



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 27, 2016 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, and Jeannie Habben
Guest: No Guests
Partners present: David Durham (NRCS)
Absent: None

II. Approval of Minutes for February Meeting

After review of the February minutes, no changes were made.
Sherman P made a motion to accept the February 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. DOC – CARCD REV Funding Proposal and Adoption of Resolution (I) (A)
Jeannie H and Steve H wrote the grant to be submitted on March 28 for the DOC funds. The SRCD will be applying for REV funds for approximately \$84k. Their four Objectives for these funds will be: 1) Website Development and Maintenance; 2) Economic Development focused on Resource Management; 3) Develop locally Healthy Soils Initiative; 4) Forest Health on Private Lands. SRCD will need to make a 25% match of which 10% needs to be a cash match. NRCS has offered to come and work with the board on public relations portion; possibly assisting with writing a newsletter. Contracts for this funding should be out in May 2017.
- B. SSIRWM Plan Update and Sierra RCD's Role – Bobby Kamansky (I) (A)
Bobby could not attend today as originally planned. He stated via email that DWR is finalizing the contract with Sequoia Riverlands Trust. There will be \$3,500 will be available in the contract for SRCD to assist with outreach in Fresno County. He would like to review a scope of work, about a workshop and other outreach and education.
Alan F made the motion to develop a scope of work to work with and to enter into an agreement with SSIRWM; Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Conflict of Interest Code (I) (A)
Motion was passed in February to submit this document to the County. This went to the Clerk to the BOS is under review.

- D. Form 700 On-line Filings – Due April 3rd
The Form 700 for 2017 are due by April 3. These have all been completed and sent to the County electronically.
- E. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
The submission to DOC will assist with this project in the future.
1. Supervisor Magsig's interests in Auberry Mill Site as opportunity (I) (A)
Gary T called Magsig's office regarding the possible Biomass facility at the Auberry Mill Site and how SRCD can assist with this process. He has not received any response to date. There is a town hall meeting with the Supervisor on Wednesday.
Alan F Motion to speak on behalf of the SRCD board at the town hall meeting in Auberry; Ted Kimbler second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
 2. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)
Not a lot of activity due to the weather. One meeting was held.
Wednesday afternoon there will be a meeting with the Ringgolds as part of this for Auberry Biomass site.
 3. 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. All responses have been made and the last series of responses was made March 23.
 4. 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). CEC came out with the award letters; There were five projects submitted and only two were funded. The other three are considered finalist because their projects were accepted and passed, but there are no funds to give to the projects.
 5. APL- NFS – SBIR Letter of Support
This was submitted on time on March 3rd. Waiting for answer.
 6. SWRCB Grant Reforestation w/SCE & Intermountain Nursery Submitted (I)
We were the only submittal South of Tahoe. They have never awarded a grant this far South. We are waiting for the announcement.
 7. CALFIRE Forest Health Program (I) (A)
\$22 million is available for the State of California for the Forest Health program. Federal employees are now applying for state grants/funds based on the grant writing class attended earlier this month.
Alan F made a motion to partner with the US Forest Service for the State of California funds for CalFire Healthy Forest grant program. Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
 8. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 (I)
Justine R held the kick-off last week at the Bear Mountain Library. This was to review the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The SRCD has already signed an MOU with both of the Fire Safe Councils.

F. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)

- Agreement with NRCS for a new employee for Air Quality
- Cal Fire Safe Council CWPP
- The Conservation Planning and Support NRCS agreement
- Dinkey Creek invoice will be submitted this month

Proposals Submitted:

- CARCD – DWR – SWEEP Assistance – Awaiting agreement from CARCD
- CARCD Watershed Assessment – completed and invoiced
- CEC- EPIC Bioenergy Demonstrate/Deploy – Submitted full proposal – waiting outcome
- SJVAPCD – Bioenergy/Biochar Tandem – Submitted and responded to questions
- SNP – WIP Planning Grant – submitted concept proposal
- State Waterboard – NPS Forest Restoration Grant – submitted 3/3
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – in lieu fee program
- Ca Dept. of Conservation – CARCD – submitted 3/28
- CalFire – Healthy Forest 2017
- NRCS – Air Quality Program
- Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration
- SSIRWM Plan Update

G. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)

NRCS has \$19m available for eligible farmers to implement conservation practices that benefit air quality, which help to reduce on-farm emissions. Through EQIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to eligible agricultural producers for addressing their natural resource concerns, including the air quality concerns from their farming operations.

H. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)

A student has been identified to continue this program, no more information at this time.

I. Dinkey Collaboration – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)

Nothing to report.

J. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG – DAC Session (I)

These are meeting and moving forward. SSIRWM is moving forward. Kings Basin Water Authority and SGMA has been quiet.

K. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)

Steve H distributed the list of funding that is currently available. After review, he explained that there are seventeen projects that have been looked at, have been submitted, or are near being submitted in the next couple of months.

L. Web Site support

Nothing to report. This will be revisited for DOC funding round.

M. Other

New version to approve the Oak to Timberline MOU.

Alan F made the motion; Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Report (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- the Balance Sheet
- Check Book Transactions

He stated that the outlook is positive.

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

Alan F made a motion to approve the expenses, Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report (D. Durham): (Moved to front)

The second batching period is over; no numbers to share yet. There will be another batching period in June. For diesel tractor replacements, now funding down to 25 hp; previously the contracts were only for as low as 50hp. There was a record year last year in the Fresno Region. Growers need to remember that when they have a contract it is thought of as two contracts, both with USDA/NRCS and with the vendor. USDA is really in tuned with the IRS; the IRS checks the amounts that the growers receive. There is a Federal employment hiring freeze since January; this was a 90-day freeze.

B. RC&D Report: Y/S RC&D Council meeting

Nothing new to report at this time.

C. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

No correspondence

D. Other:

No additional reports.

VI. Adjournment: 5:50 pm -

Ted K made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm; Alan F second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2017 – Clovis Memorial Building, Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben