

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION BOARD
DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Date: January 20, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:59 p.m.

Location: 222 S. Mill Ave., Suite 800 Conference Room A, Tempe, AZ 85281

Virtual Access: Google Meet

A. Call to Order

The meeting of the Natural Resource Conservation Board (“Board”) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Frank Krentz.

B. Member Roll Call

Present:

Frank Krentz – Chair

Brent Mackelprang

Bill Dunn

Tim Grandy

Ray Martinez

Daric Knight

Sadie Lister

Claudette Haverfield

John Richardson -

Paul Brierley

Clay Crowder

Sarah Hicks – Assistant Attorney General

Keisha Tatem

Deborrah Smith – NRCB Director

A quorum was present.

C. Approval of Minutes

October 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to approve the October 30, 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

October 30, 2025 Executive Session Minutes

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to approve the October 30, 2025 executive session minutes. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

D. Call to the Public

No public comments requiring Board action were presented.

E. Director Updates

Ms. Smith provided updates regarding:

- FY 2026 appropriation
 - Conservation District .GOV email system
 - Elections
 - Groundwater Recharge District proposal
 - NRCB Annual Report
 - Legislative updates including House Bill 2117 and House Bill 2053
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F. Attorney General's Office Update

Ms. Hicks provided an update regarding pursuit of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arizona Corporation Commission and suggested formation of a subcommittee to develop the agreement.

G. District Merger Proposals

The Board received updates and heard public comment regarding the proposed mergers of:

- Triangle and Wickenburg Natural Resource Conservation Districts
 - Winkelman and East Maricopa Natural Resource Conservation Districts
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H. Consideration and Possible Action Items

Board Direction Regarding Presentations

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to authorize the Executive Director to provide informational presentations and briefings as needed. Ms. Haverfield seconded. Motion carried.

FY26 State Appropriation Allocation

Motion: Mr. Martinez moved to proceed with the appropriation item. Ms. Haverfield seconded. Motion carried.

Amended Motion: Mr. Knight moved to allocate \$552,650 to Conservation Districts and \$30,000 to Conservation District Education Centers. Mr. Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

Triangle and Wickenburg Merger

Motion: Mr. Grandy moved to approve the merger. Mr. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.
Ms. Haverfield recused herself due to conflict of interest.

Motion: Mr. Dunn moved to exclude tribal lands from the Wickenburg District and assign them to Parker Valley NRC. Ms. Lister seconded. Motion carried.
Mr. Martinez recused himself from this vote.

Winkelman and East Maricopa Merger

Motion: Mr. Grandy moved to approve the merger as proposed. Mr. Martinez seconded.
Motion carried.

Motion: Mr. Martinez moved to direct staff to file documentation with the Secretary of State. Mr. Grandy seconded. Motion carried.

Groundwater Recharge District Proposal

Motion: Mr. Dunn moved to approve the proposal for up to \$250,000. Ms. Haverfield seconded. Motion carried.

Election Packet Adoption

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to adopt the Election Packet with edits to sections 1.1, 2.3, and 3.2. Mr. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.

NRCB Annual Report

Motion: Ms. Lister moved to approve the Annual Report and authorize submission. Mr. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.

Arizona Corporation Commission MOU

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to appoint a subcommittee. Mr. Dunn amended to strike the word "renewable." Mr. Grandy seconded. Motion carried.

Chair appointed: Dunn, Knight, Martinez, Haverfield.

Water Rights Issues

Motion: Mr. Knight moved to postpone this item. Mr. Grandy seconded. Motion carried.

I. Future Agenda Items

- Subcommittee report on ACC MOU
- Water rights presentation and AG report

- Draft administrative policy
 - Approval of new fund distributions
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J. Future Meeting Dates

Motion: Mr. Dunn moved to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Mr. Grandy seconded.
Motion carried.

Scheduled:

- April 21, 2026
 - July 21, 2026
 - October 20, 2026
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K. Subcommittee Meetings

- Policy Committee – February 10, 2026 @ 1:00 PM (Virtual)
 - MOU Committee – February 10, 2026 @ 11:00 AM (Virtual)
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L. Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Dunn moved to enter executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03. Mr. Martinez seconded. Motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 2:40 p.m. and returned without taking action.

M. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Dunn moved to adjourn. Mr. Martinez seconded. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborrah Smith
Executive Director