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Cocopai RC&D Minutes of July 18, 2005 Meeting

Meeting hosted by Town of Camp Verde and Council Member Ron Smith

Welcome – Diane Joens

Community of Camp Verde update – Council member Ron Smith

Verde is in a growth pattern, as is the whole of Arizona. Ron explains how Camp Verde is facing their challenges by buying a local water company. He also touched on the subject on everyone's minds... affordable housing. In December the Council will discuss the creation of a housing program. Camp Verde also just submitted a Self-Help pre-development grant application. The town recently passed a methamphetamine ordinance, and then with the cooperation of surrounding towns took pseudoephedrine off store shelves.

Conserving Arizona's Future – Diana Rhoades, Sonoran Institute.

Sonoran Institute is celebrating their 15th anniversary. They have 53 employees. Diana said Arizona is expected to have a population growth of 165 thousand more people by 2030. There are 902 million acres of state trust land scattered throughout the state. The Arizona Constitution requires that every parcel of land, when sold, must be sold to the highest bidder. The constitution does not accommodate the preservation of special or sensitive lands for conservation. The Sonoran Institute wants to protect 694,000 acres of natural area for future generations. They are circulating petitions in support of an initiative to amend the Arizona Constitution to implement the proposed conservation reforms. A total of 183,917 signatures are needed. For further information contact Diana Rhoades, Sonoran Institute, 7605 E. Broadway Blvd. #203, Tucson, AZ 85710 – (502) 982-4178, or e-mail diana@sonoran.org. Cocopai decided to put this on the January agenda to discuss whether they will send a letter of support.

Project Application- Diane Joens – Diane requested help for Stewards of Public Lands. This group has not applied for non-profit status. They rely totally on their partners, public and private, for the resources to do their work. They wish to apply, through Cocopai RC&D, for a \$10,000 Yavapai County Grant Entitled *Forest Project Funds authorized by Public Law 106-393: The Secure Rural School and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000*. They will use the grant money for dumpsters, to rent heavy equipment, start a “no dumping” media campaign, purchase no dumping signs, and create a youth education component to aid in the cleanup of public lands. Dick Ellis made a motion seconded by Kaki Rowland, for Cocopai to apply for and administer said grant. All present voted yes.

Report; Statewide RC&D –Self-sufficiency- Bill Towler- discussion on how to make RC&D self-sufficient. Some groups use grants. Could we get grants? Some think we would need a grant

writer. Fran Schumacher asked, "What will happen if we don't get a source of income?" Bill Towler answered, "This council has been in existence for some time without outside income. If the government pulls funding all we loose is Bob." Discussion ongoing.

The Yavapai College Small Business Development Center's SWOT Analysis for strategic planning and self sufficiency was tabled because Carol Abrahamson was absent.

Treasurer's report – Bill Towler reported \$20,700.00 in the bank account.

Minutes were distributed. Bill Towler made motion to accept, Dot seconded and the measure passed.

2006 meeting dates are as follows: January 30, Clarksdale; March 20, Chino Valley; May 15, Cottonwood; July 17, Williams; September 18, Prescott; November 20, Camp Verde.

Delegates were appointed for the Western RC&D meeting: Dick Ellis, backup Fran Schumacher.

2006 election of officers: Dick Ellis made a motion, seconded by Dorothy Schmidt, to elect the same officers to serve another year. All expressed a willingness to serve. Unanimous vote in favor.

Report on Prescott trails- Bob Arambula and Bob Rothrock-- Bob Arambula told the trails group to ask their local City and Town Councils for cooperation. Need to work with recreation departments in towns to get the process moving along. Verde Valley Trails Action Team Leader Bob Rothrock spoke of using GPS on existing trails to determine where trails are located. He said it would be challenging to coordinate trails on both sides of the mountain because of the distance between communities. It will be important for these groups to communicate so the trails over the mountain can be connected. The trails need to be dedicated and connected through towns and open land. Fran Schumacher said it would be a good idea to find out which towns have trails in their general plans.

RC&D Program Update and report on State Coordinator's Marketing Meeting in Parker- Bob Arambula- NRCS will pay to have someone speak about marketing.

Motion to adjourn by Dorothy Schmidt, seconded by Dick Ellis

Minutes Submitted by Secretary Dorothy Schmidt