.
- Request by AZNRCD to help fund a state Ed Center / Communications position – This is an item that was discussed at the NACD Winter Meeting. David McKay is working on cost-sharing grants to fund this position. Discussion followed. Andy will obtain more information and report back at the next meeting.
- Request by AZNRCD to help fund an FFA Conservation Competition – Andy reported that this is a state competition in order to “raise conservation awareness”. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott to make a one-time \$500 donation to AZNRCD. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry. All were in favor and motion carried. Kim will disperse these funds from the Education Center State Account immediately.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2015 @ 1:00pm at Cascabel Community Center.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

- Andy will contact Kim with any additional agenda items prior to next meeting date.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Charlie Ffolliott to adjourn the meeting. A second to the motion was made by Jess Barry. All were in favor and motion carried. The meeting officially adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Kim Land, Redington NRCD District Clerk

Date: April 16, 2015

Approval of Minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_