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Minutes of the Meeting held April 30, 2018 at the Cascabel Community Center, Cascabel, AZ

The following 15 directors and members attended the meeting: Craig Anderson, Daniel Baker, Alex Binford-Walsh, Lon Brehmer, Barbara Clark, Peter Else, Cathy Gorman, Doris Haynes, Phil Hedrick, Anna Lands, Diane Laush (by phone), Pearl Mast, David Omick, Elna Otter, and Jeannie WagnerGreven.

After a delicious potluck lunch with the addition of tamales generously provided by Anna Lands, Chair Peter Else called the meeting to order at 1 PM. We introduced ourselves, particularly so Diane Laush, who was attending by speaker phone, would know who else was there.

Peter projected the Minutes from the October, 2017 meeting as well as the minutes from our meetings conducted by email since our previous in-person meeting in February, 2016. These had been emailed to all the directors but since some had not had time to read them and two directors were unable to attend this meeting, we decided to approve the minutes later by email.

Peter then displayed the Ledger with a focus on our bank balance of \$3,107.22. Treasurer Cathy Gorman mentioned that we had received two \$1000 contributions, one each from Tricia Gerrodette and from Mick Meader before he passed away. Although so far our activities have not been limited by lack of funding, we anticipate our needs will be changing soon, so we will be putting new effort into fundraising.

Our attention next turned to our Current Activities in our Five Main Program Areas:

1) Collaborative Conservation

Peter reviewed the lengthy history of the efforts of the LSPWA to be the locus of Collaborative Conservation in our watershed. Although that has not evolved exactly as we originally hoped, Peter also explained how we played a major role in forming the Lower San Pedro Collaborative (LSPC). So far they have met three times with representatives of twenty agencies, corporations, and NGO's, including the LSPWA, all of whom are stakeholders in the watershed. Southwest Decision Resources (SDR) provided neutral facilitation for a previous organizational meeting and has continued to do so for these meetings. The stakeholders all agree that continuing with neutral facilitation is key to their success in bringing the diverse interests in the watershed together. As federal funding for Landscape Conservation Planning has dried up along with other federal funding options, the Collaborative participants decided to solicit funding from each of their organizations at the rate of up to \$2499 per year in order to reimburse SDR for their services. Elna Otter moved that the LSPWA contribute that amount to the LSPC in order to continue hiring SDR for their neutral facilitation services. David Omick seconded the motion which

passed unanimously. The two absent directors will vote by email. Peter volunteered to lead the effort to raise these funds both from our larger donors as well as through an appeal to our general membership.

2) Advocacy

Peter brought us up to date on what has become our most active program area. The LSPWA has joined with several other environmental organizations to ask that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) be required to study the full impacts of the Villages at Vigneto development proposal along the San Pedro River near Benson. Earthjustice, supported by their donors, has donated their legal services. We and our partners have agreed to pay court costs and for expert witnesses and studies. Our share will probably run from \$1000 to \$2500. Previously, we had agreed to pursue a grant for such expenses from the Fund for Wild Nature. Having missed the May 1st deadline, the next deadline in October 1st. Lon Brehmer moved that we continue to pay our share of the expenses for this action. Alex Binford-Walsh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The two absent directors will vote by email.

3) Conservation Easement Monitoring

Peter explained that the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LSPWA and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for monitoring the conservation easement on the 3-Links Farm had finally been returned to us by BOR with some added language regarding the risk level of the endowment investments. There was some concern that by limiting the amount of risk we could assume we would also limit our potential return on the investment. However, if the return is insufficient to support the agreed to level of monitoring, the MOU allows us to renegotiate that. It was suggested that we ask the BOR representative to review our investment decisions so they assume some responsibility for the choices. It was also proposed that we focus on socially responsible investment options in keeping with our mission. We also need to determine how best to deal with the anticipated lag between signing the MOU and being fully prepared to implement it.

We need two committees, one to research investment options for the endowment and liability insurance, and the other to select the two subcontractors after the board approves the contract language. We anticipate supporting a 0.4 FTE position divided in some proportion between a field and an administrative position depending on the qualifications of the candidates. Cathy, Jeannie Wagner-Greven and Lon agreed to serve on the investment/insurance committee. Barbara Clark, Peter, David and Diane agreed to serve on the personnel committee.

Anna moved that we approve the MOU with BOR as amended. Elna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The two absent directors will be able to vote on this action by email.

4) On-the-Ground Projects – Wildlife monitoring and Invasive Species Control

Alex is reporting simple species frequency data from the wildlife cameras to FWS and sharing the photos with Saguaro National Park (SNP) who have agreed not to share them further. The folks at SNP East are very supportive of the LSPWA because they value the wildlife corridors to their east in the San Pedro Valley. They want to avoid becoming an island surrounded by development like what has happened to SNP West. Alex volunteered to write something about the camera project for the website.

Phil Hedrick continues his work on invasive species in Aravaipa. Peter described his new tamarisk infestation that resulted when his field was flooded last summer. The flood was caused by a non-permitted berm that Pinal County built perpendicular to the river just downstream from his property in a misguided attempt to divert the river into an old channel. The county was forced by ACE to remove the berm but have so far refused to accept any responsibility for or reimburse him for the damage. Arizona State Forestry may be able to help to some extent. They have recently gotten involved in tamarisk control because of its role in wildfires. There is a danger that tamarisk control can be used as an excuse to remove native riparian trees as well. On the other hand, the presence of threatened and endangered species can be used as an excuse not to control tamarisk. There was also some discussion about the recent meeting of the Tamarisk Coalition, now called RiversEdge West, in Benson.

David informed us that the feral hog problem is increasing, particularly along sections of the river where water is permanent. There are at least two herds, one of which may have as many as 100 hogs and they have high reproduction rates. Although the AZ Game and Fish Department is aware of the problem, hunting is not an effective control mechanism. The Nature Conservancy has several traps set up. Large drop nets of 60 square feet are effective but costly. Elimination is probably not feasible so control is the goal. David will continue to research the issue and keep us informed of possible actions.

5) Education and Outreach

These program areas have not received as much attention recently because our volunteer capacity has been focused on our other program areas. In addition, other local organizations, such as the Oracle State Park and their Friends organization have been doing a good job with education. Peter will do some outreach to our members and inform them of our accomplishments when he puts out our funding appeal.

LSPWA Bylaws Amendments

Now that it has been just over five years since the organizational meeting for the LSPWA, several directors had proposed amending the bylaws to make them conform to the way we have found it best to operate as opposed to how we thought that would occur. A copy of the bylaws with their proposed amendments had been previously emailed out to the directors. Peter led us in a step-by-step review and discussion of the changes. The major changes a) reduce the required percentage of directors who are landowners in the watershed to 55% so that more non-resident activists with an interest in the watershed may serve and b) recognize that most of the work of the board takes place through meetings conducted by email. Any interested members may ask to be notified of these email meetings and all members will be notified of any in-person meetings.

Anna moved that we accept the amendments as revised during our discussion. Doris Haynes seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The absent directors will vote by email.

Nominations for the Next Term of the Board of Directors

Peter had determined that all ten current directors had agreed to be nominated to continue serving. In addition, two new nominees were recruited: Barbara Clark, long-time active Cascabel landowner and retired TNC employee who has worked in the watershed, including on the 3-Links conservation easement and Matt Clark, formerly with Tucson Audubon who is currently active with water policy and

has his own consulting business. The LSPWA secretary will solicit votes from the membership for this slate of nominees in the near future.

The floor was then opened for any other topics the attendees wished to discuss.

Anna informed us that Kartchner Caverns is now a Dark Sky Park. Because State land cannot be designated as Dark Sky, the lower San Pedro River valley, which is interspersed with state land, does not qualify. However, the National Park and Forest could apply.

Barbara wanted to know if any bird surveys were planned for the valley. Craig Anderson will find out. Diane participated last night in a Nightjar survey in Aravaipa. Bob Evans has concluded he is no longer able to continue with his bird surveys.

Doris asked for an update on SunZia. Peter related that the AZ portion is before the AZ Supreme Court, all petitions have been submitted and we are waiting for them to decide whether or not to hear the case. The permit process is just starting in New Mexico. There are several intervenors, one of whom is the Lee family, long-time ranchers. By the deadline to file of May 15th, we will know how many others are intervening.

The meeting then adjourned at 3:23.

For convenience, Board Decisions are often reached in Virtual Meetings via Email. In order to formally approve and publish the minutes of such meetings since our last in-person meeting, they are included here.

Minutes of November 30, 2017

On November 28, 2017, Chair Peter Else asked the board to consider whether or not the LSPWA should take the next step in assuming the monitoring responsibilities of the Conservation Easement on the TNC-owned 3-Links Farm as discussed in the meeting on October 30th. He and director Diane Laush would start working on drafts of an MOU with BOR and two requests for proposals from the subcontractors to perform the field monitoring and administrative duties, but only with clear board support. The final documents would still need to be approved by the board. By November 30, 2017 all board members had voiced their support for moving forward with this next step except for Lon Brehmer who abstained.

Minutes of January 4, 2018

On December 27, 2017, Chair Peter Else sent out to the board a draft MOU between the BOR and the LSPWA regarding the management of the Conservation Easement on the 3-Links Farm near Cascabel asking for their comments. Peter also solicited input on the two draft requests for proposals for the field monitoring and administrative contracts. By January 4, 2018, after receiving comments from all the directors and incorporating them into a working draft, he sent this draft to the board and informed them that it would now go back to Tab Bommarito for further editing by BOR.

Minutes of January 12, 2018

On January 11, 2018, Secretary-Treasurer Cathy Gorman, at the behest of Chair Peter Else, asked the board members to approve spending up to \$250 to pay LSPWA member Jeau Allen to work on updating our website at the rate of \$25 per hour. By January 12, 2018, the board had approved this motion unanimously.

Minutes of February 23, 2018

On February 13, 2018, Secretary-Treasurer Cathy Gorman forwarded to the Board of Directors an email we had received from Marnie Gaede, President of the Fund for Wild Nature. Ms. Gaede had noticed the work of the LSPWA in an article in High Country News about the Villages at Vigneto development near Benson. She expressed their appreciation and suggested we apply for one of their grants. By February 23, 2018 all the directors had responded positively to the idea except for Doris Haynes who did not reply. However, no one has yet volunteered to lead the application effort.

Minutes of April 11, 2018

On April 9, 2018, Chair Peter Else e-mailed the directors to determine the best date/time for an in-person meeting at the Cascabel Community Center. He explained that by June 21, 2018 we will need to elect/re-elect our board and officers so he asked the current directors to suggest candidates as well as to confirm if they would agree to serve another term. In addition, several directors have suggested that our bylaws be amended to reflect how we actually operate rather than how we thought we would when we first organized five years ago. Peter attached a copy of our current bylaws, outlined several proposed changes and asked for additional amendment suggestions. By April 11, 2018 Peter had received sufficient responses so that he set the meeting for April 30, 2018 from 1 to 3 PM. The membership will be notified and he will continue to take suggestions for nominees to the board as well as changes to the bylaws.

Minutes of May 6, 2018

On May 1, 2018, Chair Peter Else emailed the two directors who were unable to attend our April 30th meeting in order to give them the promised opportunity to vote on the important actions we had considered. By May 6, 2018, Bob Evans and, after some discussion with Peter, Scott Wilbor had both voted in favor of all those actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J Gorman

LSPWA Secretary-Treasurer