



Pima Natural Resource Conservation District
Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc.
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DRAFT Minutes of the Pima NRCD/ Pima Center for Conservation Education, Inc. Combined Meeting of 10/24/24

Attendees:

Chairman Andrew McGibbon
Vice President Sue Chilton
Secretary Mary Miller
Treasurer Cindy Coping
Supervisor Jonathan DuHamel

Guest - Elena G. Dosamantes, Program Coordinator, Altar Valley Conservation Alliance

Guest - Tom Reis, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Meeting commenced 1:00 pm.

Treasurer Cindy Coping reviewed financial matters:

FY 2025 State funding \$13,427.58 for the Pima NRCD as been received. The amount is increased from prior years because one of the 32 districts has been dissolved and its funding was divided among the rest.

FY 2025 Ed Center funding was received : \$5,000 from State appropriation and \$1,250 from the Special License Plate fund.

The budget previously approved for FY 2025 includes \$8,230.00 from the Pima NRCD District account and \$3,869 from the Ed Center's District Account.

Unspent funding per the FY 2025 budget is therefore:

Pima NRCD: \$21,654.62

Pima Center for Conservation Education: \$10,119.00

Invoices were presented as follow:

1. Fy 2024 Clerical labor and mileage: \$400.00

2. FY 2025 Website expense reimbursement: subtotal \$511.55
FY2025 AACD Conference registration, hotel and mileage reimbursement: subtotal \$469.87
Invoice total: \$981.42

Motion to approve both invoices by Sue Chilton, 2nd by Jonathan DuHamel, no opposition.

Approval of minutes from July 9, 2024. Motion by Jonathan DuHamel, 2nd by Sue Chilton, no opposition.

Approval of minutes from July 23, 2024. Motion by Sue Chilton, 2nd by Jonathan DuHamel, no opposition.

Approval of resolutions (attached to these minutes) to open a Fidelity brokerage account with Education Center District Account funds totaling \$29,000. Motion by Jonathan DuHamel , 2nd by Sue Chilton, no opposition.

Information item. Cindy Coping sent a letter to George Ruyle proposing that the Rancho Seco Ranch water development project site be a subject for scientific research.

Project Update. Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (AVCA) Program Coordinator Elena Report from AVCA, Elena Dosamantes provided an update on the Palo Alto Ranch watershed restoration workshop funded by the District in cooperation with AVCA. It was attended by 29 people. Project notes are available. The draft project design will be ready soon, and will be shared when complete. Elena also spoke about a letter proposal submitted by AVCA Executive Director Sarah King in which AVCA would convene a series of workshops related to NRCS programs for producers. The group discussed related ideas concerning managing wildfire, fuels, and grazing as a fire abatement tool, as well as working more effectively with the Arizona Department of Forest and Fire Management. The idea of holding 3 workshops stretched over a 12 - 18 month time period was discussed.

Proposal to use up to \$7,500.00 from FY 2025 Pima Education Center State and District funds to support a series of 3 workshops in partnership with AVCA related to topics surrounding fire, fire abatement, fire preparedness, targeted grazing, fuels management and invasive species management and related project planning and funding with request that budget specify what funds will be used for (ie staff work, hospitality, supplies, travel etc). Motion by Mary Miller, 2nd by Cindy Coping. No opposition.

Information item. AVCA Sarah King has been in close communication with Rancho Seco Juan Lopez and is waiting for invoice from Rancho Seco for the water development project.

Discussion of Supervisor recruitment for future. Individual districts have their own definition of who may be a supervisor. They must be a cooperator and a registered voter. Our district has two long standing supervisors who would like to be replaced in about one year. Andrew McGibbon stated that he would, "Like to be replaced, someone who has a true desire to do something positive on the land (Drew).

Discussion item. Clerk position is still open.

As interim solution prior to hiring Clerk, propose to compensate Supervisors for provision of administrative services Motion by Sue Chilton, 2nd by Jonathan DuHamel, no opposition.

Discussion item. Cindy Copping proposes to issue a newsletter in early December covering the Palo Alto workshop, Rancho Seco project, and search for new supervisors and clerk..

Discussion of future meeting dates. The local work group meetings for NRCS program guidance is due by July 1st. February would be a good time to engage in discussion on these topics. By May / June it will be time to plan projects and budgets for the following year.

Next meeting: A date for the next meeting was chosen: Tuesday January 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Plant Materials Center, with optional brown bag lunch at noon.

NRCS Tom Reis provided information about recent NRCS activities. See attached NRCS report.

Adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Attachments to minutes:

Fidelity Brokerage resolutions

NRCS Report

12. Resolutions

Certified Copy of Certain Resolutions Adopted by the Governing Body of the Business Whereby the Establishment and Maintenance of Trading Accounts Have Been Authorized

RESOLVED:

FIRST: That the individual(s) listed on this application hereby are authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of this Business (herein called the "Business"), to establish, maintain, and act on this account (which may be a margin account), and each of them hereby is authorized and empowered for and on behalf of this Business, with Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC and its affiliates (collectively "Fidelity") for the purpose of purchasing, investing in, or otherwise acquiring, selling (including short sales), possessing, transferring, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of, or turning to account of, or realizing upon, and generally dealing in and with any and all forms of securities including, but not by way of limitation, shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, scrip, participation certificates, rights to subscribe, options, warrants, certificates of deposit, mortgages, evidences of indebtedness, commercial paper, certificates of indebtedness and certificates of interest of any and every kind and nature whatsoever, secured or unsecured, whether represented by trust, participating and/or other certificates, or otherwise.

The fullest authority at all times with respect to any such commitment or with respect to any transaction deemed by any of the said officers and/or agents to be proper in connection therewith is hereby conferred, including authority (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) to give instructions (whether oral, written, electronic, or otherwise) to Fidelity with respect to said transactions; to borrow money and securities and to borrow such money and securities from or through Fidelity, and to secure repayment thereof with the property of the Business; to bind and obligate the Business and for the carrying out of any contract, arrangement, or transaction that shall be entered into by any such officer and/or agent for and on behalf of the Business with or through Fidelity; to pay by checks and/or drafts drawn upon the funds of the Business such sums as may be necessary in

connection with any of the said accounts; to deliver securities and contracts to Fidelity; to deliver securities to and deposit funds with Fidelity; to order the transfer or delivery of securities to any other person whatsoever, and/or to order the transfer of record of any securities, to any name selected by any of the said officers or agents; to affix the corporate seal to any documents or securities to any name selected by any of the said officers or agents; to affix the corporate seal to any documents or agreements, or otherwise; to endorse any securities and/or contracts in order to pass title thereto; to direct the sale or exercise of any rights with respect to any securities; to sign for the Business all releases, powers of attorney, and/or other documents in connection with any such account, and to agree to any terms or conditions to control any such account; to direct Fidelity to surrender any securities to the proper agent or party for the purpose of effecting any exchange or conversion, or for the purpose of deposit with any protective or similar committee, or otherwise; to accept delivery of any securities; to appoint any other person or persons to do any and all things that any of the said officers and/or agents are hereby empowered to do, and generally to do and take all action necessary in connection with the account, or considered desirable by such officer and/or agent with respect thereto.

SECOND: That Fidelity may deal with any and all of the persons directly or indirectly empowered by the foregoing resolution, as though they were dealing with the Business directly.

THIRD: That the officers of the Business be and hereby are authorized, empowered, and if requested by Fidelity, directed to certify:

- (a) a true copy of these resolutions;
- (b) specimen signatures of each and every person by these resolutions empowered;
- (c) a certificate (which, if required by Fidelity, shall be supported by an opinion of the general counsel of the Business, or

other counsel satisfactory to Fidelity) that the Business is duly organized and existing, that its operating documents empower it to transact the business by these resolutions defined, and that no limitation has been imposed upon such powers.

FOURTH: That Fidelity may rely upon any certification given in accordance with these resolutions, as continuing fully effective until and until Fidelity shall receive due written notice of a change in or the rescission of the authority so evidenced and the dispatch or receipt of any other form of notice shall not constitute a waiver of this provision, nor shall the fact that any person hereby empowered ceases to be an officer of the Business or becomes an officer under some other title in any way affect the powers hereby conferred. The failure to supply any specimen signature shall not invalidate any transaction if the transaction is in accordance with authority actually granted.

FIFTH: That in the event of any change in the office or powers of persons hereby empowered, the officers of the Business shall certify such changes to Fidelity in writing in the manner herein above provided, which notification, when received, shall be adequate both to terminate the powers of the persons theretofore authorized, and to empower the persons thereby substituted.

SIXTH: That the foregoing resolutions and the certificates actually furnished to Fidelity by the Business pursuant thereto be and hereby are made irrevocable until written notice of the revocation thereof shall have been received by Fidelity.

SEVENTH: That the Business and its officers indemnify and hold Fidelity harmless from any claim, loss, expense, or other liability for effecting any transactions and acting upon any instructions given by the officers of the Business.

Form ends here. ►►





**Pima NRCD Meeting
NRCS Team 7 Report
October 24th, 2024**

NRCS FUNDING PROGRAMS - Summary of 2024 Allocations:

- **CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program**
 - Available funding for AZ: \$3,800,000
- **EQIP – Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – funds available statewide (\$17.695 million)**
 - EQIP-IRA Small Farm and Ranch = \$1,195,000
 - EQIP-IRA Crop and Pasture = \$6 million
 - EQIP-IRA Range = \$6 million
 - EQIP-IRA Forest = \$2.5 million
 - EQIP-IRA ACT NOW Targeted Practices = \$2 million
 - High Tunnels, Cover Crops, Brush Management - chemical
- **EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding (Statewide \$11,181,800)**
 - Originally funding for Tucson Field Office was \$621,231. Received additional funding later in the year.
- **RCPP – Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape w/ Arizona Land & Water Trust**
 - \$3,557,816
- **Joint Chiefs - Catalina Rincon: Mount Lemmon watershed area: \$157,652**
- **Joint Chiefs - Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape Phase 2: \$385,700**
- **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI): Babacomari Watershed: \$1,132,203**

FARM BILL PROGRAM UPDATES:

- Finished funding for 2024
- ***Application deadline for next fiscal year (FY25) funding cycle are tentatively set:***
 - ***November 1st, 2024: Application cutoff deadline for IRA (EQIP, CSP, RCPP)***
 - ***January 10th, 2025: Application cutoff deadline for Regular EQIP, CSP & RCPP***
- Still operating under 2018 Farm Bill. Continuing resolution of 2018 Farm Bill through September 2024. As of September 6, 2024, Congress had not reached an agreement on a new farm bill, and the prospects for one this year are uncertain.

Summary of Tucson NRCS 2024 Contracts Funded:

EOIP 2024 Contracts (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

Cropland

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Pima	Holliday	High Tunnels	\$5,887
Santa Cruz	Holliday	Irrigation Water / Wildlife Habitat	\$18,280
Santa Cruz	Holliday	High Tunnels	\$44,151

Irrigated Pasture

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Pima	Holliday	Land Leveling / Irrigation Ditch / Cover Crop	\$105,521
Winkelman	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments / Combustion System	\$208,459
Santa Cruz	Holliday	Irrigation Ditch	\$80,751

Crop/Irrigated EQIP Total = \$463,049

Rangeland

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Pima	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Fence / Prescribed Grazing	\$150,439
Pima	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments / Fence / Prescribed Grazing	\$190,122
Pima	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Prescribed Grazing	\$109,090
Pima	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Fence / Prescribed Grazing	\$203,681
Winkelman	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Prescribed Grazing	\$255,984
Winkelman	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments / Prescribed Grazing	\$18,419
Winkelman	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Fence / Prescribed Grazing	\$212,341
Winkelman	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments / Prescribed Grazing	\$26,795
Winkelman	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments / Pollinator Habitat	\$131,692
Winkelman	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments / Fence	\$62,489
Santa Cruz	Phipps	Livestock Water Developments	\$48,486
Santa Cruz	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments	\$277,265
Santa Cruz	Spieth	Brush Management	\$6,025
Santa Cruz	Spieth	Brush Management	\$244,802

Rangeland EQIP Total = \$1,937,630

RCPP 2024 Contracts (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

Rangeland

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Santa Cruz	Spieth	Livestock Water Developments	\$210,495

RCPP Total = \$210,495

CSP 2024 Contracts (Conservation Stewardship Program)

Cropland

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Santa Cruz	Holliday	Enhancements	\$55,016

Rangeland

NRCD	Planner	Projects	Contract Amount
Pima	Phipps	Enhancements	\$200,000
Winkelman	Spieth	Enhancements	\$200,000
Winkelman	Phipps	Enhancements	\$200,000
Winkelman	Phipps	Enhancements	\$200,000
Santa Cruz	Phipps	Enhancements	\$200,000
Santa Cruz	Phipps	Enhancements	\$200,000

CSP Total = \$1,255,016

Total Projects Funded by Tucson NRCS Field Office in 2024 = \$3,866,190

Team 7 2024 Contracts Funded:

	Contracts	%	\$	%	Acres	%
Team 7	68	30%	\$ 7,413,296.99	31%	277338.4	30%
AZ	230	100%	\$ 24,078,456.48	100%	918138.7	100%

Team 7 Staffing Updates:

- Tucson Office – Natural Resources Specialist position vacant
- Douglas Office – Soil Conservationist position vacant (10/21-11/5)
- Sells Office – I. Francisco resigning 11/1/24

NRCS Tucson Field Office Staff:

Tom Reis, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist – Team Lead
Alisha Phipps, Rangeland Management Specialist – Master Planner
Heather Spieth, Rangeland Management Specialist
Mynesha Holliday, Soil Conservationist
Natural Resource Specialist, *Vacant*

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Submitted By:

Tom Reis

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Arizona NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/arizona>
