

COCOPAI
Minutes of Meeting-Prescott Valley
May 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by President Pro-Tem Patty Lasker, Council, Prescott Valley. Present in addition to Ms. Lasker were: Bob Arambula, Coordinator, NRCS, Flagstaff; Charlie Ester, Salt River Project; Kresta Faaborg, USDA, NRCS; Richard Jentzsch, City of Page; Fran Schumacher, Council, Prescott Valley; Bill Towler, Treasurer, Coconino County; Harvey Skoog, Mayor, Prescott Valley; Pat Williams, Secretary, Council, Clarkdale and guest speaker Ron Brewster, Green Sky Farm, Flagstaff.

Mayor Skoog gave a short presentation on the state of affairs in Prescott Valley, saying while they have also been hurt by the state's economy, Prescott Valley's economy is in good shape. They are working on their road expansions and he stated their crime rate is lower. He also said that due to the photo enforcement cameras, there has been a 30% drop in accidents. He does not like the connotations believed about "cameras" and hopes to discontinue their use sometime in the future.

Alternative Agriculture: Ron Brewster then gave a very informative presentation with handouts on his concept for a Green Farm along Route 40 east of Flagstaff. He has received support from many sources and while this is an extensive project covering 60 to 80 acres for planting, along with windmill towers, solar panels, greenhouses, fruit tree orchards, education and research center. He expects to start operations in 2011. It will take him about 60 to 70 days to ship the first produce. Discussion followed and it was decided to put this project on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion to see if there is some way our organization could be of assistance.

Election of Officers: Richard Jentzsch moved to appoint Patty Lasker as President and Patty moved to appoint Richard Jentzsch as Vice President. These motions passed unanimously. Fran Schumacher made a motion that Pat Williams remain as Secretary and Bill Towler remain as Treasurer. This was seconded by Richard Jentzsch and passed unanimously. It was stated that next year we should have a slate of officers at our November meeting so we could vote on officers at our January Annual Meeting. Discussion followed regarding the "Circle of Diamonds" status for our group. Bob Arambula said he received a plaque for 2008 but has heard nothing since. He will call them to find out our status and what we have to do to either re-apply or if we still in the group.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Fran Schumacher and seconded by Bill Towler that the minutes of March 15, 2010 be approved with two minor typographical errors. The motion passed unanimously.

Horse Care Project: Bob Arambula said he had checked with Billy Gardner of the Yavapai Nation tribe in Camp Verde to see if they were interested in moving forward on this project. Mr. Gardner felt this was a good project for the tribe but he has to run it by his council first. He has been out of town but Bob will continue to try and reach him.

Fain Park Project: Bob Arambula stated he has had discussions with Brian Witty, Director of Park & Rec, Prescott Valley, Stu Tuttle, Biologist, NRCS and Kresta Faauborg, U.S Department of Agriculture and handed out an informational letter from Stu regarding the cleaning up and renovations of this site, covering the upper reach of the stream, water quality, sediment, fish habitat and trails and footpaths. The lower reach is less stable than the upper reach. This report also included his recommendations on how to improve this site. However, this has to be run through a Trust since the woman living in the caretaker's house on the property has been given "lifetime use of the home" so our plan would have to be approved by the Trust Directors before we could start anything. In the meantime he will discuss an education program involving yhe school and the community to increase the awareness of the human impacts on the land. Bob Arambula will continue to follow up on this project.

Coordinator's Report: Discussion was then held on the changes to the RC&D Program Performance Criteria Rapid Assessment. The purpose of this is to help ensure that RC&D areas are performing at a level that merits continued NRCS assistance through annual RC&D appropriations. Bob stated that all our forms have been filed and the 990 form was filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Fran Schumacher stated that the rules for reporting income for non-profit organizations have changed. Now the organizations must file income forms for each year even if their income is below \$25,000.00. If a group receives \$500,000 or above from the federal government, there must be an external audit review. If a group received less than that amount, then an outside certified financial person must review the financial records.

The Verde Valley Birding Festival was a success again this year and bird feeders made from plastic soda bottles were handed out.

Bob stated that Arizona would be the host state for the Western Regional Conference to be held in 2013. There will be an all day meeting in Holbrook in November to start the planning for this event. We would receive about 75% financial aid from the Western Region group and 25% from national financial support. It was noted that the last time Arizona hosted this conference, we lost money.

Outreach Program: Bob stated he had spoken with Dennis Chandler of the Holbrook RC&D who said he would take some of our letters asking for support to the NACOG meetings, held every other month. Each town council has a representative

who attends these meeting. It was decided that each of our board members should keep copies of our letter to hand out at any other group meetings we attend. Bill Towler will e-mail a copy of the letter to each of us so we can duplicate it.

Bill Towler stated he had sent out our regular dues letter and so far he has received only 5 responses.

Out next meeting will be held at the Page Airport, 238 10th Avenue, on July 19th. Lunch will be served and the Stewards of Public Lands will make a presentation.

Richard Jentzsch moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted:
Patricia F. Williams
Secretary

Approved _____
Patty Lasker, President

VERDE VALLEY LAND PRESERVATION INSTITUTE
Minutes of June 14, 2010 Meeting
Jerome

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Rothrock at 2:00pm. Present in addition to Rothrock were: Chip Norton, Vice President, Camp Verde, Walter Miller, Treasurer, Camp Verde; Harry Sweet, Page Springs; Dick Ellis, Sedona; Jane Moore, Jerome; Margie Beach, Verde Village; Marybeth Carlile, Village of Oak Creek; Jane Whitmire, Camp Verde and Pat Williams, Secretary, Clarkdale Council. Prior to the review of our agenda, with the board's consent, Item A under New Business acted on immediately. A motion was made by Williams to appoint Margie Beach to the board; this was seconded by Miller and approved unanimously. The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes were reviewed; a motion was made by Miller to accept the minutes with a few minor changes. This was seconded by Norton and approved unanimously. Miller presented the Treasurer's Report which indicated a balance of cash-on-hand of \$17,062.36. The Profit and Loss statement showed an income of \$860.36 from January to June of this year.

Unfinished Business

- A. Proposal to Walton Family Foundation: A copy of a draft proposal was sent to all members for comments. Discussion followed and there will be a meeting on this Friday, June 18th, at Norton's house to finalize our proposal. We need to emphasize the connection between our mission and river flows. The final proposal will be e-mailed to all members for their comments before mailing.
- B. Overlay Model: Discussion was held regarding who we will share this information with. Do we need permission from State Parks to share this with other organizations? If we do share the disks, how do we upgrade them? Should we charge for upgrades? Could we add upgrades as a "bullet" on our web site? No action was taken and this item will be discussed further.
- C. Sustainable AZ meeting: Rothrock attended a meeting with John Neville regarding organic gardeners. Neville has revived his former organization, VERDENS; the website is VERDENS.org. This umbrella group is seeking other groups with similar interests to bring their ideas to an expanded group of organizations that are interested in sustainable agriculture, sustainable energy and a sustainable water supply. The goal is to have a worth while transition to a sustainable life style. Moore said she had attended a VVREO (Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization) group meeting at Yavapai College led by Judy Vallardo regarding sustainable agriculture. There were representatives of local growers and wineries in attendance. Discussion was held on value added products and ways of conserving water. Moore stated she will keep attending these meetings.

New Business

- B. Prescott National Forest Plan Revision: Rothrock, Norton and Moore are involved with this project. They are having a meeting tomorrow, the 15th. Rothrock will be out of town until the end of the month, so if anyone else wishes to attend in addition to Norton and Moore, please do so.

Status Reports

- A. Cottonwood Annexation: It appears any further meetings/discussions have just "vanished".
- B. Yavapai County Regional Plan; No report at this time.
- C. Verde River Basin Partnership: It was stated that their final proposal had been mailed to the Walton Foundation and they should receive notification around the middle of June.
- D. Verde River Greenway: Chip stated that another grant was applied for thru the Walton Foundation to fund watershed habitat improvement. This would fund a consultant to pull all the groups and plans together and have cooperative management.

- E. AZ Game and Fish study: No report at this time.
- F. Fox Ranch: Rothrock reported he had sent the attorney the document he wanted with a bill but as of now has not received a check for \$25.00
- G. Other Liaison Reports: A letter was received from a Mary Alfred of the Trust for Public Lands regarding National Conservation easements seeking information on our Fox Ranch Easement. Carlile said she will respond to this as Rothrock is out of town until the end of the month.
The Enterprize Zone Funds would like to open more business in the Verde Valley to provide more jobs. Sherry Bailey of Clarkdale has been working with them on a project for broad band service which would provide Jerome with hi speed internet service. This service would be provided by eSedona. They would like an "umbrella" organization formed for all the not-for-profit groups in the valley.
Art Council of the Verde Valley: This idea is to get all the various art groups in the valley to network together.
- H. Communication: Margie Beach said she would check with Darrold Smith to see if he wishes to remain on our board. Dick Ellis reported he has been asked to represent Sedona on our board and he is willing to do this but this has not yet been approved by their council.
- I. Membership: No report at this time.
- J. Fund Raising: Norton said he would attend the Fund Raising Workshop at NAU July 23-25th.
- K. Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be July 12th at either the Cottonwood Safety Building or the Cottonwood Library, location to be firmed up in the next week or two.

Jane Whitmire reported that she had been in touch with a gentleman named John of the Donner Land Trust organization regarding their "Bucks for Open Space" involving all aspects of the tourism business. They place a one page description of the program in all the hotels, motels and restaurants which explains how their \$1.00 donation goes to purchase open space. Hotel guests and restaurant patrons can elect to have a \$1.00 added to their bill and there are tent card placed on tables in the restaurants. They receive a business card for their donation. John stated this project is not good for everyone but he thinks, based on his discussion with Jane, it would work very well in the Verde Valley. Their project has raised \$1,000,000 in ten years but it does take awhile to get it up and running. The Trust revisits the organizations partaking in this program to keep promoting it. Waiters and reception people should be informed as to where the money is going. One slogan is "You can't buy much for a buck nowadays, but you can buy open space". This program would need a fiduciary agent and Rothrock will speak to Supervisor Davis about this whole project. John said he would send copies of the tent cards, business card, information sheet, etc. to Jane via e-mail.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 4:25.

Respectfully submitted;

Patricia F. Williams
Secretary

Approved _____
Bob Rothrock, President