**GILA BEND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES**

**Space Age Restaurant, Gila Bend, AZ**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024, 12:30 p.m.**

**Board members present: Staff present:**

Mark Skousen – Vice Chairman Rayanne Leister - clerk

Gary John - Supervisor

Ella Pierpoint – Supervisor Treasurer

Roy Pierpoint – Supervisor

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Chairman Mark Skousen called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**2**. **ROLL CALL** – see list above

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Board members reviewed the minutes from the January meeting. The minutes were approved and filed.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Submitted by Rayanne Leister, Clerk were approved and filed

**State Account:**

Opening balance **$**23,237.88

Income $5,000.00

Expenses $509.80

Bank Balance December bank statement $27,728.08

**Local Account:**

Opening balance $9,976.98

Income $0

Expenses $147.25

Closing balance $9.429.73

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/MEETING REPORTS**

6. **REPORTS**

1. Kayla McClendon, NRCS Natural Resources Specialist, Avondale Field Office has been reassigned. The contact information for the new person at NRCS was invalid. Ella will attempt to contact someone from NRCS for more information.
2. A bill to establish a Natural Resource Conservation Commission, HB 2865, has passed the State House and is heading to the State Senate (See handout email from AACD Executive Director, Deborrah Smith.) The purpose of establishing this Commission is to provide additional funding for AZ NRCD projects.

7. **OLD BUSINESS –**

1. There was discussion regarding the application for Liability insurance/Surety Bond with Farm Bureau Insurance agency. Ella will contact the office for status on the application.
2. NRCD supervisor elections scheduled for May 4, 2024.
3. There was discussion to nominate cooperators to serve a 6-year elected term and a 2-year appointed term. Joe Getzwiler and Mark McGuire have expressed an interest in serving on the board.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Announcement by Governor and ADWR Director to consider designating the Gila Bend Groundwater Basin as a subsequent Active Management Area. There was discussion and the board unanimously opposes the proposal. Ella moved to announced the boards position to oppose this, second bu Gary, motion approved unanimously.
2. The discussion regarding the AACD call to action legislative language for HB 2865, forming a Natural Resource Conservation Commission was discussed under reports.
3. The board reviewed the current list of cooperators, there were some changes made as some of the cooperators are not active or are deceased. Tyson will contact Mark McGuire to complete his cooperative agreement and get his address to qualify him as an elector. Ella moved to approve the updated list of qualified electors, second by Gary, motion carried.
4. There was discussion to approve the AACD request for program support, fiscal year 2023-2024. Ella moved to support the program as a Conservation leader in the amount of $1,500.00, second by Gary, motion carried.
5. The district received a letter from the Arizona Envirothon requesting funding support for the local competition. Ella made a motion to approved funding support in the amount of $500.00, second by Roy, motion approved unanimously.
6. There was discussion to support the NRCWAY youth program, Ella will research to find out more information on the program for this year. The board will put this on the agenda the May meeting.
7. Gary moved to approve the date for the next board meeting, May 23, 2024, second by Roy motion approved unanimously.

9. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Ella shared information on the Dessert Gem Solar and Storage Project. (see attachment)

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Roy moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Gary, motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Submitted by: Rayanne Leister, district clerk