



## SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 23, 2018 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:07 pm (by President Pete L)**

A. Director Roll Call

B. Introduction of Guests

Roll Call: Directors present were Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry

Associate Directors: Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones

Guest: Rebecca Ozeran, UC Cooperative Extension

Partners present: Rob Roy and Sam Vang, NRCS Fresno Field Office

Absent: John Heywood

On the Phone: Ted Kimbler

#### **II. Approval of Minutes for March Board Meeting**

Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes; 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 Comments

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

A. CARCD Bootcamp (I)

There has been a lot of interest in the upcoming RCD Board Boot Camp, but due to this being a busy time of year, CARCD decided to reschedule. The Boot Camp will now take place September 7-8, 2018 at the same venue in Oakhurst, CA. The registration form is still available and will be open through the summer.

Ted K and Alan F are both signed up for this training.

B. AB1981 (Limon) – Utilization of compost by CALFIRE (I) (A)

State assembly has reviewed this Assembly Bill as proposed. A letter was written on behalf of the RCD president and submitted to the Assemblymember Muratsuchi to express support for AB 1981 Organic waste: composting, which would promote the use of compost and woody biomass on affected lands following a fire.

Ted K made the motion to accept the letter as presented; Alan F second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Ethics and Harassment Training 04/24 – Directors & Staff (I) (A)

Jeannie H has arranged for a one-day training to fulfill the Tier 1 mandated ethics and harassment Training for two years. This will be presented by Hunt Law Firm on Tuesday, April 24, 2018; 9:00 am to 3:00pm (registration starting at 8:30).

At the Madera County Library in Madera. Steve H, Alan F, and Ted K have signed up to attend. Craig J has already taken the Harassment class via the Madera County Farm Bureau.

- D. Board Vacancies (I) (A)  
All the Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) of Madera and Fresno County are looking for new Directors to participate on the board. Jeannie H distributed the flyer that describes RCDs and explains the openings of all the local RCDs and where to go to get more information out on her e-mail list serve. Jeannie H sent the flyer to the Fresno Supervisor's Office and the Fresno County Farm Bureau, as well as the NRCS office.
- E. All Power Labs (APL), Tamkin Corp., Blue Forest Conservation – NDA & NC (I) (A)  
Steve H has been working with Tamkin Development Corp. on a Non-Disclosure Agreement and Non-circumvent for Confidential Information. Alan F made the motion to accept the non – disclosure and non-circumvent agreement to be accepted as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. Cooperative Agreement w/ El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust (I)  
There is a call in to David C. and have not heard back.
- G. Potential Expansion of District's Sphere of Influence (I)  
Driven with funding from CARCD, this is on hold until further funding and assistance is located to assist with working with LAFCO and the County to change these borders. Sara S from CARCD was asked and stated that the last she had heard; Sierra RCD's board had voted to approve an expansion of their SOI. She said that the next step would be for the RCD to submit an application with LAFCO. She was not sure where things stand beyond that.
- H. Tree Mortality Task Force – Utilization – Market Development WG (I)  
CalFire will be rolling this into part of their programs. Through the governor's office of planning and research their focus is on woody biomass. State of CA is looking at selecting a site for a model on biomass utilization. SRCD got invited to participate though it may shift to another focus; but the SRCD involvement shows forward progress.
- I. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG (I)  
The last collaborative meeting was last Thursday, Steve H and Jeannie H attended. SRCD is responsible for the Communication's Planning with the collaborative and that has been on hold since the departure of previous staff. The Forest Service wanted to retain the professional facilitator; SRCD executed an agreement with them and has been working closely with them to work with the Collaborative; Jeannie H will be the staff member to work as support on the Communications Workgroup. Steve H attended the individual meeting of the Ecological Monitoring and Socioeconomic Monitoring after the main meeting.
- J. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)  
The 5-year agreement has been implemented. The Power Pallet - PP20 and was delivered. There was a test completed using walnut shells and it was successful; to be followed by other test runs. SRCD will be going directly to the manufacturer for the biochar production equipment according to specifications.

2. Auberry Mill Site - SNC funding and RAC awards (I)  
Steve H spoke with SNC for the funding and working on details; funds in advance can be requested, this is an executed agreement. The RAC funding is still not available.
  3. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)  
One-Quarter Million trees have been removed. Craig J will be more involved with this as it progresses.
  4. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)  
Rob R reported that Nicki in the Fresno NRCS office is working with CARCD to finalize the paperwork and process. They probably will not be funding this program until October 2018. Most of the funds will go to NRCS to be distributed through the EQIP program. SRCD will act as assistance to the landowners. Rob R stated that his office sees an issue of costs with the transportation of the Bio-Mass.
  5. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL & 168 & FC MH-MP (I)  
They are both moving forward. 168 is having their core stakeholder meeting on 4/24 as an important step to complete the project. OTTL met and they have their first base-map of the OTTL Boundaries, that included a map, parcel data, UPNs, and the addresses. There is a retired Forester on the board who has GIS capability to assist with the mapping of the plan. OTTL reviewed six other CWPPs to assist with the writing of their own. Two critical pieces are Mapping and Fire Assessment.
- K. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)  
Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. All the old projects are off the list and the new ones are on. This shows the February through April invoiced and not paid; and estimated to be invoiced numbers.
- L. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)  
This program is still going strong and was well funded this year.
- M. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)  
Tuesday, September 24, 9:00 to 12:00 in Sanger at Keumoua Farm (Jensen and McCaw) the NRCS staff will be having a workshop on water conservation and cover crops for the South East Asian farmers. The Hmong TV contract is still in progress and will hopefully continue because it is very helpful to have a visual program to learn from. Sam V will bring the shopping bags and the calendars that SRCD appeared on as sponsors to the next meeting.
- N. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)  
SSIRWM has not met since this group has met last month. Jeannie H attended an all-day SGMA workshop in Merced on 4/21. This was to assist with writing Groundwater management plans.
- O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)  
Steve H, Craig J, and Jeannie H attended a FSC Funding and Grant Writing workshop. The issue that would be the most prohibitive to writing these grants are coming up with the non-Federal match for each requested amount or each grant application. There was only enough funding for one grant per county for tree mortality; \$130k. Craig J spoke to

both the FSCs he works with to see if they would be interested in collaborating; they have stated that they are not really interested. Another opportunity Carbon Adaptation Program and the pre-application is due on May 18.

P. Web Site support (I)

Jeannie H has been working with Kristina from Priceless Kreation. She has seven sections that she has been working with the web-designer to populate: Home Page (meeting minutes and agendas, map, etc), About Us (Mission and Vision, history of organization, board members, bylaws), Programs/Projects, Get Involved, News & Events, Resources (links, publications, MOUs, etc), Contact Us.

Q. Other –

- Bren College – UCB – Report to SRCD/UCFS (I) & FCEDC (I)  
They made their presentation at the Dinkey Collaborative meeting last Thursday and SRCD presented them with framed certificates of appreciation. The grad-students completed a team project that did an avoided cost analysis as to when to spend money to avoid issues in the future. They shared a summary of their 155-page report to show what resources and funding sources the RCD can apply on a broader base to assist with issues in the future. The report is called Saving Sierras: Motivating Public-Private Collaboration to Reduce Fire Severity in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains – completed March 23, 2018. This Friday Steve H will go to UC Santa Barbara to see their presentations at the University.

## V. Financial Report

A. Monthly Reports (I)

The next meeting will mark the end of another fiscal year. Steve H distributed and discussed the Profit and Loss; Balance Sheet; the Check Register; and the Transactions by account as of April 23, 2018. Steve H will work with Lis B on the year end closing.

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

Wednesday, 4/25 Steve H has a meeting with the bank branch in Prather. The bank did not approve the line of credit, \$50k, with no explanation even though they stated the packet was complete and professional.

C. Review & Approval of expenses: SCALE Summit, Sacramento 5/7 & 5/8

Alan F made the motion to approve expenses, not to exceed \$300.00 for Steve H to attend the two-day Sacramento Summit; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

Brandon Bates from Bakersfield is still the Fresno NRCS office he will be acting DC. The Bakersfield office is currently moving, and the Fresno office has about 130 contracts to implement, so they are extremely busy. The new Farm Bill is currently being reviewed in Washington, DC for this coming year; the last Farm Bill was in 2013.

B. RC&D Report:

The next Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D meeting will be on Thursday, April 26 from 9:00 to noon.

C. CARCD – Area 9

The Spring San Joaquin Valley Regional RCD meeting was on April 4, 2018 at the Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County. This meeting was sponsored by the Chowchilla Red Top RCD. Minarets FFA Ag Issues Team gave their presentation on the Impacts of Precision Agriculture and the about 30 attendees received a guided tour of the museum. No RCD volunteered for the Fall 2018 meeting.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses  
No correspondence

E. Other:

Rangeland Weed Management Workshop, UCC office in Tulare and James Herbert Wetlands Preserve. Tuesday, May 1, 2018 from 8:45 to 3:00.

**VII. Adjournment: 6:07 pm –**

**Next meeting: Due to Memorial Holiday - Monday, June 25, 2018 – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben