

Cocopai Council Meeting
Minutes
September 20, 2004
Cottonwood, AZ

Attendees: Chris Fetzer, Tim Garcia, Annie Hanson, Lisa Elliot, John Reddell, Bob Arambula, Carol Abrahamson, Gary Young, Charlie Ester, Bill Tower, Kaki Rowland, Gary Young, Jolene Williams

Charlie Ester, President started the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to Cottonwood. The minutes were reviewed and passed with one correction; Carol Abrahamson discussed Sustainable Arizona and its history at the previous meeting.

Charlie expressed his appreciation to Carol Abrahamson for getting involved with the Action Team on the Library Grant project. Due to her added time and energy the project is moving rapidly.

Carol Abrahamson gave an update on the Library Grant project. The Action Team decided that Cocopai will apply for a grant through companies listed with the Foundation Center or the Arizona Grants and give to the Verde Valley libraries of Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and Sedona their own grant materials. They also plan to buy a resource book for each library for those citizens who are not comfortable working on-line. Carol explained the grant cycles stating that Cocopai could have several in process at the same time and depending on which grants came through, the Action Team would disperse the grant monies as needed and close any unnecessary requests pending.

Annie Hanson distributed a PowerPoint presentation by Roger Rowell, Water Scientist, with the USDA Forest Service about using fibers to purify the watersheds provided by National Forest. It was discussed how this expertise could apply in filtering heavy metals from in our mining communities, remove arsenic from water, and using the carcasses of trees in the process.

It was suggested that Cocopai and the Forest Services invite Roger to speak at a forum open to all those interested. Kaki said he could be a speaker at the AACD meeting scheduled in February. Annie and Bob are going to contact Roger to discuss the possibilities.

Annie also distributed copies of the USDA Forest Service Web site showing, the State and Private Forestry Mission Area FY 2004 President's budget showing how the money was used, and about the cooperative Forestry's resources available to private landowners.

Bob Arambula presented a new project, Marketing Tools for Outreach. Cocopai is submitting an application requesting financial assistance to develop new marketing materials for the Arizona Coalition of RC & D Councils. The council voted and approved the project.

Carol Abrahamson discussed the Flagstaff Sustainable Develop Roundtable, a green building group. Their plans are to host a forum on different topics every other month at a high level of expertise with informed people. They are planning to provide permanent, written materials as references which are accessible on the Web site.

Bill Tower added that NAU has a green building program. The program has a check list awards program. Recently they handed out 30 certificates which all 30 recipients attended. They hired a coordinator to meet with property owners and contractors to help build sustainable residential developments focusing on contractors.

Cocopai's Web site could be utilized to educate the public on upcoming forums from the Flagstaff Sustainable Develop including links to articles and items of interest relating to many topics.

Bob Arambula and the NRCS worked on materials for a reference book giving weather information, the composition of soils, how to treat disturbed soils, and planning for runoff water applicable for 1, 20, or 200 acres. This book can be used to help meet the EPA's requirements for communities with a population of 50,000 or communities located near water. They were told that this book was 1 of the best reference books available and that Ted is going to use it. Charlie Ester suggested putting the book in a PDF format and including it on Cocopai's Webb Site. Also the cost of printing 50 hard copies for reference use donated by SRP including a label that says compliments of Cocopai RC & D.

Carol Abrahamson gave a heads up on the 2012 AZ World Fair currently being proposed to have its headquarters in Bullhead City with various sites state wide. The theme is "Sustainability". A group of 50 to 60 business men are currently funding an umbrella organization to get the project rolling. They are working with the Governor and plan visiting various locations around Arizona next year.

Carol also explained the Battelle Report. This report is an 85 page executive summary. The governor wants to brand Arizona as the state for sustainability commercializing on sun, wind, and water science. A Czar would be appointed to steer head the project. There are 3 universities lobbying for the opportunity to house these proto types for sciences. Many parts of the world are semi-arid and would have an interest in these topics.

Charlie Ester said Cocopai will be applying for a membership to the Circle of Diamonds, he said the council already appears to meet the requirements; also the NRCD would like all 6 RCDs to obtain certification.

Western Association Meeting attendees, Carol, Kaki Rowland, and Lisa Elliot each gave feedback to the council. The speaker gave information on networking, training, and cooperating with other councils to promote public participation, define problems including tools for finding trends in populations, and bringing winning situations to all parties involved. They expressed their wish to attend the 3 additional days of training for certification.