

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

[www.pimanrcd.org](http://www.pimanrcd.org)  
[www.azranchingfarming.org](http://www.azranchingfarming.org)  
Contact: [clerk@pimanrcd.org](mailto:clerk@pimanrcd.org)



## NOTICE OF COMBINED PUBLIC MEETING

Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (Pima NRCD) Board Of Supervisors Pima Center for Conservation Education Board of Directors (PCCE)

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Pima NRCD Board of Supervisors and to the general public that the Pima Center for Conservation Education (PCCE) Board of Directors will hold a meeting open to the public by teleconference.

DATE: June 12, 2024

Telephone number: 425-436-6368

TIME: 1:00 pm

access code: 161210#

Please mute speaker phone when not speaking

### AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Call to Order
- III. Approve March 31, 2023 corrected Minutes, January 16, 2024 Minutes and April 30, 2024 Minutes
- IV. Approve Invoices (Supervisors & Clerk)
- V. PNRCD & PCCE Financial Reports
- VI. Call to the Public
- VII. **Old Business**
  - a. Ranch Seco Ranch project (See attachment)
  - b. CBD lawsuit
  - c. Annual Reports to be Filed

VIII. **New Business**

a. NACD dues - Optional range but a minimum level of \$775 helps fund Western issues specialist to put western NRCDs on more equal footing with NRCDs closer to Washington, D.C.

IX. b. AACD dues

X. c. Approve Fidelity resolutions (attached)

d. Reimbursement approval for lodging and AACD conference fees upon presentation of receipts to the BOS.

e. The two elected supervisors will elect one supervisor to fill the vacant elected supervisor position for FY 2025

f. The three elected FY 2025 supervisors will nominate two appointees to fill the remaining two Supervisor positions open for 2025

g. The full FY 2025 board will appoint four executive officers - Chair, VC, Secretary, Treasurer

XI. **Long range plan additions:**

I. **Reference to Policy Manual and where it can be found on the website**

II. **New resolutions that have not yet been added**

XII. **Policy Manual Resolution** (See attachment) including:

I. Officer duties

II. Schedule of deadlines that must be met by the Pima NRCD and PCCE

XIII. **Draft Plan of Work for Pima NRCD June 20** (see attachment)

**Draft Plan of Work for Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc. June 20**

XIV. FY '25 Budget Plan for Pima NRCD (attached)

XV. FY '25 Budget Plan for PCCE (attached)

XVI. SOURCE drinking water (See attachment)

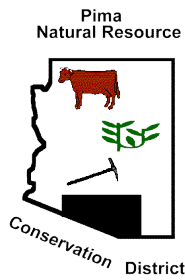
XVII. Supervisor Reports

XVIII. Proposed Next Meeting Date:

XIX. Adjourn

Dated May 31, 2024

## Attachments – Minutes



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



### Friday, March 31, 2023 meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM

Supervisors present: Andrew McGibbon, Jonathan DuHamel, Cindy Coping

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve minutes of January 24, 2023. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve two invoices for payment (\$1,533.00 to Blossom for website services and \$235.37 to Cindy Coping to reimburse AACD travel/hotel expenses). Supervisor McGibbon 2nd Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve, upon submission of receipts, reimbursement for supervisor costs to attend AACD Board meeting and Legislative Day April 2 and 3. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve transfer of \$2,590.43 from the Ed Center checking account to the State checking account to reimburse costs of website development for the Ed Center. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve the proposed resolution (published in the meeting agenda) regarding HB2444. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve a resolution opposing the RFID mandate in the proposed APHIS rule. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve the following resolution regarding springs:

#### "Springs on Private & State Land

Whereas, many Arizona natural springs are located on private property and State of Arizona grazing lease land;

Whereas, ranchers develop, maintain and utilize natural springs and put water to beneficial use;

Whereas, livestock, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and birds utilize water at natural springs;

Whereas, most springs need to be maintained over time to promote and protect water flow;

Whereas, evidence demonstrates that fencing natural springs from livestock use, results, in most cases, in consumption by phreatophytes (high water-use plants) of all surface water previously available to wildlife, birds and livestock;

Whereas, the United States and Arizona constitutions protect private property, water rights and privacy rights;

Be it Resolved, the Pima Natural Resource Conservation District, on behalf of District Co-operators, demands property rights and privacy rights be respected and strongly objects to any Arizona Department of Water Resources and/or Department of Water Quality any regulatory action to take control of or preserve natural springs on private property or on Arizona State Land Department leased grazing land.”

Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0

Supervisor DuHamel motioned to approve the purchase of the proposed website plug-in that would automatically post a Facebook feed to the Ed Center’s website. Supervisor McGibbon 2nd. Motion passed 3-0.

Next in-person meeting May 9 still approved.

Meeting adjourned 1:14 pm



Draft Combined Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of  
Pima Natural Resource Conservation District  
Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.  
3241 N. Romero Road, Tucson, AZ 85705



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Meeting Date: Jan. 16, 2024 Meeting Location: Micha's Restaurant, Tucson, AZ The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm.

Supervisors/Clerk: Jim Chilton, Cindy Coping, Pat King, Andrew McGibbon, Jonathan DuHamel, Liz Tuck (Clerk)

Other Attendees: Alisha Phipps, Mynesha Holliday, and Heather Spieth: NRCS, Sue Chilton, Joe King

**Review/Approve Minutes:**

**Motion:** Supervisor McGibbon moved to accept the minutes of Oct. 17, 2023. Supervisor Coping seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Review/Approve Invoices (Supervisors & Clerk)**

1. Liz Tuck, Clerk (\$250.00)
2. **Motion:** Supervisor King moved to approve the invoice. Supervisor DuHamel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**PNRCD & PCCE Financial Report (See Attached Reports):**

**Motion:** Supervisor McGibbon moved to reject the financial reports as presented. Supervisor Coping seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0. The clerk will email corrected financial reports to all supervisors.

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS – Alisha Phipps**

Ms. Phipps distributed and explained a detailed written NRCS Team 7 report, which is incorporated into these minutes. Chairman Chilton asked how Pima NRCD could help. Ms. Phipps stated that they are working with 5 ranchers now to update information about ownership, production, etc.

It would be helpful if the Board would advise cooperators that they should update their information with NRCS. It was suggested and Ms. Phipps agreed, to put cooperator applications in the welcome packet from NRCS.

**Call to the Public:** No one responded.

### **Old Business**

- **Discuss new funding for Altar Valley.**

Chairman Chilton stated that the District's immediate need is for on the ground projects such as one rock dams. Supervisor King stated that she would contact Sarah King to discuss possible projects and workshops.

- **Discuss mesquite removal.** Chairman Chilton raised the question with Alisha Phipps as to whether a cost/benefit study of mesquite removal could be conducted. He suggested that U of AZ, NRCS, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and Pima NRCD could collaborate. Supervisor McGibbon said he would talk to his contact at U of AZ. Ms. Phipps said she would look into it.

- **Discuss date for an annual meeting with Altar Valley.** Supervisors were in favor but did not set a date.

- ***Update on yellow-billed cuckoo lawsuit.***

Discussion centered on whether the District could join an amicus brief concerning the lawsuit. AACD Executive Director Deborah Smith had said State money could not be used; it was decided that it could be difficult for the board to show that funds had not come from the State. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service are required to release the administrative record by February 2.

The Board declined to join the amicus brief. Court hearings concerning the lawsuit will likely begin in April or May.

### **New Business**

- **Discuss Native Seeds Project.** The Diversity and Inclusion Department of NRCS had contacted the Pima NRCD about signing up Native Seeds Search as a cooperator. The Board instructed the Clerk to send a cooperator agreement to Native Seeds Search.

- **NRCS Farmers' Guide to Farm Bill.** Chairman Chilton handed copies of the Guide to board members. It contains an extensive list of programs included in the current Farm Bill. The Clerk was asked to include the list in the next quarterly newsletter. The new Farm Bill is being written; it may be a year before it is passed.

- **Pat King's retirement from the Board.** Pat has been a member of Pima NRCD board for several decades and has offered her resignation. Chairman Chilton objected. Supervisor King stated she would be able to stay on the board but for personal reasons she is unable to continue to fulfill the duties of the treasurer. Supervisor Coping offered to take on the duties of the treasurer. Supervisor DuHamel moved to decline Supervisor King's resignation. Supervisor McGibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- **Discuss prospective board members.** This was not discussed because Pat King will remain on the Board.
  
- **Discuss Natural Asset Companies (NAC).** Supervisor Coping suggested a collaboration with American Stewards of Liberty so that Pima NRCD could be included in their comments on the Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed creation of Natural Asset Companies. The Board chose not to take action on Supervisor Coping's suggestion. The NAC rule would allow corporations that can be owned by foreign governments to take control of public and private lands for the express purpose of permanently extinguishing production of energy, minerals, food, and fiber. These corporations would not use Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures, but would adopt a new, untested type of environmentalist "ecosystem services" accounting system designed and promoted by the United Nations in order to sell "carbon credits" and other vague, non-tangible products. The value of "carbon credits" sold would be a form of mitigation for resource production and would necessarily drive up prices of all tangible products by restricting necessary resource supplies. Mrs. Chilton stated that the NAC's would do the exact opposite of conservation. They would promote abandonment of land management and hands-on conservation, which is exactly opposite to the mission of the Pima NRCD. The Board asked Supervisor Coping to submit comments on the NAC on behalf of Pima NRCD and to present the board with an invoice for the comments at the next meeting.
  
- ***Report: Altar Valley workshop.*** Supervisor Coping had attended the second in a series of three all-day field workshops produced by Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. The Pima NRCD provided funding for the three workshops. Attendees visited three areas where mesquites had been removed by one or more of three methods: grubbing, fire, and herbicide. For mesquite under 2" in diameter, herbicide is the least expensive and most practicable remedy. The attendants visited two treated sites directly across the Sasabe highway from each other. One site had been cleared mechanically. The other site directly across the road had not been cleared mechanically. Both were burned by prescribed fire on the same day. Both sites were covered with tall grass. The previously cleared site was restored to grassland. The previously uncleared still dotted with big mesquites larger than 2" diameter, with a carpet of tall grass under and between the trees. The smaller mesquites and other brush had burned off, but the largest mesquites appeared unharmed. Prescribed fires are becoming less frequently utilized as new residential developments expand from the metropolitan area. Liability is becoming more of a deterrent to using prescribed fires. All types of treatment require follow-up treatments because the seed base is still active in the soil. The participants also visited a site where a hot, uncontrolled wildfire had burned and scorched the soil. The vegetation has not recovered yet, and there was a debate as to whether the soil had been damaged. Many of the soil scientists present believed the soil microbes had survived and that the vegetation would eventually recover. The fast-moving fire had been stopped in the washes by big mesquites that would not burn. As a result of observing that, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management is changing its strategy to leave large mesquites in the washes for wildfire control instead of clearing fire breaks.

Mesquite removal cost averages about \$500 per acre. Tamarisk removal in areas such as the Lower San Pedro River cost about \$5000 per acre, due to their density.

- ***Discuss updating the Pima NRCD cooperator contact information.***

Supervisor Coping has been updating contact information of cooperators and potential cooperators by comparing the Pima NRCD list with more recent information she has from other organizations. She will turn the updated list over to the Clerk when finished. The Clerk will contact cooperators by email or phone to confirm their contact information is up to date. The quarterly newsletter will be printed and mailed to all cooperators. The newsletter will include a paragraph suggesting that people contact Pima NRCD with questions and to identify their key resource concerns. Chair Chilton will write an introductory letter discussing the mission and purpose of the organization and how it can help producers. The newsletter will be sent at the end of February. The newsletter will include a cooperator agreement. Cooperators will be requested to renew their agreements as a way of updating cooperator status and contact information.

- **Discuss Quarterly Newsletter.** The Clerk will publish and mail a newsletter to cooperators in February to include the following:

- An article from Chairman Chilton
- Photos and a short article about the brush and soil management workshops
- A co-operator agreement
- A request for cooperators to return their renewed cooperator agreements and also tell Pima NRCD what their key resource concerns are that the Pima NRCD might help them address.
- An election notice
- The USDA Farmers' Guide to Farm Bill Programs
- An announcement for the upcoming SRM meeting

- **Discuss the Dept of Labor (DOL) regulation to outlaw contract labor nationwide.** It means everyone would have to be an employee – contract labor would be prohibited nationwide. California has passed such a statute.

- **Elections.** Liz Tuck distributed a one-page handout, the “2024 Elections Checklist,” which is incorporated into these minutes. Jim Chilton’s Supervisor seat is up for election this year. An announcement must be posted on the website and in a local newspaper before February 4. Supervisor Coping reminded the board that *The Green Valley News* is the paper where the District has published election announcements in the past, and the price was reasonable. The Clerk handed out the 2024 NRCD Elections checklist.

## **Supervisor Reports**



Supervisor Copping reported that target shooters have recently shot and killed saguaros and unknowingly defaced petroglyphs near her ranch with falling birdshot and other ammunition that had been fired into the air. Supervisor King stated she has seen similar damage to petroglyphs in her area. The AZ

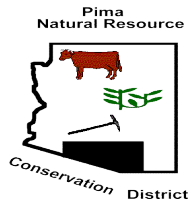
Department of Forestry and Fire Management has posted on its website that target shooting is illegal on all Arizona State Lands. This rule is unenforceable because there is no mention in the Arizona Revised Statutes of any law that applies to the use of firearms outside municipal boundaries. Also, although there had been a heated controversy years ago regarding a planned prohibition of target shooting in the Ironwood Forest National Monument, the prohibition was never published in the Federal Register. Chairman Chilton asked Supervisor Copping to draft a resolution for the next meeting of the Board to submit to AACD to address target shooting.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:10.** Supervisor DuHamel moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor McGibbon seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

***Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2024***

Draft Minutes: Submitted by Liz Tuck, Pima NRCD Clerk on January 18, 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Chilton, Chairman, Pima NRCD/PCCE



Draft Combined Minutes of the Board of Supervisors of  
Pima Natural Resource Conservation District  
Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.  
3241 N. Romero Road, Tucson, AZ 85705



Meeting Date: April 30, 2024      Meeting Location: Micha's Restaurant, Tucson, AZ

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

Supervisors/Clerk: Jim Chilton, Cindy Copping, Pat King, Andrew McGibbon, Jonathan DuHamel, Liz Tuck (Clerk)

Other Attendees: Alisha Phipps, Heather Spieth, and Mynesha Holliday ( NRCS); Sue Chilton; John King; Sarah King, Julia Guglielmo, and Mary Miller (Altar Valley Conservation Alliance); and Marty Suter (by phone, Arizona Dept of Agriculture).

**Review/Approve Minutes:**

**Motion:** Supervisor Copping moved to accept the minutes of January 26, 2024. Supervisor McGibbon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Review/Approve Invoices (Supervisors & Clerk)**

- Supervisor Copping, (\$30.32 for website domain name renewals). Liz Tuck, Clerk (\$731.91 for labor plus newsletter and election expenses)
- **Motion:** Supervisor King moved to pay the invoices as presented. Supervisor DuHamel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**PNRCD & PCCE Financial Report (See Attached Reports):**

The PCCE District Account has a current balance of \$2,787.50. The PCCE Savings account has a current balance of \$29,080.89.

The Pima NRCD State Account has a current balance of \$8,914.59. The Pima NRCD District account has a balance of \$119,507.05.

The treasurer's strategy moving forward is to reserve 60% in cash and invest 40% in a money market fund, SPAXX, which is currently paying dividends of 4.9%.

**Motion:**

Supervisor King moved to authorize the Treasurer to open a brokerage account to better manage the PCCE's District Account funds. Supervisor DuHamel seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor King volunteered to be an additional authorized signer on the Fidelity Account.

***Motion:***

Supervisor McGibbon moved to have the treasurer's report filed. Supervisor King seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0

***Motion:***

Supervisor McGibbon moved to pay \$75.00 to the AZ Corp Commission for required filing fees and penalties to bring PCCE into good standing. The motion passed unanimously 5-0

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS – Alisha Phipps**

Ms. Phipps distributed and explained a detailed written NRCS Team 7 report, which is attached to these minutes. The Tucson Field Office has \$621,000 available in EQIP funds. It was suggested and Ms. Phipps agreed that NRCS distribute cooperator agreements to its clients within the District and request they update their cooperator information and send it to Pima NRCD.

**Call to the Public:** No one responded.

**Old Business**

- **Election Update.** Chairman Chilton informed the Board in writing that he will not be seeking re-election to the Pima NRCD Board. At this point in the election cycle, no new candidates are able to gather 25 signatures to run for this seat. Chairman Chilton asked the Clerk to call Deborrah Smith to know what to do in this situation. The scheduled meeting for the election was cancelled. Mary Miller stated that she or her husband Charley Miller might consider accepting an appointment for the board. She asked several questions about terms and expectations. She and her husband are cooperators, so they are eligible. The Board has the capability for board members to attend by telephone when necessary, if requested prior to the meeting so that necessary equipment is available.

**Discuss/Action: AACD Annual Dues.** Board members agreed to pay the current dues.

**Discuss AZ House Bill 2865.** No one had any new information.

- ***Update on Center for Biological Diversity and Maricopa Audubon Society lawsuit against Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service seeking injunction against the grazing permits on the Coronado National Forest (CNF).***

Yellow billed cuckoos (YBC) have been spotted living near washes and rivers in the Southwest. The plaintiffs allege cattle grazing disturbs the birds' habitat and that the Biological Opinion on grazing agreed to by the U.S. Forest Service and

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to properly consider the impact of "climate change" on the YBC and the Sonora chub, a minnow. Whereas most lawsuits of this type focus on areas designated as Critical Habitat under the Endangered Species Act, the plaintiffs' Prayer for Relief is for all grazing to be suspended in "*occupied*" habitat on the CNF until a new Biological Opinion on grazing is drafted and Section 7 consultation is completed (a process that would take years to complete). The livelihoods of approximately 150 ranchers having permits on the 177 targeted federal allotments would be threatened if the plaintiffs prevail.

Should the plaintiffs win, they are expected to file similar lawsuits against all on cattle grazing on State and federal lands across the numerous Western States where the YBC has been found.

- Due to the plaintiffs' request to introduce new information into the administrative record for the

lawsuit, the Court has granted a stay of 150 days during which the plaintiffs may file a new lawsuit based on “new information.” The lawsuit plaintiffs now allege they have “new information” that cattle grazing harms the little saplings necessary to sustain YBC habitat. The trial probably won't convene until 2025; that gives intervenors the opportunity to add new information to the administrative record on the YBC.

**Chairman Chilton requested a July agenda discussion** focused on a suggestion that the Pima Center for Conservation Education might contribute funding to a currently planned DNA study to determine whether or not the “Western” Yellow billed cuckoo is genetically different from the highly abundant “Eastern” YBC. **A second discussion for the July agenda** is whether the Pima NRCD could help fund an inventory of little trees and/or saplings on the CNF.

- **Cooperator List.** Supervisor Copping updated the list and the Clerk used the updated list to send out the Spring newsletter.

## **New Business**

**Local Work Group Meeting.** This part of the meeting was led by Alisha Phipps of NRCS. She stated that the purpose of the LWG meeting is to rank various environmental needs in order of priority for the District. After discussion, the Supervisors decided that they wanted to keep the same rankings as last year.

The top three concerns are 1) **Animals** – Inadequate Livestock Water Quantity, Quality, and Distribution; 2) **Plant Productivity** and Health; 3) **Soil** – Sheet and Rill Erosion.

a) **Discussion.** Pima County owns the grazing leases on the Rancho Seco Ranch and recently purchased the headquarters as well. A new rancher has taken over the leases for grazing permits on the ranch but found that the former owner removed most or all of the water infrastructure from the ranch including pumps, storage tanks and water troughs. This means there is little if any water on a ranch that formerly supported livestock and wildlife. The new lessee seeks funding for new infrastructure. He submitted a detailed analysis to the Pima NRCD of what is needed and an itemized estimate of how much it will cost to implement. He has been working with NRCS to get partial funding. Chairman Chilton suggested the Pima NRCD provide emergency funding for a specific well pump, storage tank and livestock drinker so the ranch is not without water when the hot summer weather commences. The Pima NRCD Board discussed whether they legally could help an individual. Not being certain, Supervisor Copping volunteered to speak to AACD Executive Director Deborah Smith to ask if the District can legally commit funds to the proposed project.

- **Discussion:** Palo Alto Ranch has a grant of \$24,000 to repair wells and address major erosion issues. Pima PCCE agreed to fund two workshops for this project so scientists can assess how best to proceed with the erosion project and producers could learn about the methods used and the results achieved. Pima PCCE committed to funding Altar Valley Conservation Alliance \$2,000 from FY 2024 funds for the first workshop. The balance of \$750.00 will remain in the PCCE State account to cover administrative costs. Supervisor McGibbon moved, and Supervisor King seconded, to approve these payments. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- **Report: Livestock Operator Fire and Flood Assistance Grant Program** Marty Suter stated that the purpose of LOFFAP is to provide a source of funding for landowners and lessees of a livestock operation who require reconstruction assistance as a result of infrastructure damage caused by a wildfire *and* that wildfire's associated flooding. The operator must own at least 40 head of cattle. The grant can be used to complement NRCS' or other entities' grants in order to meet the requirement of 50% matching funds. The application deadline is June 28, 2024.
- **Motion:** Supervisor Copping moved to donate \$500.00 to Envirothon and \$600.00 to NRCWay. Supervisor King seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

### **Supervisor Reports**

None reported.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:35.** Supervisor DuHamel moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor McGibbon seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

***Next Meeting Date: May 13, 2024***

Draft Minutes: Submitted by Liz Tuck, Pima NRCD Clerk on May 5, 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Chilton, Chairman, Pima NRCD/PCCE

Liz Tuck  
PO Box 5471  
Oracle, AZ 856232  
520.235.2485

June 3, 2024

INVOICE

Description	Amount
Phone Calls, emails; various days	1.5 hours @ \$25.00 = 37.50
Attend meeting and prepare minutes for 4/30/24 meeting	4.5 hours @ \$25.00 = 112.50
Prepare agenda for 6/4/24 meeting	2 hours @ 25.00 = 50.00
Mileage to Micha's	81 miles @ .67 per mi=54.27
Research past invoices, discussions with Treasurer	1 hour @\$25.00 = 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$279.27</b>



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## CONSERVATION INVESTMENT

Customer #: 43799

Investment Date: October 1, 2023

Pima NRCD  
3241 North Romero Road  
Tucson, AZ 85705-9223

Review your information!  
Submit updates online or with your renewal

Phone: 520 - 220-1221

Email: clerk.pimanrcd@gmail.com

URL: <https://pimanrcd.wordpress.com/> <https://pimanrcd.org>; <https://azranchingfarming.org>

Facebook:

Twitter:

Other:

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

This is the first invoice for NACD's 2024 fiscal year which runs October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. We hope you continue to show your support for your National Association with a Gold-Level membership contribution of \$775. Complete the application form and send with payment to NACD headquarters.

Mark Masters  
NACD Secretary/Treasurer

### Conservation Investment FY24 (check one)

Review NACD's member benefits for each contribution level online at [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>Diamond</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Contributor</b>
(\$3,001 +)	(\$1,776 - \$3,000)	(\$775 - \$1,775)	(\$501 - \$774)	(\$101 - \$500)	(\$1 - \$100)

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Installment \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Final Payment

### Payment Methods

To Pay Online (with credit card, ACH or PayPal), visit:  
<https://nacdnnet.app.neoncrm.com/forms/fy24-membership>



To Pay by Check, mail check and form to:

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NACD  
509 Capitol Court NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Fax: 202-547-6450  
Email: [membership@nacdnnet.org](mailto:membership@nacdnnet.org)

# Rancho Seco project

**Cindy Copping**

May 3, 2024,  
9:22 AM

to me, Jonathan, John, Andrew, Jim, Mary, Charley, Juan, PNRCD, Deborrah, Alisha

Dear Pima NRCD BOS and others,

At our April30 meeting, Chairman Chilton suggested the NRCD fund installation of a portion of a water system on the Rancho Seco for an appropriation somewhat over \$6,000.00 for one of the five or so wells needing immediate and urgent attention because the past owner removed all the water infrastructure on the ranch, to the best of our current knowledge. There was a question on how to do this without making illegal gifts to the rancher who is requesting funds.

I spoke with AACD director Deborrah Smith about this yesterday. She suggested doing this project as the NRCD's own project and not writing any checks to the rancher. This would be classified as a demonstration project with a full write-up posted to the website.

I propose we first take full advantage of documenting the current impact on wildlife of the removal of the rancher-supplied water supply to set a pre-project baseline and work with a professional biologist in designing all studies. This project may be an opportunity to introduce positive new information into the administrative record in the Yellow-billed cuckoo lawsuit. Then we install the water system with wildlife ramps and also some separate, cattle-exclosed tiny drinkers for small wildlife and document the various species utilizing each drinker by way of hidden game cameras. We can also document the presence of illegal aliens that way. We could also do another study on the buildup of fine fire fuels in the current situation and re-measure after the cattle go back into that pasture. We might have Dr Ruyle help design that study.

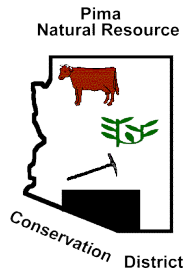
I suggest we have Mary Darling design the wildlife studies and have the study design peer-reviewed by Dennis Parker, or vice-versa, so we don't get blindsided by a flawed study design the way we did with the Mexican wolf DNA study.

We could also hold a workshop or a series over time on this for our Legislators to teach them about the importance of ranch waters and keeping ranchers on the land.

These are just some thoughts to mull over as we develop a formal plan moving forward.



# Attachment – Policy Manual



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[www.pimanrcd.org](http://www.pimanrcd.org) [www.azranchingfarm-ing.org](http://www.azranchingfarm-ing.org) Contact: [clerk@pimanrcd.org](mailto:clerk@pimanrcd.org)



Tuesday, June 4, 2024

## ***Resolution 2024.06.01 of the Board of Supervisors - Policy Manual; Executive Officers; Duties of Executive Officers; Financial Audit Committee***

Resolved,

The Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (District or Pima NRCD) and the Pima Center for Conservation Education (PCCE or Ed Center) shall share one Board of Supervisors (Board or BOS) including three Supervisors duly elected and two appointed Supervisors in compliance with the Arizona Revised Statutes.

### **Policy Manual**

3. The Board shall create a Policy Manual.
4. The purpose of the Policy is to serve as an evolving reference document to guide the Board through the successions of supervisors over time, to facilitate and improve quality and professionalism in the management of the District and the Ed Center, to distribute the overall work load of the Board among each of the Board members, to ensure legal deadlines are consistently met, to eliminate the added work and stress that accompany the failure to plan appropriately; and generally to facilitate consistent, predictable professionalism and lawful operation in the management of the Pima NRCD and PCCE. The Policy Manual is intended as a tool to facilitate the Board in lawfully and efficiently fulfilling its duties. It therefore may be revised as the Board deems appropriate; at any public meeting the Board chooses.
5. The Policy Manual shall initially include the following policies as approved with passage of this resolution.
6. The Policy Manual shall contain a schedule or calendar of all legally required deadlines that the District and the Ed Center must meet. The Board shall review the manual for upcoming deadlines routinely at

each meeting or create an automated email notification system of impending deadlines to be sent to each Supervisor.

7. Each and every member of the Board shall take his or her notes at each public meeting and use their notes to verify or correct the draft minutes when they are received from the Clerk of the Board.

## **Quorum of the Board of Supervisors**

A quorum shall consist of any three or more members of the Board of Supervisors.

## **Public Meetings**

1. All proceedings of the Board of Supervisors shall conform to the requirements of Arizona's Open Meetings statutes, which are explained by the Arizona Attorney General's office in Appendix 1: "Open Meeting Law 101: Arizona's Open Meeting Law in a Nutshell"
2. A person elected or appointed to the Board of Supervisor shall review the Arizona open meeting law materials at least one day before the day that person takes office
3. As legally required by A.R.S. § 38- 431.01(A), all meetings of a quorum of the Board of the Pima NRCD and/or the Pima Center for Conservation Education shall be public meetings and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings.
4. "It is the public policy of this state that meetings of public bodies be conducted openly and that notices and agendas be provided for such meetings which contain such information as is reasonable necessary to inform the public of the matters to be discussed or decided." A.R.S. § 38-431.09

## **Meeting minutes**

The Clerk of the Board shall faithfully and timely carry out all duties identified in his or her contract with the Board.

The Clerk of the Board shall record the minutes of each meeting. The Clerk may use any recording device or combination of devices during the meeting to ensure the draft minutes are accurately recorded. Ideally, within 24 hours after a meeting, the Clerk will send the first draft of the minutes in a Word .docx format to all Board members for review. Each board member, within 24 hours of receiving the draft minutes, will make corrections to the minutes in the Word document with edit tracking turned on (preferred), or to otherwise notify the Clerk of any errors in the draft minutes. Within 72 hours after the adjournment of each meeting, the Clerk shall post the latest version of the draft minutes on the Pima NRCD website ([pimanr-cd.org](http://pimanr-cd.org)) in compliance with the Arizona Open Meeting statutes, whether any board member has reviewed them yet or not. These minutes shall be clearly identified as draft minutes. Within 72 hours of the minutes being approved by vote of the Board and signed by the Chairman, the Clerk of the Board shall replace the posting of the draft minutes on the website, with a copy of the approved, signed final minutes. The Clerk shall also transmit a digital copy of the approved, signed minutes to the Board Secretary and to the State Lands Department's liaison to the NRCDs, as required by the Arizona Natural Resources Commissioner.

## **Executive Committee**

At the first public meeting of the Board of Supervisors following an election, the new Board shall internally elect an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman<sup>1</sup>, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The fifth member of the Board shall serve as the Chairman of the fiscal-year-end financial audit committee, which is described later in this resolution.

## **Chairman**

The duties of the Chairman include the following:

- The Chairman shall have the final authority for setting meeting locations, times and dates, and on setting meeting agendas. All requests for agenda items from the public or from other supervisors shall be directed to the Chairman, either directly or through the Clerk of the Board.
- The Chairman shall preside over all public meetings of the Board of Supervisors, ensuring each meeting commences on the schedule as announced and that the meeting progresses in an efficient and orderly manner, if not by Robert's Rules of Order.
- The Chairman shall sign each set of Board-approved meeting minutes and return them to the Clerk of the Board for timely submission to State authorities. The Chairman will sign other official documents as required by law.
- The Chairman shall serve as the spokesman for the District on official correspondence with other government agencies, elected officials, etc. unless those duties are otherwise specified in the Policy Manual.
- The Chairman shall propose a plan of work for each upcoming fiscal year.

## **Vice-Chairman**

The duties of the Vice-Chairman include the following:

- The Vice-Chairman shall fulfill the duties of the Chairman at any time the Chairman becomes unavailable to perform his or her duties.
- Should the Chairman become unavailable to fulfill his or her elected or appointed term of office, the Vice-Chairman shall become the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. The fifth member of the Board shall then become the Vice-Chairman.

## **Secretary**

The duties of the Secretary include the following:

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the correctness of minutes and the proper and timely postings of agendas and minutes on the District website,

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "chairman" and "vice-chairman" are expressed in the traditional generic usage herein, meaning they are without reference to the sex or sexual persuasion of any individual.

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Arizona Open Meeting and Open Records statutes.
2. The Secretary shall oversee District elections and ensure timely publication of public election notices and proper, timely filing of all election documents.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for the proper archiving, routine downloads and storage of duplicate copies on removable solid state media (e.g. on 2 or more thumb drives) of website backups, the Clerk's email transactions [clerk.pimanrcd@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.pimanrcd@gmail.com) and the District's archive email account

[erec.pnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:erec.pnrcd@gmail.com) . The Clerk shall be responsible for the safekeeping of one of the copies and the Secretary shall keep the other.

### **Treasurer**

The duties of the Treasurer include the following:

- The treasurer shall oversee the routine bookkeeping for the District and the Education Center and ensure its correctness.
- The treasurer shall ensure correct financial reports are presented at each meeting, including an income and expense statement and a balance sheet for the District and the same for the Ed Center, and report the available cash on hand for the District and for the Ed Center for each State and District account.
- The Treasurer shall submit timely annual reports and fees to the Arizona Corporation Commission as the Statutory Agent for the Pima Center for Conservation, Inc., to ensure the Ed Center maintains a continuous, active legal corporate status in Arizona.
- The Treasurer shall file timely annual IRS Form 990 tax returns for the Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc. to ensure continuity of the PCCE's 501(c)3 tax-exempt status.
- The Treasurer shall file a timely annual IRS form(s) 1099-MISC for each contractor paid \$600 or more during the previous calendar year.
- The Treasurer shall oversee and/or manage the proper allocation of investment portfolios, if applicable, for the District and for the Ed Center.
- The Treasurer shall prepare timely annual budgets for the District and for the Ed Center for the upcoming fiscal year, for Board approval for submission to the State Land Department.
- By July 7 of each fiscal year, the Treasurer shall prepare a financial audit package for the audit committee to review.

### **Financial Audit Committee**

The financial audit committee will consist of all members of the Board except the Treasurer. If one or more Board members cannot serve on the audit committee, committee members shall be recruited or contracted from outside the Board, by the same Board members who are excused from serving on the audit committee. The Treasurer shall be available to answer questions from the audit committee. The Treasurer shall submit to the committee, by June 30, a packet consisting of the final fiscal year financial report, the checkbook carbon copies, a list of checks paid during the fiscal year, the minutes of all meetings where payments were authorized, and associated invoices and expense receipts. The audit committee will review the packet and verify the following:

- Each check written was authorized by the Board.
- 
6. Each check matches the amount authorized by the Board.
  7. Each payment authorized by the Board has an associated invoice.
  8. Each invoice for expense reimbursement is accompanied by receipts for the expenses, and the receipts add up to the same amount invoiced.
  9. The final financial report balances with bank and brokerage statements.

### **Clerk of the Board**

The duties of the Clerk of the Board include the following:

- Coordinate with the Board Chairman on a regular basis and/or designated board member when needed in carrying out the duties of the contract.
- Accomplish all duties in a professional, courteous and timely manner.
- Communicate in a clear and concise manner whether orally or in writing.
- Use a variety of computer software including Excel, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher and PowerPoint to enhance District operations and communications. Peripheral computer equipment should include printer and scanner capabilities.
- Prepare and/or compose correspondence from drafts submitted by Supervisors for Supervisors' approval.
- Make all arrangements for meetings of the District. Assemble information from Supervisors for the agenda, prepare agenda, post on the District website and email to all district cooperators at least 24 hours prior to each meeting. A detailed agenda should be completed and emailed to each Board member and advisor no later than two days prior to each meeting. A detailed agenda will be posted publicly and on the website no later than 24 hours prior to each meeting, per requirement of the Arizona Open Meetings Law. The agenda will include all back-up material, including after-action reports, invoices, correspondence, financial reports and any other reports or information submitted for the meeting information packet.
- Attend District meetings as needed and take complete and accurate notes, transcribe the notes into minutes and email a draft to the Board for review no later than three days after the meeting. Within 72 hours following the meeting's adjournment, the Clerk will draft minutes, post them on the District website and send them to the Board and to the Arizona State Land Department.
- Prepare the final draft minutes and email to the Board, state and other entities as directed by the Board, and update the website to replace the draft minutes with the final approved and signed minutes.
- Ensure all invoices and contracts are presented to the Board for approval in a timely manner.
- Ensure the District Chairman signs and dates all Board-approved meeting minutes, policies and resolutions.
- Maintain a District file of all correspondence, minutes, agendas, reports, and any other information as directed by the board. Provide copies to the Supervisors within five days of a verbal or written request.
- Maintain a cooperator list with both email and U.S. mail addresses, and phone numbers.
- Maintain current information on the District website.
- Check at least monthly with the NRCS for incoming U.S. mail to the District and promptly forward copies of pertinent correspondence to all or to appropriate Supervisors.
- Other duties defined in the Clerk's contract with the District.

### **Education Center Director**

The duties of the Education Center Director include the following:

1. Oversee the educational and research programs of the Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.
2. Propose education center programs to the Board for approval, and oversee approved programs.
3. Propose an annual plan of work for Education Center the upcoming fiscal year for timely approval by the Board of Supervisors and submission to the State Land Department.
4. Outreach to k-12 schools with educational information about agriculture and soil and water conservation and about other conservation education programs available to students (e.g., NRCWAY and Envirothon).
5. Post educational information and videos on the website to help the urban public understand agriculture and its importance culturally and economically, as well as its importance in stewardship of land, wildlife habitat and other natural resources.
6. Post educational information on the website to help producers understand soil and water conservation, and to help producers connect with the services of the District; and help them understand what the District can help them accomplish.
7. Other duties defined in the Ed Center Director's contract with the Pima Center for Conservation, Inc.

### **Appendix 1. Open Meeting Law Guidance**

1. "Open Meeting Law 101: Arizona's Open Meeting Law in a Nutshell"

## **Attachment – Open Meeting Law**

### **OPEN MEETING LAW 101** **Arizona's Open Meeting Law in a Nutshell**

Information compiled by:  
Liz Hill, Assistant Ombudsman – Public Access  
Last revised August 2010

#### **Two core concepts**

“All meetings of any public body shall be public meetings and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings.” A.R.S. § 38-431.01(A).

“It is the public policy of this state that meetings of public bodies be conducted openly and that notices and agendas be provided for such meetings which contain such information as is reasonable necessary to inform the public of the matters to be discussed or decided.” A.R.S. § 38-431.09.

#### **Why do we have an Open Meeting Law?**

7. To protect the public.
  - a. To avoid decision-making in secret.
  - b. To promote accountability by encouraging public officials to act responsively and responsibly.
8. To protect public officials.
  - a. To avoid being excluded (notice).
  - b. To prepare and avoid being blind sided (agenda).
  - c. To accurately memorialize what happened (minutes).
9. Maintain Integrity of government.
10. Better informed citizenry.
11. Build trust between government and citizenry.

#### **What constitutes a meeting?**

A meeting is a gathering, in person or through technological devices of a quorum of a public body at which they discuss, propose or take legal action, including deliberations. A.R.S. § 38-431(4). This includes telephone and e-mail communications.

#### **Who must comply with Open Meeting Law?**

Public bodies. "Public body" means the legislature, all boards and commissions of this state or political subdivisions, all multimember governing bodies of departments, agencies, institutions and instrumentalities of the state or political subdivisions, including without limitation all corporations and other instrumentalities whose boards of directors are appointed or elected by the state or political subdivision. Public body includes all quasi-judicial bodies and all standing, special or advisory committees or subcommittees of, or appointed by, the public body. A.R.S. § 38-431(6).



"Advisory committee" or "subcommittee" means any entity, however designated, that is officially established, on motion and order of a public body or by the presiding officer of the public body, and whose members have been appointed for the specific purpose of making a recommendation concerning a decision to be made or considered or a course of conduct to be taken or considered by the public body. A.R.S. § 38-431(1).

The Secretary of State, Clerk of the County Board of Supervisors, and City and Town Clerks must conspicuously post open meeting law materials prepared and approved by the Arizona Attorney General's Office on their website. A person elected or appointed to a public body shall review the open meeting law materials at least one day before the day that person takes office. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(G)

### **What is Required under the Open Meeting Law?**

#### ***5. Notice***

Public bodies must post a disclosure statement on their website or file a disclosure statement as provided for by statute. The disclosure statement states where the public body will post individual meeting notices. A.R.S. § 38-431.02(A)(1) through (4).

The open meeting law requires at least 24 hours notice of meetings to the members of the public body and the general public. A.R.S. § 38-431.02(C).

Notice must be posted on the public body's website, unless otherwise permitted by statute. Notice must also be posted at any other electronic or physical locations identified in the disclosure statement and by giving additional notice as is reasonable and practicable. A.R.S. § 38-431.02(A)(1) through (4).

#### ***6. Agenda***

Agendas must contain information reasonably necessary to inform the public of the matters to be discussed or decided. A.R.S. § 38-431.09.

Agendas must be available at least 24 hours before the meeting. A.R.S. § 38- 431.02(G).

#### ***7. Public's Rights***

The public has a right to:

- Attend
- Listen
- Tape record
- Videotape

Public has no right to:

- Speak
- Disrupt

#### ***4. Calls to the Public***

An open call to the public is an agenda item that allows the public to address the public body on topics of concern within the public body's jurisdiction, even though the topic is not specifically included on the agenda. Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. 199-006.

Although the Open Meeting Law permits the public to attend public meetings, it does not require public participation in the public body's discussions and deliberations and does not require a public body to include an open call to the public on the agenda. *See* Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. No. 178-001.

An individual public officer may respond to criticism, ask staff to review an item or ask that an item be placed on a future agenda, but he or she may *not* dialogue with the presenter or collectively discuss, consider, or decide an item that is not listed on the agenda. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H); Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. 199-006. Note that individual members of the public body may respond to criticism by individuals who addressed the public body during the call to the public, but the public body may not collectively discuss or take action on the complaint unless the matter is specifically listed on the agenda. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H).

Public bodies may impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on speakers. Restrictions must be narrowly tailored to affect a compelling state interest and may not be content based. Ariz. Att'y Gen. Op. 199-006.

A member of the public body may not knowingly direct a staff member to communicate in violation of the Open Meeting Law. A.R.S. 38-431.01(I).

*In sum:*

- *Calls to the public are permitted, but not required.*
- *Should be added as an agenda item.*
- *Public body may limit speaker's time.*
- *Public body may require speakers on the same side with no new comments to select spokesperson*
- *Public body may set ground rules:*
  - *civility*
  - *language*
  - *treat everyone the same*

## **5. Executive Sessions**

Public bodies may hold private executive sessions under a few limited circumstances. In executive sessions, the public is not allowed to attend or listen to the discussions, and the public body is not permitted to take final action. A.R.S. § 38-431.03(D).

Members of the public body may not vote or take a poll in executive sessions. A.R.S. § 38-431.03(D).

There are seven authorized topics for executive sessions:

4. Personnel (must provide 24 hours written notice to employee).
5. Discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection.
6. Legal advice – with public body's own lawyer(s).
7. Discussion or consultation with public body's lawyer(s) to consider pending or contemplated litigation, settlement discussions, negotiated contracts.
8. Discuss and instruct its representative regarding labor negotiations.
9. Discuss international, interstate, and tribal negotiations.
10. Discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of real property.

Notice and Agenda: Agendas for executive sessions may describe the matters to be discussed more generally than agendas for public meetings in order to preserve confidentiality or to prevent compromising the attorney-client privilege. A.R.S. § 38- 431.02(I). Nonetheless, the agenda must provide more than a recital of the statute that authorizes the executive session.

**10.Minutes** (A.R.S. §§ 38-431.01(B), (C), (D) and -431.03(B))

Public bodies must take meeting minutes of all meetings, including executive sessions. May be recorded or written, keeping in mind that permanent records must be on paper. Public session meeting minutes must include:

- Date, time and place of meeting;
- Names of members of the public body present or absent;
- A general description of matters considered; and
- An accurate description of all legal actions proposed, discussed or taken, and the names of members who propose each motion. The minutes shall also include the names of the persons, as given, making statements or presenting material to the public body and a reference to the legal action about which they made statements or presented material.

Executive session minutes must include:

- Date, time and place of meeting;
- Names of members of the public body present or absent;
- A general description of matters considered;
- An accurate description of all instructions given; and
- Such other matters as may be deemed appropriate by the public body.

The minutes or a recording of the public session must be open for public inspection no later than three working days after the meeting, except as otherwise provided in the statute. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(D).

Cities and towns with a population of more than 2,500 persons must post approved city and town council minutes on its website within two working days following approval. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(E)(2).

Minutes of executive sessions must be kept confidential except from certain individuals. A.R.S. § 38-431.03(B).

How long meeting minutes are maintained is determined by the public body's record retention and destruction schedule authorized by Arizona State Library and Archives.

Persons in attendance may record any portion of a public meeting, as long as the recording does not actively interfere with the meeting. Acceptable recording equipment includes tape recorders, cameras, or other means of reproduction. A.R.S. § 38-431.01(F).

## ***7. Where to turn for help***

### Self-help resources available:

The Arizona Ombudsman – Citizens' Aide handbook – The Arizona Open Meeting Law (available online at [www.azoca.gov](http://www.azoca.gov) under open meetings/publication)

The Arizona Ombudsman's website, [www.azoca.gov](http://www.azoca.gov)

Arizona Agency Handbook, Chapter 7, [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov) – Quick Links Attorney

General Opinions – [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov) – Quick Links

### Questions/File a complaint:

Arizona Ombudsman-Citizen's Aide (602) 277-7292

### File a complaint/Enforcement authority

Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Enforcement Team (602) 542-5025 County Attorney's Office

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# Pima NRCD Plan of Work

We only need one signature to submit.

Point of Contact - Liz can fill that in

Mission: Same as last year

Local work group meeting dates April 30, 2024; April-May 2025

Supervisors: Liz can fill in this info after elected and appointed positions and offices are determined

External partnership meetings: AACD, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

Natural Resource Priorities - same as last year

Same partners as last year

Page 3:

## Natural Resource Projects

### 1. Rancho Seco Water System Replacement Demonstration

This project will replace a water system (or systems) on a ranch where prior water infrastructure was removed. Impacts and benefits to wildlife will be studied before and after water system replacement. The project may also demonstrate new technologies for enhancing rangeland health and reducing use of fossil fuels, possibly through addition of a remote water monitoring system to reduce fuel usage. New pumps will be solar. Wildlife escape ramps will be installed in large livestock drinkers. Possibly also install a cattle-exclosed drinker for small wildlife and birds, also monitored with a game camera.

George Ruyle may be interested in doing contract study on range management effects. He is interested in discussing this.

Measurable objectives: Restore water infrastructure for a minimum of one solar well pump, one storage tank and one livestock drinker. Monitor wildlife presence and their water usage before and after installation through automatic game cameras. Review study proposals for range management and wildlife presence effects before and after installation.

Target date to complete first well/tank/drinker system: July 31.

Potential funding sources: NRCS EQIP funds, Pima NRCD State and District funds, Pima County, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Water Conservation Fund

The District can commit 1/5 of the total increase of the District account balance over the previous five fiscal years. The District account balance was \$77,622 on June 30, 2019. The balance fluctuates with the stock market but is currently about \$121,300. If the balance remains at that level on June 30, then the District could budget about \$8,700 of District account funds to FY 2025 projects.

Plan:

1. Identify a deadline to have the first water system completed.
2. Identify cost and time requirements of proposed studies and adjust scope of pre-project studies to allow for rapid installation of the first water system
3. Identify specific funding partners and get commitments; apply for grant funding; seek early funding

NRCS- EQIP- the lessee is already in contact with Alisha Phipps

AZGFD Heritage or other funding -contact \_\_\_\_\_

Pima County —contact Vanessa Prileson. Funding may require interaction with the Pima County BOS.

Arizona Water Conservation Fund - Contact Stef Smallhouse

Arizona Farm Bureau- contact?

4. Timeline depends on grant application cycles

Mary Miller's suggestions:

“ Regarding the Rancho Seco situation ...

1. Here is some specific info on possible partners ~ provided with some help from AVCA staff Sarah and Julia ...
1. Arizona Game and Fish Department — Nick Schobinger ([nschobinger@azgfd.gov](mailto:nschobinger@azgfd.gov)) would be the best AGFD person to start with. He's the landowner point of contract. Also, it could make sense to put together an HPC (Habitat Partnership Committee) grant for funding at the end of August. This might not take care of the immediate need, but could help fulfill things down the road
2. Pima County — Cole Williams ([cole.williams@pima.gov](mailto:cole.williams@pima.gov)) would be the other person at the County that it would make sense to involve, since he's the Altar Valley person. As an FYI, Linda Mayo is retired. Other contacts could include Brian Powell, Karen Simms and/or Vanessa Prileson — but Sarah recommends starting with Cole.
3. NRCD — Alisha Phipps would be place to start.
2. Perhaps it would be helpful to convene a meeting with someone from NRCD, the landowner, and these 3 people. The overall project concept could be discussed, as well as the timing issues. In this way, hopefully the near-term problem could be addressed with help from NRCD funding — but this money could also be used to leverage other programs. This would also get Pima County at the table so that complexities regarding land ownership could be addressed. Having not read the Rancho Seco proposal that Jim presented, this may not make sense — but thought I'd put these ideas out there. “

### **Additional Program/Plan**

2. Update Long Range Plan for FY 2025-2029

This project may incorporate findings from the resource needs assessment conducted in FY 2024 as well as assessments to be conducted in the future for the District.

Measurable Objectives: Finish a draft update by the end of 2nd quarter of FY 2025.

### **Pima Center for Conservation Education FY 2025 Plan of Work**

\$2,000 has already been committed from FY 2024 funding to the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance to conduct a pre-project science workshop. The project goal is to halt degradation and restore severely eroding surfaces associated with the Brawley Wash watershed on the Palo Alto Ranch. The pre-project workshop will determine a priority project area and prescribe treatments and monitoring plans.

**The rest of this section should be completed by Liz Tuck as our Ed Center Director, working together with Mary Miller.**

I suggest we also hold another educational workshop to present what is learned from the completion of various steps in the Rancho Seco project.

**PCCE Plan of Work ...** continuing from Cindy's draft. These ideas are dependent on funding as decided by the BOS

1. Conduct a post-project science workshop to evaluate treatments on the Palo Alto Ranch.

Consider: Will there be enough time to see some results by June 2025?

2. Design 1-3 workshops to demonstrate what is learned from the Rancho Seco project.
3. Continue posting educational articles on the website.
4. Incorporate goals for the Ed Center in the long range plan.

## Attachment – SOURCE drinking water

Hi Liz,

This is Bhargavi with SOURCE, we are an Arizona-based public benefit company that work with rural communities to harvest clean drinking water out of the moisture in the air using only sunlight. We've been encouraged to connect with the Pima Conservation Districts to learn more about the work you're doing locally and better understand how this new water harvesting capability can aid in farm and range operations.

For more background, we are currently implementing a rural drinking water program across Southern Arizona to equip rural homes on wells and in small water systems with their own drinking water harvesting systems. Here is a recent news article about it:

<https://www.azfamily.com/2023/07/12/hydropanels-provide-clean-water-rural-tribal-arizona-communities/>

Is there a good time for me to call you in the next few weeks

**Bhargavi Golluru**

Business Development Manager, Global Projects & Partners

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