



## SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2018 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:03pm (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, Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones

Guest: Rebecca Ozeran, UC Cooperative Extension

Partners present: Sam Vang, Hugo Calvillo, Rob Roy – from NRCS

Absent: none

#### **II. Approval of Minutes for January Meeting**

Ted K made the motion to accept the minutes; Alan F 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)**

- Alan F announced that Glenn Franklin from the Mariposa County RCD passed away the first part of February after over a decade battle with cancer. Memorial will be held on April 22 in Mariposa at the Bootjack Stompers Hall. Glenn had also been the President of CARCD for a few years.

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

A. Water Supply and Water Quality Act Resolution (I) (A)

There is the possibility of \$13 million of funding available for RCDs. Steve H circulated the model resolution #01-2018 in support of the water supply and water quality act – water bond measure for November 2018.

Alan F made the motion to support and sign the Resolution; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously

B. Sierra RCD in the news – PPIC & USFS-R5 (I)

The RCD has been featured recently in the several on line publications. Steve H shared a couple. “Role of RCDs in Promoting Cross-Boundary Restoration” that appeared in the Forest Service/Pacific Southwest Region Newsletter and “Building Community to Support Healthy Forests” that appeared in the Public Policy Institute of CA newsletter.

C. CARCD Advocacy Academy and Bootcamp (I)

Alan F is attending the academy to learn how to approach the legislative representatives and represent the RCDs. He will learn how to go to the legislature and advocate for items needed by this RCD.

D. Board Vacancies (I) (A)

Jeannie H distributed a flyer that describes RCDs and explains the openings of all the local RCDs and where to go to get more information. She also distributed a

brochure that she created for the Chowchilla Red Top RCD as a sample of what she can create for SRCD for recruitment. The SRCD board suggested also advertising With the UC Cooperative Extension, the Farm Bureau, and the County Supervisors/Offices because they are supposed to be in charge of appointments to these types of committees.

- E. Agreements w/ El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust & Caltrans (I)  
David C board president of El Rio Reyes Conservation Group and president of the Kings River Conservation District was at last month's SRCD meeting. They are looking at the RCD as possibly holding an endowment for an easement for the project property and as a partner, act as funding pass through.
- F. Potential Expansion of District's Sphere of Influence  
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.
- G. 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. There is a possibility that the hard file is still required to be held with the requesting organization (SRCD).
- H. Tree Mortality Task Force – Utilization – Market Development WG (I)  
The Task Force has not met yet this year.
- I. CARCD – RCPP Award and role of RCD – (I)  
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. The first call was held last week for the discussion as to how to roll this funding out in the 10 counties that this covers.
- J. Blue Forest Conservation MOU (I)  
SRCD does not have a model MOU yet to present or sign. They are looking at Sierra National Forest for their Forest management innovation program. This is a private operation that is being funded through private foundations.
- K. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee & Socioeconomic WG (I)  
They met this month. John H. is on the Steering Committee and Steve H is on the Socioeconomic WG. 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. The more the SRCD board gets involved with this the stronger the group and the funding will be. There is about two more years remaining of a 10-year project.
- L. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
  - 1. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)  
Starting with the delivery of equipment and a 5-year agreement with the Forest Service. This will be at the SCE Nursery mobile electric generator that will be running on tree chips from the dead trees. This generator creates enough power

to run 7 homes and is being used for proof of concept. It is called the Power Pallet - PP20 and will be delivered at 10am on 02/27.

2. Auberry Mill Site as Opportunity - SNC funding and RAC award (I)  
The SRCD have been recommended for funding award by SNC, but not the RAC funds (the funds should be release in April). SNC Announcement was sent out that SRCD is under the planning grant, a little under \$75k.
  3. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)  
Very interesting and informative meetings learning about the fire season. When working on the CWPP they are identifying important structures such as cell towers that need to have clearance. The meetings are the second Thursday of the month.
  4. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)  
SJVAPCD has revisited the proposal. Will be coming out with a grant program.
  5. All Power Labs (APL) – CA Energy Commission (CEC) – Epic Project – Unfunded Finalist – Contact w/CEC (I)  
Now officially unfunded. Can come off the agenda.
  6. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OT & 168 FSCs & FC MH-MP (I)  
OTFSC is writing their first CWPP and has a committee working on it. The 168 FSC it is a re-write of their CWPP and has formed a committee this week for the re-write. As part of the new plan, there is a focus of changing a paradigm or mind-set to teach people and landowners personal responsibility. It is important to get this plan completed because until it is finished SRCD & FSCs are not competitive or ineligible for certain types of funding. Topography, weather, and fuels are the three issues that cannot be fought when fires are present. These CWPPs will be added to the County All Hazards Plan.
- M. Programs & Projects Status Report – Including CARCD RCPP Award(I)  
SRCD is moving forward and increasing their Relevance, Excellence, and Visibility. Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. There are NRCS agreements as well as the DOC REV grant, the DLRP, and the CFSC Wildfire Protection Plan programs are a few of them. The SSIRWM project is for outreach and education.
- N. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)  
The total money allocated to CA for air quality issues for this year is \$21.5million. The first batching period CA received and distributed for contracts \$9.1million. This is for funding total air quality programs: grape-stake removal, chipping, road oil removal, low-dust harvesters, as well as tractors.
- O. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)  
Sam V stated that he is working on a Hmong Television program project as a possibility. Looking at producing 8 episodes about Natural Resource/Conservation and farming and addressing resource concerns. The issues that have been identified are irrigation management, nutrient management, and general land management. They have hired students to work with the small farm owners and show them the benefits of cover crops and other types of management.

- P. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)  
SSIRWM funds have been agreed on for the outreach and education; Jeannie H met with Steve H to identify DACs in the Mountain County Funding Area for the SSIRWM. She will also be looking at Eastern Madera and Eastern Fresno overlay area. Steve H stated that he would also like her to outreach with the Fire Safe Councils and possibly the Dinkey Creek project.
- Q. 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. Steve H would like to be on the calls and at the table for any funding available.
- R. Web Site support – REV Funding and Hand-Off Required (I)  
Ted K distributed a quote received by Priceless Kreations. The quote stated all that would be provided, and it appears to be a thorough redevelopment of the site. Alan F made the motion to use Priceless Kreations to redesign the website for the RCD, Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- S. Other –
- SDRMA Insurance for Equipment  
Steve H explained that SRCD is required to hold the insurance for the Biomass Generator, this should run \$350.00 a year. After discussion, Alan F made the motion to allow Steve H to contact the insurance company and sign for the additional insurance, Ted K second the motion; all voted and, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Financial Report**

- A. Monthly Reports (I)  
Steve H distributed and discussed the Check Register printed as of February 26, 2018 to date.
- B. Line of Credit based upon A/R and grants (I)  
Steve H is continuing to research a line of credit to assist with managing the SRCD cashflow. He will work with Alan Fry, Board Secretary/Treasurer to put together the application and meet with him to review, approve and sign.
- C. Review & Approval of expenses –  
Steve H travel to SNC WIP Summit & Board Meeting  
Steve H discussed with the board the need for him or a representative of SRCD to be at the table at various meetings in Sacramento. It is important to be a part of the decision making and the discussions regarding the funding of projects. Steve H was requesting that he receive approval to attend these meetings as well as compensation for his travel. Alan F made the motion to approve Steve H's travel to Sacramento meetings, Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. Reports:**

- A. NRCS Report:  
Hugo Calvillo is leaving NRCS and going into education as a career. Brandon Bates from Bakersfield will be monitoring the Fresno NRCS office starting Monday until a permanent replacement is made. The Federal Govt. is slowly allowing positions to be

filled. They opened 18 District Conservation positions nationwide, with one available in CA. More will be opened when approved. The next batching period starts in April.

B. RC&D Report:

The last meeting for Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D was on January 25. The RC & DC stated that they were going to contact SRCD for projects in Fresno County, but SRCD has not yet been contacted.

C. CARCD – Area 9

The Spring San Joaquin Valley Regional RCD meeting will be Wednesday, April 4, 2018 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Fossil Discovery Center of Madera County. This meeting will be sponsored by the Chowchilla Red Top RCD. All RCD directors, Associate Directors, and prospective Directors, as well as staff are invited.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

No correspondence

E. Other:

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy is holding a free 2-day Grant Writing Workshop on March 22 and 23. It will be at the North Fork CDC Office at the old Mill Site.
- Urban Black Farmer Conference, Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8am – 4pm, Maxi Parks Community Center, for more information and registration: [www.wfresnofrc.org](http://www.wfresnofrc.org). “Growing Together”
- 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Views.” [www.envirothon.org](http://www.envirothon.org)
- 2018 California Tribal Water Summit is an event designed to address a wide array of issues, regarding concerns from the upper watershed to the downstream beneficiaries, between the State of California agencies and California Native American Tribes. The purpose of this Summit is to continue the collaboration between Tribes and the State by including Tribal perspectives and contributions into the California Water Plan Update. It will be from Wednesday, April 4 2018, 8:30 AM to Thursday, April 5, 2018, 4:00 PM at the McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan Park, CA.

**VI. Adjournment: 6:17 pm – Next meeting: Monday, March 26, 2018 – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben