



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2018 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:08pm (by President Pete L)

- A. Director Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests

Roll Call: Directors present were Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Ted Kimbler
Associate Directors: John Heywood
Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones
Guest: David Cehrs, El Rio Reyes; Rebecca Ozeran, UC Cooperative Extension
Partners present: No NRCS - Federal Govt. Closed
Absent: Gary Temple

II. Approval of Minutes for October Meeting (no meeting in Nov. and Dec.)

Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes from August; 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)

2018 San Joaquin Livestock Symposium: Back to Basics by the University of California Cooperative Extension. At the Kearney Research and Extension Center on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 1:45 to 6:30.

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

- A. CARCD Annual Award – RCD of the Year – Group Photo (A)
The SRCD received the award as the RCD of the Year for 2017 at the CARCD annual meeting. Jeannie H received the Outstanding Service Award also at the CARCD annual meeting. A picture was taken at this meeting of the group.
- B. CARCD Advocacy Academy (A) (I)
Alan F registered for the CARCD Advocacy. The CARCD Advocacy Academy is part of CARCD's Capacity Building Program funded through S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. This training will give staff and directors the opportunity to examine the RCD's political savvy – how it maintains visibility, gains a seat at the table for important decisions, advocates for protection of critical resources, and garners the support it needs to succeed.
- C. Introduction of Craig Jones, Project Coordinator (I)
Craig introduced himself to the board. He has 40 years of experience working with Natural Resources. He is working with the Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council on the SRCD's behalf and he is also working on the Wildfire Protection Plan for the Hwy.168 Fire Safe Council. He is also a certified arborist which could assist SRCD with other projects.

- D. Retirement of Sherman Pennebaker – and – Declaration of Vacancy (A) (I)
Sherman P has retired and has completed his outgoing 700 form for the County requirement. Jeannie H was requested to send out a notice of the Board opening.
- E. Cooperative Agreements El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust – David Cehrs (A) (I)
David C introduced himself as the current board president of El Rio Reyes Conservation Group. They are working on a project with Cal Trans on Hwy 180 where there is a need to complete an oak woodland mitigation for the oaks that are being removed for the Hwy 180 project. Cal Trans states that they no longer want to work directly with NGOs and would rather work with some type of government agency. They prefer to use the RCD as a “funds pass through” as they did in another project using the Mariposa County RCD. El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust is requesting SRCD to write and facilitate an MOU and hold an easement for the project property and as a partner, act as funding pass through.

Motion was made to move forward and pursue this project; to create a draft MOU and possible budget for administration to bring back to the board.

Al F made the motion based on the above statement and Ted K second the motion; all voted; and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve H sent the Mariposa County MOU to El Rio Reyes as a draft and they will work on it and bring it back to the board for review and signature.

- F. Form 700 – On – Line (I)
All directors are required to complete a Form 700 on line with the County. This must be completed before April 10.
- G. DOC – REV Grant (I)
This has been good funding to achieve the goals one at a time to become Relevant, Excellent, and Visible. Jeannie H distributed business cards and name tags that were printed for the directors, associate directors, and staff; over the holiday break. These were printed through other funding so at no cost to this RCD.
- H. Tree Mortality Task Force – Utilization – Market Development Working Group (I) (A)
This working group is for utilization and development. They have not met for a couple of months. Only 1 out of 10 logs that are downed are good for structural use. The rest of the logs and slash is left and there is a need to find a use; a product needs to be found. CARCD is being recommended for the full \$10 million dollars requested to assist landowners in removing dead and dying trees in the High Mortality Areas of the Sierra Nevadas. CARCD will be coordinating with over 35 partners including local RCDs to assist the hard-hit landowners.
- I. Dinkey Collaborative – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)
They are going into their eighth year of this project and the last meeting was in early December. SRCD has an agreement with the collaborative to provide the facilitator and work with the group. John H is on the Steering Committee and Steve H is on the Socio-Economic Development Committee. This group was set-up to give everyone a voice and a seat at the table to show all types of groups that they can work together with their goals for the Forest. SRCD is a very important part of allowing this group/project to continue.

- J. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
 - 1. Auberry Mill Site as Opportunity & SNC funding (I)
Did receive the RAC Funding award but have not received the RAC funds (the funds should be release in April). The appraisal of the property was completed. Additionally, SRCD submitted a proposal in November with SNC to complete pre-acquisition activities in the amount of \$73,669.
 - 2. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)
John, Craig, and Steve have been attending these meetings. The task force was looking to outside agencies for outreach and education. Steve and Craig will meet with the County on January 30 to discuss a partnership.
 - 3. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)
SJVAPCD will be revisiting the proposal.
 - 4. All Power Labs (APL) – CA Energy Commission (CEC) – Epic Project – Unfunded Finalist – Contact w/CEC (I)
APL & SRCD are still an unfunded finalist. \$3M was requested and is waiting to see if the CEC will have decided to fund the project. This could be 5 units/containers each about 150kw production for bioenergy. (under EPIC Project)
 - 5. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-yr Agreement (A) (I)
Steve H shared the first bag of biochar created from pine; part of the dead trees in the area. There are many uses for this biochar as a marketable product. No action is needed on this item; Allan F signed the paperwork over the holiday break. The agreement went into effect on January 17th.
 - 6. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL & 168 & FC MH-MP (I)
OTTL is having their community meeting on February 10 to learn about wildfire mitigation and the Wildlife Protection Plan. Craig will be using the model created by the OTTL Plan to assist the Hwy. 168 Plan revision. It is important to get this completed because until it is finished the FSCs are not competitive or are ineligible for certain types of funding.
 - 7. Fresno EOC/LCC MOU – Re-sign (I) (A)
Steve H provided a copy of the MOU between the Fresno County Economics Opportunities Commission and SRCD. They signed the agreement. Steve H will scan it and send it on. The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration and partnership, in support of SRCD and the Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps.
- K. Programs & Projects Status Report – Including CARCD RCPP Award(I)
Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained nine programs/projects. There are two NRCS agreements as well as the DOC REV grant, the DLRP, and the CFSC Wildfire Protection Plan programs are a few of them. The NRCS's prior AQ project is closed as well as the prior NRCS Hmong – Punjabi project. The SSIRWM project is for outreach and education. These two NRCS projects have been renewed for 5 and 2 years respectively effective January 1st
- L. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)
No report

- M. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
No one from NRCS was present to report, but Steve H stated that there is \$15K for two years effective January 1st – and a possible \$50k for Hmong TV for this project and SRCD is moving forward with the project.
- N. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)
SSIRWM funds have been agreed on for the outreach and education; Jeannie H will meet with Bobby K to discuss the needs. Pete L stated that there is a lot going on with SGMA and the requirements, funding, and the regulations. (Possible water metering.) Pete L will attend meetings and watch the progress.
- O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the list of funding opportunities that are currently available, and proposals submitted. This list shows grants applied for, grants awarded, and grants or projects being reviewed and/or in process in some respect. Added since the last time this board met are three grants for mobile biochar production, a watershed assessment, and funding from Nonpoint Source/Forest Restoration Fund.
- P. Web Site support – REV Funding and Hand-Off Required (I)
There is funding through the REV grant to upgrade the website. Ted K has taken the lead on this project/task. Steve H has been posting the agenda and minutes on the current website. Ted will be meeting with a person regarding building the website once again and Jeannie H will be assisting him.
- Q. Other –
- CCI Letter to CDFA on Carbon Management (I) (A); CA Capital & Blue Forest (I) (A)
John H and Steve H met with individuals from Blue Forest. They are putting through forest resiliency bonds. Blue Forest Conservation is a conservation finance entity with a mission to bring an innovative funding approach to restore forest landscapes in the Sierra Nevada. The board made a motion to continue the discussion with Blue Forest Conservation who would be interested in exploring opportunities to collaborate with the SRCD. Ted K made the motion, Alan F second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - The SRCD has signed on to make it more feasible on the CCI letter to CDFA on Carbon Management.
 - California Capital is based in Sacramento and provides support to RCDs through CARCD. Steve met with them (phone meeting) and they reviewed how to see bids and requests for proposals through grants.gov.
 - Steve H has been working with Rebecca O. to utilize a portable biochar unit, StarBot, on the Experimental Range. This will be as a test to clear dead trees and create biochar on site. They will also experiment with uses for the biochar.
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Sierra Resource Conservation District is holding a free Grant Writing Class on February 8 and 9. It will be at the Sierra National Forest Supervisor's Office in Clovis. This is a day and a half class to learn grant writing and budgeting.

- Urban Black Farmer Conference, Wednesday, February 28th, from 8am – 4pm , Maxi Parks Community Center, for more information and registration: www.wfresnofrc.org. “Growing Together”
- 27th Annual State Environmental Competition, California Envirothon is on Saturday, April 4 at the Wind Wolves Preserve, in Tejon, CA. the 2018 Theme is “Western Rangeland: Balancing Diverse Viewed.” www.envirothon.org

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- Check Register printed as of January 22, 2018 for last statement date of December 31, 2017
- He also distributed the history on the account starting July 2017 to date

B. Annual Audit (I)

Jolley Accounting office completed the annual audit for the RCD. Within the report, there was nothing that jumped out as something to be aware of. This group is on a recovery and working with grant expenditures being reimbursed. This has been submitted to the county. Alan F made a motion to accept the audit as presented, Ted K second the motion. All voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Line of Credit based upon A/R and grants (I) (A)

Steve H went to the bank to research a line of credit to assist with managing the SRCD cashflow. This required three years of audits to be submitted. A motion was made to have Alan as Secretary/Treasurer become the Director who has fiduciary responsibility and Steve H is his assistant in this position/process.

Ted K made the motion to allow Steve to move forward with following through with this process; Alan F second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Review & Approval of expenses – CARCD expenses above REV (I) (A)

Expenses over and above – such as mileage to CARCD meeting. Jeannie H will send the forms for mileage and expenses to Alan and Ted to complete. These expenses have been previously approved, but never submitted.

V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

No one present

B. RC&D Report:

The Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D is having their Winter Meeting on Thursday, January 25 from 9 to Noon at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

C. CARCD – Area 9

The Spring meeting of the San Joaquin Valley/Area IX Region will be somewhere in Madera County since it is being hosted by Chowchilla Red Top RCD. It will be in April, possibly the second or third Friday. Elections will be held for all positions of the group.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

No correspondence

E. Other:

- February Agenda: Report by Alan F regarding the Coalition of RCDs meeting in Sacramento.
- Steve H, Karen Buhr, and Sara Schremmer met with Fresno LAFCO regarding the consolidation of the Westside RCDs. It was discussed that expanding the SRCD Sphere of Influence (SOI) would be a more effective way to cover this area. Jeannie H and Steve H also met with Supervisor Brian Pacheco on this same subject to discuss support for the RCDs. Karen Buhr from CARCD stated that they may have funds to assist with the SOI process. A motion was made to move forward and approve the expansion of the RCD's SOI by Alan F. Ted K second the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Steve H was contacted to provide a summary of SRCD's outreach, education, and accomplishments for the web site newsletter distributed by Region 5 - Forest Service. Steve H wrote this up and sent it in; he will distribute the newsletter to the board when he receives it.

VI. Adjournment: 7:00 pm – Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018 – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben