



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Monday, August 27, 2018 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:10 pm (by Ted Kimbler)

- A. Director Roll Call
 - B. Introduction of Guests
- Roll Call: Directors present were Ted Kimbler
Associate Directors: John Heywood
Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones
Absent: Gary Temple, Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry
Partner: NRCS: None
On the Phone: Alan Fry

II. Approval of Minutes for July Board Meeting

Alan F made the motion to accept the 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)

- Yosemite Peace Symposium – A Gathering of Peacemakers will be presented at the Tenaya Lodge on October 26-27, 2018. They will have 12 breakouts in three tracks: Peace and the Environment; Peace and Our Youth; Peace and Human Dignity. Steve H and Jeannie H have been requested to present at one of the Peace and the Environment break-out sessions. She will be presenting on “Living in Harmony with the New California Landscape.” Steve Haze will also be speaking at one of the Environment break-out sessions.
- The California Association of RCDs 2018 Annual Conference registration is now open. The topic is “Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities” in San Diego, CA, November 14th-17th, 2018 at the Kona Kai Resort. Last call for early bird tickets is on September 3.
- CDFA is accepting applications for technical assistance grants for climate smart agriculture programs. CDFA will award grant funds starting at \$5k, with additional funding allocated based on the number of applicants served. Each organization can receive up to \$60k. this program is to aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural operations.

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

- A. Review and Approval of 2018/2019 Annual Plan (A)
No Quorum
- B. Board Vacancies (I)
No interest for new members; Directors have been advised to do some outreach on their own to bring in new members.
- C. Expansion of District’s Sphere of Influence CARCD/CVCF (I)

CVCF (Central Valley Community Foundation) agreed to fund the SOI expansion of the areas of Fresno County white areas that are not covered by any Resource Conservation District in Western Fresno County (the valley.) Funding was approved. Steve H and Jeannie H will meet and map out the hours,

- D. Tree Mortality Task Force – Utilization/GOPR Committee Interview (I)
SRCD had an interview with the state representatives; one of five projects/groups interviewed to move forward on BioMass Utilization. The outcome is unknown currently and so currently informational; nothing tangible currently.

- E. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG (I)
The group met in August and discussed the booth at the Fresno Fair as well as a potential for another field trip. The Communication/Planning Group is working on the Fresno Fair event; creating a sticker, kid's workbook, and information brochure to distribute at the Fair. There has not been a meeting of the Steering Committee or the Socioeconomic Committee have not met for several months.

- F. Transfer of NDA-Noncircumvent from Highbury to Yosemite Clean (I) (A)
After discussion and review
Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously

- G. Review of DC,LLC Business Consultant, Agreement (I) (A)
After discussion of the consulting agreement and a review of the details.
Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously

- H. Site visit by KIER (Korean Institute of Energy Research) & Yosemite Clean (I)
Bio- Fuel creation – first SRCD's sin-gas is created through Biochar gasification process - Gasification of the feed stock then goes into KIERs process that converts it into liquid fuel. There was a tour of the site and the KIER group was impressed with the site.

- I. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
 1. Receiving and commissioning of StarBot Biochar systems @ SCE Nursery (I)
We have the two units now burned in and commissioned at the So Cal Edison site. Ultimately, they will be transported over to the Auberry site.

 2. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)
The award is for the StarBot project. That is moving forward, the SRCD now completely owns the StarBot and other equipment as well as insurance. All is working well with this project.

 3. Auberry Mill Site - SNC and RAC awards (I)
Alan F assisted Steve H in getting this moving. The financial questionnaire is completed as well as all signatures. These funds will assist with paying for the needed appraisal and conditional use permit.

4. Lease Agreement under SNC Grant w/AMS Owners (I) (A) (No action required)
Received one year later the RAC award. This was used to pay for the property appraisal and Phase one of the environmental site assessment. That is the next step. Moving toward the application of the conditional use permit. September 6 there will be a site visit from SNC for review of an application to procure more equipment. After this visit, SRCD can move toward a full proposal. Plan B is SCE.

The lease agreement was discussed for rental and utilities, and security deposit. Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously

5. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)
Work is continuing, all partners are reporting on their progress. Minutes are not taken at the meeting, but a report or list created from the numbers and information reported at the meeting would be helpful on many levels to have in writing. The meeting is well attended. The next meeting is on September 14.
6. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)
The agreement for CARCD and NRCS is still not finalized; they are anticipating that CARCD needs technical assistance to make the Tree Mortality agreement. Hopefully it will be completed by the start of fiscal year.
7. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 & FC MH-MP (I)
CalFire and OES received the CWPP for OTTL and they reviewed them and had very few comments/corrections. The plan is now being completed and ready to go to the Fresno County BOS and CalFire. There is a possible presentation that may be made to the Fresno BOS. The next draft will be the Hwy 168 CWPP to go tonight to CalFire and OES for review. The goal is to have both CWPP finalized and given to CalFire and Fresno BOS as final by the end of this month.

J. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)

Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. The funded programs are looking well and are showing positive progress.

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

No word from Ted S, NRCS.

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

Sam Vang and Vue are working on a workshop on Monday, 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. They will also be talking about high-tunnels and salinity.

www.nhaf.org national hmong Asian specialty

M. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)

The Kings Basin Watershed Authority sent the dues invoice, this was received, but no meetings have been held. SSIRWM is having their next meeting on September 6 in Fresno.

They are currently working on the Plan Update and it will be ready to send to DWR by the end of September or the beginning of October. They will also be having their DACI meetings on September 25 and 25. Three meetings will be held: 1) Community input; 2) Water/Waste Water Concerns; and 3) Tribal Advisory.

- N. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the Funding/Grant Tracking List. The Forest Health – GHG Reduction grant was not rewarded, working with Tree Mortality & Forest Health, the SRCD's portion of that was \$250k. The Patagonia grant was not applied for nor was the Ca Fire Safe Council grant. Steve H attended the pre-app workshop on August 23 for the Biofuels Production funding through the Ca Energy Commission. The SRCD is looking at funds that allow for the utilization of BioMass for UPSs in schools, hospitals, etc. – funding is by SNC.
- O. Web Site Development and Support – <http://new.sierrarc.com/>
Jeannie H and Steve H will be meeting with Kristina P the Web designer on September 7 to finalize the details of the website to populate the site and make the final changes and decisions to release it to the public.
- P. Other – CEC Workshop

V. Financial Report

A. Opening of Savings Account for SNC Grant (I) (A)

No Quorum

The SRCD is going to open a savings account for advances at Federal County Community Bank. The names on the account will be Alan F and Steve H as the approved by the board members.

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

B. Annual Audit (I) (A)

This was approved to get completed based on the line-item showing in the Annual Budget.

C. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed for review the:

- Balance Sheet as of August 27, 2018;
- the Profit & Loss for July 1 through August 27, 2018;
- the Transactions by Account as of August 27, 2018;
- and the Bank Statement as of August 27, 2018

This shows that all equipment is paid for.

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

This application will be resubmitted with the final financials for the fiscal year. This is still pending.

E. Review & Approval of expenses:

RCD credit card.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

B. RC&D Report:

The next Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D meeting will be on Thursday, October 25 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. There needs to be more representation in Fresno and Tulare Counties as they are predominately representing Madera and Mariposa Counties.

Ysrcd email

C. CARCD – Area 9

The San Joaquin Valley Regional / Area IX Fall meeting is on Friday, October 19 at the Hanford Ag and NRCS Multi-Purpose Room, 680 Campus Drive, Hanford. This meeting will be sponsored by Excelsior/Kings River RCD and will have the annual speak-off contest. The theme of the speak-off contest is “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

No correspondence

E. Other:

Rebecca – Cooperative Extension

- 1) AB589 – people are allowed to do their own water monitoring – monthly recording and annual reporting (SB88 from last year) landowners are getting certified to complete their own water monitoring – there will be workshops are coming to certify landowners (diverting stock ponds)

2 – day short-course - range land grazing, land managers next April workshop (couple of days)

Research project regarding oak mortality – possible state-wide inventory. Developing a survey will possibly be complete by September. Looking at sudden oak death and prevalence.

**VII. Adjournment: 6:24 pm –
Next meeting: Monday, August 25, 2018 – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben