



Coalition Of Arizona/
New Mexico Counties
For Stable Economic
Growth

"Working together for responsible
management."

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES
Thursday March 29, 2012 9:00 AM (Mountain Standard Time)
Cochise College, Benson Center
1025 State Route 90, Benson, Arizona 85602

Board Present: Jackie Powell
Tommie Martin
Richard Searle
Mike Cuff
Doug Decker
Caren Cowan
Andrew C. Martinez
Kim Chesser
Tom Klumker

Darr Shannon
Hugh B. McKeen
Lewis Derrik

Proxies
Mark Herrington
Walter Armijo
Richard Lunt

Non-Voting Members: Howard Hutchinson, Sue Krentz, Mary Darling, Rachel Thomas, Alex Thal

Guests: , Jane Klumker, Steve Troncale, Pat Flemming, and Andy Groseta

The meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Richard Searle, Coalition President and Representative for Cochise County, Arizona.

Item #1: Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Reports

President Searle called for approval of the minutes of the December 1, 2011 Meeting And Treasurer Reports for filling for December, 2011 and January, February 2012 and February Litigation Fund for filing.

- 1. Action: The motion to approve the December 1, 2011 Meeting minutes was made by Jackie Powell and seconded by Tommie Martin. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Action: The motion to approve the filing of the Treasurer's reports for December, 2011 and January, February, 2012 and the February, 2011 Litigation Fund Report was made by Darr Shannon and seconded by Jackie Powell. The motion passed unanimously.**

Item #2: Litigation Updates

1. Report on Tombstone, AZ suit against Forest Service on water supply delivery line.
Tombstone, Arizona Mayor Pro Tem Steve Troncale gave a presentation on the conflict between Tombstone and the U.S. Forest Service over repair of the town's water system. Mr. Troncale requested any assistance that could be provided for their suit to protect their water rights located on now Forest Service lands.

Coalition Of Counties

Action Taken: Motion was made by Mike Cuff and Seconded by Jackie Powell for Howard to contact Bayes Law Firm in Sierra Vista to determine what the Coalition can do to support Tombstone's suit. Following determination, Howard to conduct poll of officers to commit Legal Funds account to intervention or amicus action. The motion passed unanimously. (Poll was conducted on April 20, 2012 to support Budd-Falen law offices filing of amicus motion for \$1,000 and writing of the amicus brief for \$4,000 from the Legal Fund following contact with Mr. Bayes and Goldwater Institute.)

2. **Consideration of appeal of Spikedace-Loach Minnow critical habitat & uplisting decision.**

Howard and Mary Darling updated the Board on the critical habitat & uplisting decisions. The Board had discussions on how to proceed with an appeal.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Jackie Powell and Seconded by Tommie Martin to have Howard explore going forward with an appeal with partners from Arizona & New Mexico. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration of joining/amicus Northern Stockmen's/Rio Arriba County suit against Forest Service.**

Howard and Andrew Martinez updated the Board on the suit. There has not been an answer from the Forest Service.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Jackie Powell and Seconded by Caren Cowan to have Howard explore going forward with an amicus brief by Budd-Falen Law Offices. Howard is to conduct a poll to expend Legal Fund Account funds after recommendation from Budd-Falen. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Consideration of joining/amicus in Forest Service suit against Otero County and State of New Mexico (SB-1 legislation)**

Howard and Caren Cowan updated the Board on the suit and initial recommendations from Karen Budd-Falen. There has not been an answer from the Forest Service.

No Action Taken: Will continue to monitor the suit.

5. **Consideration of joining/amicus Mexican Wolf suit by Wildlife Guardians against New Mexico Game & Fish and New Mexico Game Commission.**

Howard and Caren Cowan updated the Board on the suit. Wildlife Guardians are seeking to overturn the New Mexico Game Commission's decision to lift the trapping moratorium in the Mexican Wolf Gila National Forest recovery area.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Jackie Powell and Seconded by Doug Decker to authorize \$500.00 from Legal Fund Account to have the Budd-Falen Law Offices draft an intervention in the suit. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Update on Center for Biological Diversity suit against Catron County over San Francisco River Road opening.**

Catron Commissioner Hugh McKeen reported that the Center has not gone forward with the suit at this time.

No Action Taken: Will continue to monitor.

Coalition Of Counties

Item #3: Election of Officers & Authorization for Signatures On Accounts

President Richard Searle acted as the nominating committee. He reported that Jackie Powell declined to serve as the president from New Mexico and suggested that Kim Chesser from Chaves County, New Mexico be nominated. President Searle further suggested that Richard Lunt be nominated as Vice-President and that Caren Cowan be nominated as Secretary/Treasurer. President Searle asked for any further nominations from the floor.

Actions Taken: A motion was made by Caren Cowan and seconded by Mike Cuff that nominations be closed and that the nominations by President Searle of Kim Chesser for President, Richard Lunt as Vice-President and Caren Cowan as Secretary/Treasurer be voted in by acclimation and that the new officers become the authorized signers on the Coalition's accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4: Update on Rio Arriba county ordinance No. 2012-003 (Coordination with Local, State, Tribal & Federal Agencies)

Andrew Martinez gave an update on the ordinance. Howard stated that a copy of the ordinance is posted on the Coalition's web site.

No Action Taken

Item #5: Save Arizona's Forest Environment Plan (SAFE)

Andy Groseta from Arizona Cattle Growers Association made a presentation on the Save Arizona's Forest Environment Plan (SAFE Plan) and Representative Gosar's Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act of 2012 (H.R. 5744) legislation.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Caren Cowan and Seconded by Jackie Powell to endorse and support the SAFE Plan and Representative Gosar's legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #6: Renewal of Contract with the Catron County Firestarter

Howard presented the contract with the Catron County Firestarter for consideration for renewal.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Caren Cowan and Seconded by Jackie Powell to renew the contract with the Firestarter. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #7: Final Wolf Compensation Interdiction Guidelines

Howard gave a presentation on the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Guidelines.

No Action Taken

Item #8: Nominations for Annual Awards

Following discussion by the Board the following 2011 annual award nominations: Jeff Witte, New Mexico employee of the year; Gila Basin Irrigation Commission, New Mexico organization of the year; Mary Darling, Dennis Parker, and Karen Budd-Falen, Individuals of the year; Arizona Cattle Grower's Association, organization of the year.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Tommie Martin and Seconded by Hugh McKeen to have the awards prepared for delivery at a future date to the recipients. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #9: Bird of Prey Designation Carlsbad Office BLM

Caren Cowan spoke about the proposed 400,000 acres Resource Plan amendment for protection of birds-of-prey originating from a petition by the Wilderness Alliance on BLM lands near Carlsbad. Howard stated that a copy of the ordinance is posted on the Coalition's web site.

Action Taken: Continue to monitor proposal.

Item #10: Report on Congressional Field Hearing, Elko, NV

Howard reported on the testimony given at the March 12th field hearing in Elko, Nevada by the Natural Resource Committee National Parks, Forests & Public Lands Subcommittee on "**Explosion of Federal Regulations Threatening Jobs and Economic Survival in the West.**" Of particular interest beyond travel management plans impacts was the testimony and questions posed and answered concerning Forest Service acquisition of private water rights on forest managed lands.

Action Taken: Howard was requested to post the links to the testimony on the Coalition's web site. (Posted at: <http://www.aznmc.org/curissues.html>)

Item #11: Travel to Denver for Heritage Social Media Training

Caren Cowan described the proposed meeting in Colorado Springs by the Heritage Foundation for social media training and other issues.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Darr Shannon and Seconded by Mike Cuff to authorize travel for Howard to attend the social media training and other presentations. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #12: Travel to Colorado for Heritage Social Media Training

Caren Cowan described the proposed meeting in Colorado Springs by the Heritage Foundation for social media training and other issues.

Action Taken: Motion was made by Darr Shannon and Seconded by Mike Cuff to authorize travel for Howard to attend the social media training and other presentations. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #13: NFCSC & NESARC Annual Dues

Howard presented the invoices for the annual dues for the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition (\$100.00) and the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (\$250.00).

Action Taken: Motion was made by Darr Shannon and Seconded by Jackie Powell to authorize payment of the annual dues for NFCSC and NESARC. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #13: Upcoming Meetings

The Board discussed future meetings for the Coalition Board. The two options deliberated were; 1) Conduct the next meeting in Espanola, NM on the day before or after the May 16th, 17th, and 18th Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties meeting in Santa Fe, NM; and 2) Have a meeting in Prescott, AZ in conjunction with the Arizona Cattle Growers Association's annual conference scheduled for July 17th through July 19th.

Coalition Of Counties

1. **Action Taken:** Howard requested to make arrangements with Andrew Martinez to have a meeting in Espanola, NM on May 15th or 19th and poll the Board to select the date and determine interest in attending.
2. **Action Taken:** Howard requested to make arrangements with Arizona Cattle Growers for a date and time to hold the Board Meeting in Prescott, AZ and poll the Board to select the date and determine interest in attending.

Item #14: OTHER BUSINESS

Alex Thal made a presentation on Catron County's new Predator Ordinance.

Action Taken: Howard was requested to send out a copy of the ordinance to the other member counties.

Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.