**West Pinal Natural Resource Conservation District**

**520 N. Camino Mercado – Ste. 12 ~ Casa Grande, AZ 85122 ~ Office (520) 836-1906 ext 3**

# Monthly Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Caywood Farms

841 E. Hwy 287

Casa Grande, AZ 85122

## MINUTES

## April 3, 2024

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| **CALL TO ORDER:** Philip “McD” Hartman, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.  |

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| **SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** | Philip “McD” Hartman, ChairmanLoren Pratt, TreasurerNancy Caywood, SupervisorWayne Tomkinson, Supervisor  |
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| **SUPERVISORS ABSENT:** | Dick Powell, Vice-Chairman |
| **OTHERS PRESENT:** | Eddie Enriquez, IMSJennifer Salcido, NRECJames Felix, NRCSPatty Caywood, District Clerk |
| **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes from the West Pinal NRCD meeting held on March 6, 2024, were reviewed. Nancy Caywood made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Loren Pratt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.  |

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Financial Reports were reviewed. The statements from Edward Jones are now being received quarterly, so there was no investment report. Loren Pratt made a motion to file the Financial Reports as presented. Wayne Tomkinson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Loren Pratt informed the board he has been talking with a representative of Chase Bank and the funds located at Edward Jones, can be moved into a Certificate of Deposit earning over 5% interest. By moving the funds from Edward Jones, they will take a loss, but Mr. Pratt feels the benefit outweighs the loss. Loren Pratt made a motion to transfer the funds from the Edward Jones accounts to Chase Bank and combine it with the funds in the savings account to invest in a Certificate of Deposit. Nancy Caywood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**BILLS PAYABLE:**

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| **District Account** **Per Diem**Philip “McD” Hartman (3rd Qtr – Jan, Feb, Mar) Loren Pratt (3rd Qtr – Jan, Feb, Mar) Nancy Caywood (3rd Qtr – Jan, Feb, Mar) Wayne Tomkinson (3rd Qtr – Jan, Feb, Mar) **Sub-Total** | 168.00132.00129.00129.00**558.00** |  |
| **State Acct (1st Interstate):** IMS (Clerical Expense 4th Qtr) Nancy Caywood (meeting expense) Nancy Caywood (lunch expense)  NREC (Apr salary exp) | 1,178.25100.00110.00300.00 |  |
| **State Funds Total** | **1,688.25** |  |
| **Total Expenses** | **2,246.25** |  |
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The Bills Payable were reviewed. Loren Pratt made a motion to approve and pay the bills as presented. Wayne Tomkinson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

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| **NREC**: NREC has been very busy with their Veggies Ventures program, attendance has been the best for the program, this year. The last Veggie Ventures program will be held tomorrow. The NREC team and their volunteers have to hand weed about every other day. The egg program will be held in April. NREC will participate in Project Wet in Globe and Apache Junction in May. So far, NREC has participated in all Pinal County Project Wet events this year. Eddie Enriquez made new ditch crossing bridges. The two missing metal crossing bridges were found in the weeds. Jennifer Salcido applied for the Gila River grant last Friday and asked for more money this year. NREC received a $5000.00 grant from Pinal 40. They are going to send a film crew to do a thank you presentation at their gala. The ports in the ditches need to be replaced, they are approximately eighteen years old. **IMS:** The IMS team is working with participants to assist with annual reporting and BMP applications. Eddie Enriquez has been taking applications to the ADWR office in Phoenix monthly. Sign-ups are about halfway completed. The deadline is July 1st.The IMS board meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 10:00 am in the NRCS Conference Room |
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| NRCS: James Felix presented the NRCS report. Zaneta Henry started full time in January. NRCS has hired a new Soil Conservationist, Jonathan Walther as a Master Planner. Phil Jacquez interviewed a graduate currently working with ARS in Maricopa. The Conservation Technician in the Casa Grande field office currently covers Pinal, Maricopa, Yuma and LaPaz counties. Larger farms are currently not showing interest in programs. Eddie Enriquez mentioned holding a customer appreciation lunch this summer to introduce new NRCS staff and discuss programs available.  |
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| **MENTORSHIP PROGRAM:** James Felix and Eddie Enriquez are planning to work together on some projects to meet the requirement of the mentorship program. Nancy Caywood reported that the program is going well and will be continuing next year. The trip to dam hasn’t been rescheduled. Nancy will check on farm bureau dues.**SLD:**  none |
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**BUSINESS:**

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| 1. Farm Report – Loren Pratt: The corn that Loren Pratt has planted is up to about a foot tall. The price of sileage corn is down from last year. His sweet corn is about 5-6 inches tall. Farmers on the west side of Pinal County are pre-irrigating for cotton or trying to get corn in the ground. Loren will be cutting alfalfa starting tomorrow.

 1. Farm Report – Nancy Caywood: Nancy Caywood received a phone call from Noah Hiscox regarding the dust abatement form. This is a form that has to be filled out annually to plan for dust abatement.

There is concern that there is no one in the San Carlos Irrigation & Drainage District office to write grants. It appears the person hired seems uninterested in applying for grants that would allow for lining canals in this area. SCIDD received money to put in six wells., they were put in north of Kenilworth. The end of the canal system is out by Frito Lay. There is about 40 miles of canal that needs to be lined. Nancy Caywood was contacted for her interest in participating in “Ag Camp”. NREC would be interested in partnering with Nancy on this, but do not want to take the project on themselves. The dates conflict with the Ag in the Classroom program Nancy has committed to1. Ag in the Classroom Donation: On June 11th a group of 20-30 teachers from Ag in the Classroom will be coming to the farm to learn about agriculture. They will take a farm tour at about 3:30 and then have dinner. Loren Pratt made a motion to help defray the cost of the meal. Wayne Tomkinson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Nancy Caywood will present receipts at the July meeting.
2. Update on District Election – Philip “McD” Hartman Candidate: Loren Pratt spoke to Craig Zinke. He would like more information before considering the appointed position vacated by Nancy Caywood when she stepped up to fill Dick Powell’s position.
* Update Cooperator List. The board reviewed the list and made changes. Nancy Caywood made a motion to let the District Clerk work with IMS to make further updates and finalize the list. Loren Pratt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The District Clerk will be sending letters out to cooperators to update their information including email addresses.
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**CONSERVATION ISSUES:** The District Clerk was asked to make a business size card with board members contact information and NRCS office numbers to be given each board member.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** No response

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| **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Loren Pratt moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m. Nancy Caywood seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Lunch followed. |
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Signature of Approval