Yuma NRCD

Minutes

Thursday April 20, 2023

Noon

NRCS office (USDA service center)

2197 S 4th Avenue Suite 104

Yuma AZ 85364

Call To order Mark Kuechel called the meeting to order at 12:13

Call to the public: Mr. Kuechel made a call to the public there was no response.

Minutes: approved

NRCS no report.

BLM: James Steward talked about the recent fires on the Colorado. BLM makes fire breaks, and fights the fires, They investigate the cause and prosecute those responsible, the beetles do not kill salt cedar but they do defoliate the plants, which makes them more susceptible to fire. They have NEPA regulations to consider when make fire breaks. Unfortunately, the fire breaks need to be redone every year as the salt cedar and other plants grow back quickly. They have tipped some salt cedar and uncovered the roots which has proven very effective.

Game and Fish not present

PM10: Harold Maxwell has some wonderful news. With the help of the UofA weather stations we are able to have data we need to prove 100% of our exceedances are because of wind. The Hazmat stations pulled the data and showed we have no exceedances without wind over 25 mph. The number of farm roads has been identified as not an issue. The county roads do have some traffic. We can now identify 10 degree sectors.

Robert Masson from the UofA extension has a new program to fund water efficiency grants to growers. Grant applications are a one page format. $30million is available and more $ are scheduled to be available for water savings. Grower must prove he can save 20% with the new procedure being pipe, drip, or any other means. 74% of water use in AZ is in ag. They have on farm water monitoring for growers.

Mr. Masson is also holding an Erosion workshop. There is also an international workshop with Native Americans, Netherlands, and Egypt for acidic and saline soils.

Ongoing field studies for soil amendments. Biochar did not turn out to be feasible.

Water Rights

Yuma Conservation Garden

AACD

Sportsman Raffle.

Attendance: Robert Masson U of A extension, Raymond Corcoles U of A, Tom Fox Laguna, Sheryl Christenson Laguna, James Steward BLM, Harold Maxwell Yuma NRCD, Steve Wyant Yuma, Bobbie McDermott Yuma, Mark Kuechel Yuma