

**Cocopai RC&D**  
**Meeting Minutes—September 15, 2008**  
**Prescott Valley Town Hall**

Present: Fran Schumacher, President, Prescott Valley; Bob Luzius, City of Prescott; Cliff Hamilton, City of Sedona; Jodi Allen, Verde NRCD; Bill Towler, Coconino County; Shai Schendel, NRCS Flagstaff Field Office; Bob Arambula, Cocopai Coordinator

Fran called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She provided an update of what is happening in Prescott Valley. She said a new library is under construction next to town hall. It should be complete next year. It is being built green but will not be LEED certified. The library will be shared with Yavapai College. There is an 800,000 square foot retail center opening at the west end of town that will include Home Depot and Sam's Club. The town budget is in good shape, and they are not doing any layoffs.

The July minutes were reviewed and were unanimously approved.

Bill Towler presented the financial report from January 1 to September 15, 2008. The Council noted that there was a need to do some additional marketing and publicity for the grant service at the Cottonwood Library. There are no dues yet as the dues notices just went out today.

Bob provided the coordinator's report. He has mostly been working on the area plan. Some of the projects and activities are from the old area plan and others are brand new. He went over the four program areas—land conservation, water management, community development, and land management. Jodi said she appreciated that weed management in the Verde is in the plan. Bill said ranching 101 workshops for Yavapai County could be added. Erik Glenn of the Cooperative Extension Service is trying to get those organized, and it seems like Cocopai could assist. These were recently done in Cochise County. Another idea is weed control in the Rio de Flag in the area northeast of Flagstaff. Bob Luzius moved approval of the area plan with the additions, Bill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next was nomination of officers. Bob said there was a need for a nominating committee. Pat Williams of Clarkdale and Dot Schmidt of Chino Valley were volunteered to serve on the committee. Bob said he would contact them.

Bob said a membership letter was sent to organizations that have not been attending about three weeks ago. Cliff said the mayor of Sedona received the letter. Bob said it was coordinated with Pat. Cliff asked if the RC&D was a 501 (c) (3) and Bob said it was. Cocopai is one of six in Arizona and 375 nationwide. The idea is to utilize all of the community services of the Department of Agriculture. Cliff said he has been working on doing a major wetlands using city effluent. It is a partnership with the city, Game and fish and the Forest Service. Bob said this is the type of project that Cocopai can assist with.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Bob said the Western RC&D conference is in January in Spearfish, South Dakota. The national RC&D conference is in June 2009 in Albuquerque. Bob said he received a guidebook for RC&D directors, and the Council decided to have that on the next agenda. Fran said we need councilmember notebooks for the new Council members like Cliff and Jodi. There was a discussion of sustainable communities. Fran said there is a committee that is meeting on sustainability and she can see what her chair has found out. Bill said he could have Amanda Acheson, Coconino County's sustainable building program manager, speak at the next meeting. Bob said he could also have somebody from the Phoenix office speak on what assistance is available.

The next meeting was set for November 17 at the Marshall's office in Camp Verde.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted:

Bill Towler

Approved:

Fran Schumacher

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