



Coalition Of Arizona/  
New Mexico Counties  
For Stable Economic  
Growth

"Working together for responsible  
management."

## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

Friday, February 26, 2014

9:00 AM

Conference Call

Call-in Number 218-895-3850 Passcode 6291303#

**Board Present:** Jackie Powell  
Tom Klumker  
Kim Chesser  
Lewis Derrik  
Doug Decker  
Caren Cowan  
Richard Searle  
Nita Taylor  
Sylvia Allen  
Robert Corbell  
Drew John  
Tommie Martin

**Proxies**  
Darr Shannon  
Jackie Powell

**Non-Voting Members:** Howard Hutchinson

The meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Sylvia Allen, Coalition Vice-President and Representative for Navajo County, Arizona.

### **Item #1: Treasurer's Reports**

**Action:** The motion to table approval of the Treasurer's reports made by Kim Chesser seconded by Drew John. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item #2: Consideration of Adoption of the 2014 Annual Budget**

**Action:** The motion to adopt the 2014 Budget was made by Doug Decker and seconded by Nita Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item #3: Consideration of Legal Fund Expenditure for Amicus Brief in The Chavez County Soil & Water Conservation District Suit**

The affected Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in New Mexico and Natural Resource Conservation Districts in Arizona have been denied cooperating agency status by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service). Chaves County and other SWCDs in New Mexico have filed suit against the Service to

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have the Service grant cooperating agency status. It was suggested in a meeting in December 2013 that the Coalition consider joining with an amicus brief in support of their suit. The motion authorizes Howard to seek legal council to draft an amicus brief with Howard reporting back to the Board at the next meeting the estimated cost for final approval.

Howard will contact Debbie Hughes, Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts to contact her respective counterpart at the Arizona Natural Resource Conservation Districts Association and see if they are willing to intervene or submit an amicus brief as well. Arizona Supervisors will also contact their respective NRCDs for the same.

**Action: The motion to start process for an amicus brief was made by Tommie Martin and seconded by Caren Cowan. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Item #4: Update on Lesser Prairie Chicken & Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

**No Action Taken: Lewis Derrick will keep the Coalition apprised of actions being taken on the Prairie Chicken for possible future litigation and keep the Board updated on the progress of the litigation by the environmental organizations on the Sagebrush Lizard.**

### Item #5: Report on Desert Land Conservation Cooperative

Howard reported on the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DLCC and communications with D.C. Congressional Staff concerning the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

**No Action Taken: Howard is to send out information on the DLCC to the Board members to use in presenting to Arizona and New Mexico Congressional Delegation Members.**

### Item #6: Report on Mexican Wolf Co-Existence Council

Howard reported that the Council has finalized the compensation plan and is now working on the application form for livestock operators to sign up for compensation.

**No Action Taken: Howard will keep the Board informed on future progress of the program.**

### Item #7: Mexican Wolf 10(j) EIS & Congressional Hearing Request

Discussions centered on preparation of the County Alternative for the EIS. Sylvia Allen reported that the Arizona Game & Fish Department is drafting a suggested management plan. Howard reported that the Eastern Arizona Counties Organization, Luna County and the Coalition are to draft a County Alternative and with coordinate with the Department on that draft.

Howard reported on the status of the request for a Congressional Field Hearing on scientific misconduct by the Service concerning Mexican wolf management. He said that in meetings with Congressional staff at January meetings in DC that it was proposed that a hearing in DC would be more beneficial in that more House members and media would be more likely engaged with a hearing there.

**No Action Taken: Howard will send out the draft county alternative to the Board so that it can be presented to the respective member Boards of Supervisors and Commissioners for comments and approval before submitting to the Service.**

### Item #8: Nominations for Annual Awards

The list of potential awards was presented.

**No Action Taken: Board members were requested to consider nominations for the awards to be acted on at the annual meeting in Holbrook, AZ.**

### Item #9: Appointment of a Nominating Committee for Officer Elections in March

The list of potential awards was presented.

**Action Taken: Sylvia Allen appointed Kim Chesser, Richard Searle and Robert Corbell to the Nominating Committee to bring forward their suggestions to be acted on at the annual meeting in**

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**Holbrook, AZ. The President will be from Arizona for the next two years with the Vice-president coming from New Mexico.**

**Item #10: Upcoming Meetings: Annual Meeting, Holbrook, AZ, March 21, 2014**

**No Action Taken: Sylvia Allen will host the annual meeting Holbrook, AZ. The starting time will be 10:00 AM Arizona Time and 11:00 AM New Mexico time since we will have sprung forward to daylight savings time in New Mexico.**

Adjourned at 11:14 a.m.