

Verde Natural Resource Conservation District

August 14, 2026

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Chairman Ross.
2. **Attendance:** Supervisors Ross, Norton, B. Hauser, C. Hauser, O'Callaghan. District Clerk Cox. Guests: Miceli, Stevenson, Hickson, Ross, Salcito, Mulcaire, Spanyers, Miller, Pierce, Clark and Sherlock.
3. **Consent Agenda:** B. Hauser moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Supervisor C. Hauser, approved unanimously.
4. **Call to the Public:** Mulcaire asked the board to tackle one problem at a time, would like the Board to review fenced off riparian areas. Suggestions were made to continue this discussion at future Ranchers Working Group meetings.
5. **Presentations/Information/Reports**
 - a. Agency reports: NRCS, ASLD, Town of Camp Verde, UA Cooperative Extension, USFS
 - UA Cooperative Extension: Report on screwworm presence in Arizona, putting on workshops and funds for livestock inspections. Fall workshops at B-V, developing app for plant pathology, assisting in adding urban agriculture uses in Prescott code.
 - b. Advisor reports: TNC, AACD
 - TNC: Spring Creek restoration completed. Meeting with AZ State Parks on river access, YAN has interest in fishponds.
 - AACD: Dawn Salcito is the new president of the organization; Becki Ross will head of the crop committee. Amount of 2026/2027 distributions to districts unknown at this time.
 - c. Supervisor's reports:
 - Norton: Vineyard harvest is underway, winding up WIFA projects, may have funds available for irrigation efficiency.
 - C. Hauser: Corn is over, pecan crop looks great. NRCS turnover is maddening.
 - O'Callaghan: working on erosion control, looking at a plan for regenerative farming.
 - Ross: toured Pocket Fire burn, announced Supervisor Norton has been nominated for a Farm Bureau award.
 - d. District Clerk Report: During the past month: renewed SAM registration, began work on ED Center tax return, met with banker, working with insurance company to update public official's bond, updated website and email list, on going work on Day in the Garden event.
6. **New Business**
 - a. Report from Supervisors about AACD Annual Conference: Ross: inspired by Salcito's presentation on grassland restoration. O'Callaghan: change takes time, it is important to get youth involved.
 - b. Proposal to partner with Coconino NRCD to pursue a grant from Arizona State Parks and Trails: Supervisor B. Hauser moved to proceed with partnership, seconded by Supervisor O'Callaghan, approved unanimously.
 - c. Proposal to add a youth advisor to Verde NRCD. Discussion about role of youth advisor, need a description of job, possibly find someone to increase social media exposure. No action.
 - d. Supervisor B. Hauser moved to purchase a banner for the Verde NRCD to be used at events, workshops and meetings. Seconded by Supervisor O'Callaghan, approved unanimously
 - e. Discuss proposed workshops to be sponsored by the Verde NRCD. Board reviewed prior workshops and proposed the following workshops for the 2026/2027 year: Ranchers, Small Producers, Adjudication, Youth, Water Certainty. In addition to workshops, Dawn Salcito reminded the Board to schedule Local Work Group.
 - f. Board discussed getting a table at Fort Verde Days. Supervisor O'Callaghan will follow up with Town.

- g. Discussion about supporting the Upper Verde Wild and Scenic Designation: Board determined that further information was needed before proceeding. Tabled until September.
- h. Discuss hiring a grant writer or pursuing opportunities to acquire funding through AACD, TNC and other entities: It was determined that the Board needed to identify educational priorities before moving forward.

7. 9:45 AM Old Business

- a) WIFA: Updates: winding up paperwork.
- b) Financial Report: Clerk presented and reviewed financial report. Supervisor B. Hauser moved to accept the report, seconded by Supervisor C. Hauser, approved unanimously.

8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 by Chairman Ross.