



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2017 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by President Pete Lassotovitch at 4:00 pm.
Roll Call: Directors present were Alan Fry, Sherman Pennebaker, Ted Kimbler
Associate Directors: John Heywood, Gary Temple
Staff present: Steve Haze, Justine Reynolds, and Jeannie Habben
Guest: No Guests
Partners present: David Durham (NRCS)
Absent: None

II. Approval of Minutes for January Meeting

After review of the January minutes, no changes were made.
Sherman P made a motion to accept the January minutes as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)

No Public Comment

IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (A): Action (I): Info

- A. Personnel for NRCS Assignment under existing Agreement – Derek Riley (I)
Jeannie H met with Derek R and completed his new-hire paperwork to begin work on the Air Quality agreement with the NRCS to work on the diesel contracts.
- B. Conflict of Interest Code (I) (A)
About 5 years-ago the RCD established and approved a Conflict of Interest Code but it was not filed with the County at that time. The County reviewed what was submitted by Steve H and made a couple of changes which Steve reviewed with the Board. Upon approval by the Board it will be resubmitted.
Ted K made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Code as presented, Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously. Steve H will follow-up and send this to the County.
- C. Form 700 On-line Filings – Due April 3rd
The Form 700 for 2017 are due by April 3. These can be completed on-line now unlike in the past where it was a hardcopy form; a notification will go out to the board members when this is due.
- D. CBT Non-Disclosure – Non-Circumvent Agreement
The effective date on the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) is February 13, 2017. This agreement is between Sustainable Energy Technology, LLC (and its affiliated companies) and the Sierra RCD. This agreement is related to information related to technology and methodologies to generate products from Biomass.

Sherman P made a motion to approve the Non- Disclosure Agreement and Non-Circumvent agreement as presented, Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

- E. Healthy Soils Program, CDFA & Carbon Cycle Institute – 4/12 Workshops (I) (A)
March 16 will be a meeting with CDFA to look at all the various RCDs to sign on to a letter to Secretary Karen Ross, from CDFA, that lists six recommendations which move funds from the Greenhouse Gas funds to Healthy Soils projects to assist in the process based on the experience working with on-farm conservation projects. Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI) is asking for the support from the RCD as a signatory on this letter to Secretary Karen Ross. Sherman P made a motion to Sign this letter as presented, Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Carbon Farm Planning Workshop April 12, Swanton Ranch
Workshop is available to learn about this practice that will affect all the RCDs. There are small scholarships available. This Board needs to decide the importance of this training and who needs to attend. Sherman P made a motion to send 2 staff and one director at a total of 3 to the training workshop, Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously. Request for the staff to apply for scholarships.

- F. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)
Not a lot of activity due to the weather. One meeting was held.
 2. NRCS Tree Mortality Response (I)
Sierra RCD has hours in the grant, but will not receive any funds. NRCS will be looking at YMCA at Sequoia Lake; there are a great deal of dead trees that need to be addressed. The funding will go partly to the Forest Service and partly through EQIP to go out to the private land owners in the area. Next batching period will be in the middle of March and there will be new applications at that time for review.
 3. Governor's OPR/Econ. Development & SNC – Interagency Agreement (I)
Office of Planning and Research – No update
 4. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)
Steve H responded to their two questions previously requested and SJVAPCD responded with four more questions to further the application.
 5. All Power Labs (APL) – CEC – Epic Project Abstract Submitted (I)
Proposal was submitted for a grant and will be announced in March (.75 of a megawatt system)
 6. SWRCB Grant Reforestation w/SCE & Intermountain Nursery Submitted (I)
March 10 SRCD should know the outcome of the award.
 7. APL- NFS – SBIR Letter of Support
A concept proposal is due March 3 for the National Science Foundation Innovation at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS). UC Merced is using hydrologic cycle to figure out an approach to assist decisions on a viable practice to apply to either protect or enhance the resources or increase water availability without creating a significant impact. Ted K made a motion to Sign this letter as presented, Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously. To be submitted on Friday.

Small Business Innovative Research Letter of Support for All Power Labs. Steve H explained that SRCD would be providing on-site support for the 6 to 9 months of the project. SRCD is local support; All Power Labs is out of Berkeley and needs SRCD to be the local contact. Ted K made a motion to Sign this letter of support as presented, Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously. To be submitted on Friday

8. Highbury Energy CEC Biofuels – Project Abstract submitted by SRCD (I)
Steve H submitted an expedited version of the application on January 26. It made the deadline but may not be completely what they are looking for. If they offer this again, this will be reworked and resubmitted.
9. Highbury Energy Options Proposal to SNC – SRCD as Applicant (I) (A)
SRCD has until September to submit to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for their next round.
10. CALFIRE Forest Health Program (I) (A)
They are looking at Forest Health in the Watershed context. This would include innovation to look at the process from the minute the tree is dropped and then what to do step-by-step to prove what is most beneficial. The key is millions of dollars have been and will be spent to drop trees; now what will happen with those trees, what is the most beneficial to the land and the watershed. Steve H and John H visited some of the operations on site. Allan F made a motion to pursue the CalFire Grant proposal, Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Members of the Board were concerned with the cost of writing grants and possibly taking on too many projects. It was explained that the regular practice in grant writing is to get paid for writing the grant up front because there is never a guarantee of winning the grant. It was also explained that the staff splits and distributes the work load.

G. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)

- Agreement with NRCS for a new employee for Air Quality; Steve will submit an invoice for advance on these funds.
- Cal Fire Safe Council CWPP – Justine will be submitting invoicing for this
- The Conservation Planning and Support NRCS agreement ended December 2016 and no extension has been offered to date
- Dinkey Creek invoice will be submitted this month

Proposals Submitted:

- CARCD – DWR – SWEEP Assistance – Awaiting agreement from CARCD
- CARCD Watershed Assessment – completed and invoiced
- NRCS-Regional Conservation Practice Program – CARCD & Governor’s OP & R – Submitted full proposal; not rewarded
- NRCS – CDFA – SWEEP – Invoiced
- USDA Rural Development – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – in lieu fee program
- GOPR – Biochar Initiative – being further developed with SNC
- CEC – Community Scale Biofuels – submitted full proposal; not rewarded
- CEC- EPIC Bioenergy Demonstrate/Deploy – Submitted full proposal – waiting outcome
- SJVAPCD – Bioenergy/Biochar Tandum – Submitted and responded to questions
- SNP – WIP Planning Grant – submitted concept proposal
- CalFire – SRA – Tree Mortality Grant – Submitted full proposal – not awarded
- State Waterboard – NPS Forest Restoration Grant – Submitted full proposal – March determination

- H. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
This ended December 2016, no word if this is going to be extended.
- I. CDFA-NRCS – SWEEP (State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program) (I)
No submission on this. This can be removed from the agenda.
- J. Dinkey Collaboration – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)
Justine R had nothing to report.
- K. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG – DAC Session (I)
These are meeting and moving forward. SSIRWM received \$217,000.00 to update their plan and SRCD is working as a partner to assist.
- L. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
 - DWR Water Use Efficiency Grant award proposed; the SRCD's role is to be determined
 - Justine will look at the CalRecycle Organics Program that could be up to \$3 million
 - NRCS Mini-grant for \$2k for agricultural outreach
 - Steve H is reviewing the USDA Rural Business Development Grants, the Innovation at the Nexus of Food, Energy & Water and Watershed Enhancement
 - The CARCD Tier Funding is the best opportunity with guaranteed, non- competitive funds.
- M. CARCD Capacity Building /Planning for the Future – 3 Tier Program (I) (A)
Jenny D from the Department of Conservation phoned in to the meeting to give a report about reimbursement of the Tier One work and upcoming funding. She explained that the DOC does not reimburse for work previously completed; but they offer the DOC/RCD funds to move forward. Since the Sierra RCD has already completed their Tier One Accreditation then they are way ahead of the game to receive the second level of funding. She explained that this is the \$2.2 million that has been designated to assist RCDs in reaching their Tier 1, 2, & 3 goals. The time line for the Department of Conservation RCD funding is:
 - The application/guidelines are supposed to be out by this Friday – (March 3)
 - The application will be due back to DOC by March 29 – a very quick turn-around time!
 - DOC is required to have all the contracts signed by May.
 - You then have until December 2018 to complete the projects – whatever they are (roughly 18 months)
This is non-competitive, guaranteed funds to anyone who submits a proposal/application. Here are some (but not all) details about the funding that the Sierra RCD would be qualified for: The REV funds for Tier 2 and Tier 3
 - These funds are for capacity building
 - Can apply for whatever is needed - \$30k or \$40k or whatever
 - 25% match again with 10% of total in cash match
 - Up to \$2 million available in this pot
 - Must have Tier 1 Completed to apply
 - These funds maybe equally distributed among the RCDs who have applied.
- N. Web Site support
Justine R has nothing to report.
- O. Other
 - Alan F asked if the SRCD wants to sponsor a student to go to Range Camp for \$450.00. This is a camp at Elk Horn Ranch. Steve H recommended to wait and see what the

financials are for another month. Alan will bring this back to the Board in March because not due until April.

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Report (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- the Balance Sheet
- Check Book Transactions

B. **Review & Approval of expenses – Grant Development (A)**

Request for \$100.00 membership for the Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D Council. The RC & D is a four county 501c3 and SRCD has been a member for many years. Alan F made a motion to pay the 2017 dues, Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report (D. Durham):

No further information. This will be moved toward the beginning of the meeting agenda to get a full report. Jeannie H reported that the NRCS is partnering with CARCD to provide small outreach grant opportunities for Ag Partners, non-profit organizations and RCD's for resource conservation projects to historically underserved producers. Small grants available up to \$2,000. Applications are due by March 1, 2016; so, there is no time this round to apply.

B. RC&D Report: Y/S RC&D Council meeting
Nothing new to report at this time.

C. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

D. Other:

VI. Adjournment: 6:21 pm -

Ted K made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21pm; Alan F second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 – Clovis Memorial Building, Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben