Verde Natural Resource Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting
February 16, 2024

MINUTES

1. **The meeting was called to order at 9 AM by Chairman Norton.**
2. **Attendance**: Supervisors Jensen, B. Hauser, C. Hausen, Higginbotham, Jensen and Norton. District Clerk Cox, ASLD Thomas and SRP Benson.
3. **Supervisor Jensen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by B. Hauser, approved unanimously.**

4. **Presentations/Information/Reports**
    a. Agency reports: Jackie Thomas from ASLD spoke briefly about House Bill 2065 regarding changes to the governing body of Arizona NRCDs. She could not comment for or against the proposal but urged the Board to follow up at a later meeting. She also mentioned that the License Plate Fund for Ed Centers had more than the usual amount of funds and that the full amount of $5000 had been made available to Arizona Ed Centers.
    b. Supervisors:
        - Higgenbotham: Sierra Frydenlund visited her ranch.
        - C. Hauser: 1) pivot almost complete 2) Suggested Board hold a meeting at the project 2)SB 1221 would like a presentation about the Rural Water Management Bill 3) Get more information about conservation easements 2) Battling with Yavapai County over taxation on conservation easements 6) explore better ways (other than public notices in newspaper) of getting information about water claims.
    c. District Clerk Report: Updated Board on Election Schedule and provided a financial report.

5. **Old Business**
    a. WIFA Grant: Supervisor Norton said the WIFA Grants were signed and sent to Ecivas. We are good to go on piping project. John Ford will do a presentation on grants at the next meeting. The piping project: actual work will start in December 2024. Discovered that a high percentage of leakages are under washes, may need a revised budget.
    b. Updates on Environmental Education Center/Cottonwood Oak Creek School District and Science Center. Agreements have been signed, need to work on SRP Funding-Carter Benson will contact SRP Outreach. Take any action if required.

6. **New Business**
    a) Discussed the anticipated hiring of an individual to work specifically on the soil moisture program with the anticipation the job would expand later. Chip will work on a job description. Would like to have a staff member in April.
    b) The board agreed to April 12as a date for the LWG but as room was unavailable rescheduled for the 19th of April.

7. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM by Chairman Norton.