



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 23, 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 4:08 pm.
Roll Call: Directors present were Alan Fry, Sherman Pennebaker
Associate Directors: John Heywood
Staff present: Steve Haze, Justine Reynolds, and Jeannie Habben
Guest: No Guests
Partners present: David Durham (NRCS)
Absent: Ted Kimbler, Gary Temple

II. Approval of Minutes for August Meeting

After review of the October minutes, no changes were made.
Alan F made a motion to accept the October minutes as presented; Sherman P 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)

There was a proposal from President Obama to create a National Monument from Yosemite Park down to Sequoia. There was a request to have this place as an action item and discussion on this agenda. This has now been dropped due to presidential change and that it did not affect our area.

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

A. Appointments, Conflict of Interest Code and Form 700

Ted Kimbler was re-appointed as a Director by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. The County requested the directors complete a Conflict of Interest Code, and the Form 700 for 2017. The Form 700 can be completed on-line now unlike in the past where it was a hardcopy form; a notification will go out to the board members when this is due (approx. April).

B. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)

A lot of discussion on the Cal Fire SRA program for tree mortality projects. There was \$11.5 million available for all 10 counties. Fresno County received 13 grants @ \$200K each. Jeannie H stated that There is a Tree Mortality Assistance Program (TreeMAP) through the Lion's Club International. Funds are available through Lions Club – Lion's International for homeowners in the foothill areas with tree mortality issues. Ran by the Sonora Lion's Club.

2. NRCS Tree Mortality Response (I)

Sierra RCD is to receive a portion of the funds. Chief of Staff Award or a Joint Two Chiefs initiative that covers four counties; this will add funds to split for Tree Mortality. – EQIP 1.5 million; for public land and private land for tree mortality. Not just for dropping trees but also for thinning planting and other practices.

3. Governor's OPR/Econ. Development & SNC – Interagency Agreement (I)
Office of Planning and Research – still moving forward and we will be watching and listening for new developments.
4. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)
Paperwork submitted in December though the staff had shut down for the holidays. This is for about ½ million dollars.
5. All Power Labs (APL) – CEC – Epic Project Abstract Submitted (I)
Full proposal was submitted by APL with Sierra RCD for a grant on December 21st and will be announced in March.
6. Highbury Energy CEC Biofuels – Project Abstract submitted by SRCD (I)
SRCD was invited to present a full proposal for \$3.88 million in funding. There was an issue with the submittal system; and now can re-submit by 1/26.
7. Highbury Energy Options Proposal to SNC – SRCD as Applicant (I) (A)
SRCD has until September to submit to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for their next round.
8. CARCD – Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant – (I)
Not sure if this has been awarded to date.
9. CALFIRE SRA 2016 Grant Program (I) (A)
This was submitted and the notification of funding occurred in December. This funding is to developing a holistic approach to forest restoration in the southern Sierra Nevada in the face of unprecedented forest mortality. SRCD did not get awarded. Fresno County got 13 of 14 awards, (See IV.B.1)
10. SWRCB Grant Reforestation w/ SCE & Intermountain Nursery (I) (A)
A full proposal was submitted on January 20th for this funding for \$497K to assist with trees on private lands. This is to remove debris, and perform reforestation. This is for watershed restoration within forest lands of the Upper San Joaquin and Kings River affected by excessive tree mortality.

C. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)

Community Wildfire Protection Plan – started the project for the fire safe councils and met with both partners. Oak to Timberline FireSafe council is excited to get started but they have some changes in board so unsteady currently. Now working on stakeholder engagement and working on a formally revised CWPP for Highway 168 FireSafe Council.

The Watershed Assessments for the San Joaquin River and the Kings/Kaweah/Tule Rivers were completed and submitted and now have been invoiced for payment. These were part of the SNC Watershed Improvement Program.

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

This was resubmitted for continuation. Jagdeep resigned in December and though it was resubmitted; no other student has been found to replace him. Sam is out of the office for a while; this will be re-addressed next month.

E. CDFA-NRCS – SWEEP (State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program) (I)

Technical assistance programs for specialty farmers interested in applying for the SWEEP programs. There is a new round of SWEEP available for technical assistance. There is a lack of training for the Greenhouse Gas Calculator which is the most difficult part of the program.

- F. UC Cooperative Extension – SWEEP? (I)
Will come off the agenda until further notice.
- G. Dinkey Collaboration – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)
Justine R reported on the progress of deciding to go to the communities and discuss the Dinkey Creek Collaborative and discussing restoration and the project. They are revising some of the outreach materials.
- H. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG – DAC Session (I)
SSIRWM received \$217,000.00 to update their plan. They would like to partner with SRCD to work on part of this.
- I. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
- SRCD submitted an application on behalf of Highbury for the CEC Grant for the Auberry Biofuels facility. The submission system had problems and CEC rescheduled to 1/26.
 - The SJVAPCD – Bioenergy/Biochar Tandem grant is under review
- J. CARCD Capacity Building/Planning for the Future – 3 Tier Program (I)
The 15-day public comment period on our latest edits to the Accreditation Program documents ended on Monday, Jan. 9. It will then be sent to the Office of Administrative Law. They typically take at least 30 days to approve things. So, at the earliest they will be launching the Accreditation Program in February. Since the funding program is partially tied to the Accreditation program they will not be able to issue the request for applications too far ahead of launching the Accreditation Program. Most likely they will issue the request in February with applications due in late March.
- Jeannie H was requested to write a letter to the Department of Conservation for reimbursement of the expenses for the Tier 1 process that SRCD has completed. This letter was written to Jenny DiStefano to start the conversation for reimbursement before the applications are available. After discussion, Alan F made a motion to approve the letter and have it signed by the president and send it to DOC. Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously. Pete L. signed the letter, Jeannie H will mail it.
- K. Web Site support
Justine R had nothing to report at this time.
- L. Other:
- Bren School of Environmental Sciences is requesting that SRCD act as the advisor for the students. The proposal has to go in for this by the end of January. The students will be asked to come up with a plan for reforestation and work with the Dinkey Creek Collaborative.
 - The CDFA and NRCS held a Healthy Soils Summit in Sacramento. John H was on one of the panels for presenting. CDFA has about \$7.5 million for Healthy Soil Initiatives, the Carbon Cycle Institute are involved with this and they are also asking that SRCD be involved with this. CARCD is also going to be reaching out to get RCDs involved. His property was in a NRCS compost fields trial.

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Report (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- the Profit and Loss
- the Balance Sheet
- Transactions by Account
- Funded Programs

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

No expenses to approve for payment. Y/S RC & D dues will be on the next agenda to address.

V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report (D. Durham):

No further information.

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

Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D Council's next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Clovis Veteran's Memorial District 808 4th St, Clovis, CA 93612. A letter went out to all partners to update all information with Y/S RC & D as well as confirming the representation and contact information for these representatives. They also sent out the membership dues form for various levels of sponsor organizations. Dues will be on the next agenda to address.

C. Other:

VI. Adjournment: 6:15 pm -

Alan F made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm; Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2017 – Clovis Memorial Building

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben