



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 28, 2019 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 pm (by Pete Lassotovitch)

A. Director Roll Call

B. Introduction of Guests

Roll Call: Directors present were Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry

Associate Directors: Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones

Partners: NRCS: Jae Lee- NRCS, Rob Roy- NRCS

Partner on Phone: Sara Schremmer - CARCD

Guests: Lisa Challenge – Material Matters; David Fey – Fresno LAFCO; Kristina Price – Priceless Kreation; Robert Jackson – Yosemite Clean; Siran Eryasian – Volunteer; John Heywood – Visitor; Erik Bregelson- Volunteer

II. Approval of Minutes for September and October 2018 Board Meetings

Ted K made the motion to accept the minutes for both September and October 2018 as presented; Alan F seconded the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

- Lisa Challenger is visiting from out of state from Materials Matter. She is visiting the Fresno/Clovis wastewater facility reviewing their technology. She was referred to SRCD from Rebecca of UC Cooperative Extension because of her interest in BioChar.

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

A. Service Recognitions

Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones, John Heywood, and Terri Sandridge were all recognized with a framed certificate and a wooden watch (symbolizing Natural Resources) for their many years of service and special talents they bring to the RCD.

B. Annexation/Expansion District's Sphere of Influence LAFCO/CARCD/CVCF

David F from Fresno LAFCO gave a presentation, using the map of RCDs in Fresno County. He explained that the SOI process is LAFCO's way of planning for growth in the future. He stated the requirements for the RCD to proceed with an SOI expansion there would be many meetings with LAFCO for them to approve the RCD to move forward. The RCD would need to present LAFCO with a Service Plan as well as working closely together to complete the application and submit a fee of \$16k+. There would be minimal environmental work to be done to complete CEQA requirements, a Public Hearing would be held with the commission. When presenting to the commission, a new MSR must be written as well as a new Legal Description. This would be the first step toward an Annexation.

Sara S from CARCD stated that they have a goal of investing additional resources into the Central Valley. Part of this is to expand the scope and scale of projects in Fresno County towards the west side. They received funds from CVCF to potentially cover the fees for the application and the prep time for the SOI process. They received \$65k to achieve this goal, but there is a possibility to go back for additional funding if it is needed for staff time, etc.

Alan F made the motion to move forward with the SOI/Annexation Process, Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Ted voiced one concern that the addition of the area would create more costs to provide more services. It was explained that this will not be the case.

C. Web Site Development & Support Kristina Price

Kristina P, webmaster, gave a demonstration of the new SRCD website. She explained how each tab worked and various links. She stated that she would like the Board to submit more pictures to give the page more color and make it more interesting. Also, more content when it is available and information on how the public can get involved. She showed links to other websites and stated that the board may want to contact those organizations to make sure that their websites link back to the SRCD website. There is a space for a newsletter (from MailChimp), google calendar (with an event option), and email addresses for each individual board members contact.

Alan F made the motion to roll out the new website immediately to go on-line; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. This will get the website out there in place of the old site and any additions or changes can happen along the way.

D. Review and Approval of Resolutions 01-2019 & 02-2019 CAL FIRE Grants

Steve H reviewed Resolution 01-2019 – “Resolution of the Sierra Resource Conservation District of Fresno County” for Climate Investment for fire prevention programs, with the board. After discussion, Alan F made the motion to accept and sign the Resolution 01-2019 as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Alan F signed the Resolution.

Steve H reviewed Resolution 02-2019 – “Resolution of the Sierra Resource Conservation District for Funding from the Forest Health Grant Program as Provided Through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund” with the board. This is to go forward to accept the amount of \$7.1million with 85% of the funds going to the US Forest Service. After discussion, Alan F made the motion to accept and sign the Resolution 02-2019 as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Alan F signed the Resolution.

E. Review and approval of Resolution 03-2019 DOC Watershed Grant Proposal

This is still in the planning stages. The grant is being written to request \$235k from the Department of Conservation for additional capacity. This could pay for up to two individuals to work on forestry and fuels with SRCD. The grant is due February 15, 2019. After discussion, Alan F made the motion to move forward with writing the grant and the resolution; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Board Reappointments/Vacancies – Board of Supervisors mtg of 1/29/19

Alan F and Ted K are up for re-appointment to the SRCD board as directors. The Fresno County Board of Supervisors will have this item on their “Consent Calendar” at the board meeting on January 29, 2019.

G. Review and Adoption of District Procurement Policies

Steve H presented the board with two variations of the Procurement Policy written as a requirement to move forward with grant contracts. The first was the “Procurement Policy for Contract Services” and the second is “Procurement Policy for Construction and Other Labor Services.” After discussion, Ted K made the motion to accept both versions of the new Procurement Policy as presented; Alan F second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

- H. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement – (I) (A)
This could possibly be a 5% fee for SRCD. This is mitigation for planting plants and trees. This has been put on hold for a short time; Steve H just heard back from them today.
- I. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG (I)
There is not a lot to report on. The last meeting was on December 6 and the next meeting is on February 14. Jeannie H is no longer on the Communication/Planning Group. The Collaborative is looking to see what funding is available to move forward.
- J. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
 - 1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group
SRCD is staying actively involved with this group through the evolution of the Task Force. SRCD is representing “Sierra Eastside Region” that is a part of the group that evolved from the Tree Mortality Task Force. There is \$1Billion over 5-years. Steve H would like to actively recruit and stay involved and engaged where needed to cover this area. After discussion, Alan F made the motion for Steve H to stay actively engaged and involved in this process as feasible; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - 2. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)
The Government shut-down slowed things down for a while. There is equipment moved onto the Mill site and waiting. The Forest Service employees are back on the job today, so they will do the initial start up soon. This project is moving in the direction to hire personnel when the Bio-generator and other equipment is running.
 - 3. Auberry Mill Site - SNC CUP and Yosemite Clean (I)
Rob Jackson (Day Break Organics) from Yosemite Clean, was present to report the progress of the project. They have been working with the bank directly to find funding to proceed; they applied (with Steve’s assistance) to CA Energy Commission for funding and came up 2.5 point short. They are licensed for the Fischer-Tropsch technology with KIER (Korean Institute for Energy Research) and they are doing a feasibility study with a non-profit in San Diego. They are optimistic that this will go through and they would like to replicate this process all over the valley.
 - 4. Setting up operations at AMS Owners and Phase 1 ESA (I)
SRCD has a one-year lease agreement to start the process. The landowners tend to vacillate on their support; SRCD may look for alternate land for the project.
 - 5. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (I)
This group is evolving into what is now known as TRAC with the addition of air pollution control standards. For SRCD, it would now be a Technical and Regulatory Advisory Committee and SRCD will represent private landowner interests as well.
 - 6. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)
This funding will create a mini EQIP program that will be ran by CARCD for Tree Mortality issue. Steve H has met with Jenn Shepard about the program. Jae Lee will assist in Fresno and SRCD will be the lead in Fresno County. About 75% of the \$10mill will be going to the applicants. The agreement was written as this being the first year for program development. The partners are working on a ranking status and development for a solid program.

7. CARCD/NRCS Regional Technical Assistance Grant
See above -
8. CFSC – Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction & Hiring of Project Administrator & Forestry Field Assistant
This is the first award SRCD has received that has no inter-agency requirement. This is 100% funding for SRCD programs. Craig J will be the Project Manager and two new Part-Time employees will be brought on. Steve H is presenting two applicants to the board: Kelly, as District and Project Administration, and Blair from the Reedley College Forestry Program. They will be tasked to conduct outreach to 100s of landowners regarding Tree Mortality in targeted areas where research shows there are gaps that other agencies have missed. Originally this funding was for \$130k and SRCD was then offered \$300k for having a strong proposal.
Alan F made the motion to hire the two new employees; one as a Project Administrator and one as a Forestry Field Assistant; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. A stipulation was added by Pete L.: They can be hired as long as the funds are in hand. Steve H stated the agreement is supposed to be complete this week to have the funds by 2/15.
9. CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program
This application packet was completed with a \$845,000 funding request and went out on December 19, 2018 and now SRCD is waiting for an answer. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)
- K. Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. Steve H is awaiting payment from USFS to pay invoices from the facilitator for the Dinkey Collaborative funds. There is currently more than \$8 million in submitted grant applications.
- L. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)
This is called the National Air Quality Program. NRCS has is now finishing the second round of applications for this year.
- M. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
Sam Vang and Vue will be assisting SRCD in holding two workshops. SRCD originally received \$6K for this program and it was raised to nearly \$20k. Along with the two workshops they will be doing irrigation testing. The targeted dates for the workshops are April 23 or April 30 at one of the Hmong Growers Farm.
- N. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)
The SSIRWM has turned in their Prop 1 Plan Update and are waiting to get the approval from DWR. The Mountain County Funding Area for the IRWM Disadvantaged Community Coordinating Committee is meeting on Tuesday, February 12 from 10:00 to 2:30 at the Department of Water Resources in Sacramento. Sierra Institute and Sierra Water Workgroup will be reporting.
- O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the Funding/Grant Tracking List. He pointed out the grants received and stated that there are two more grants that are due in the near future.
- P. Other –
 - Nothing to report

V. Financial Report

A. Annual Audit (I) (A)

This is complete and is available in pdf form if any of the Directors would like to review it.

B. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed for review the:

- Balance Sheet as of January 28, 2019;
- the Profit & Loss for July 1, 2018 through January 28, 2019;
- the Transactions by Account as of January 28, 2019;
- Central Valley Bank Summary as of 01/28/2019

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

This application has been resubmitted with the completed Annual Audit. Steve H is working directly with the Sr. VP for the application review.

D. Review & Approval of expenses – USFS Stewardship workshop 2/27 – 3/1

Steve H and Craig J presented the opportunity for both of them to attend the USFS Stewardship workshop in Sacramento. They requested that the board approve expenses and travel for this event.

Alan F made the motion to cover their expenses up to \$600.00 for both of them; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

Jae Lee has been selected to be the new District Conservationist for the Fresno Field Office. He came from the Riverside area. Curtis Tarver took Jae's position as Regional DC in the Riverside area. He will be replaced by Sharon Nance. The NRCS office did not go on Federal Furlough, though they were working with a minimal staff. The New Farm Bill was signed on December 21 and they are all still waiting for any changes that may bring.

B. RC&D Report:

Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council has their next meeting on Thursday, January 31. This is held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

C. CARCD – Area 9

There has been no host volunteer for the Spring meeting, this will be held in April. There is still an urgent need for a Treasurer for this group.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

No correspondence

E. Other:

VII. Adjournment: 7:05

Next meeting: Monday, February 25, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben