



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 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: 4:10pm (by Ted K. followed 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: Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones

Guest: Brett Rush, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Nathan Magsig

Partners present: Bobby Evans, NRCS Fresno Field Office, Bobby Kamansky, SSIRWM

Absent: John Heywood

II. Approval of Minutes for February Meeting

Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes; Craig J 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)

- 27th Annual State Environmental Competition, California Envirothon is on Saturday, April 7 at the Wind Wolves Preserve, in Tejon, CA. the 2018 Theme is "Western Rangeland: Balancing Diverse Viewed." 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. 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.

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

A. CARCD Advocacy Academy and Bootcamp (I)

Alan F attended the academy to learn how to approach the legislative representatives and represent the RCDs. He went and spoke with the aides for the legislature and advocate for items needed by this RCD and discussed different issues of the RCDs.

Registration is now open for the next round of RCD Board Leadership "Boot Camp."

This is an opportunity to participate in a program designed to meet the specific needs of RCD leaders. In this training directors will build the confidence that it takes to be successful in the unique work environment of an RCD and meet other RCD directors doing the same kinds of work. Alan F is registered for Bootcamp and Ted K will also register.

B. Ethics and Harassment Training (I)

Jeannie H has arranged for training to fulfill the mandated ethics and harassment training in one day. This training will fulfill your Tier One mandated ethics and the newly required harassment training for two years. This is brought to you at no cost by Golden State Risk Management Authority. 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.

If a Director only wants to take Sexual Harassment (no ethics – this could be completed on the computer later) then, the Madera Farm Bureau is offering a Sexual Harassment class on April 20 from 8:00 to 10:30. This will cost \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. RSVP at 559-674-8871 or office@maderafb.com.

- C. Board Vacancies (I) (A)
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 was requested to send the flyer to the Fresno Supervisor's Office.
- D. All Power Labs (APL) – NDA & NC (I) (A)
SRCD has now purchased their system, the off-grid PowerPallet 20 KW (PP20) system. SRCD is working on a NDA to have signed with the APL. The document serves to formalize joint interest in developing partnership opportunities between SRCD and APL. Al F made a motion to accept and sign the NDA as written; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. Cooperative Agreement w/ El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust (I)
El Rio Reyes is looking at the RCD as possibly holding an endowment or an easement for the project property and as a partner, act as funding pass through. This is just an FYI because this will take a great deal of time to work through the details and the paperwork.
- 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. Jeannie H will follow-up with Sara S of CARCD to see if this is in process.
- 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)
SRCD is a part of this group now tied into market utilization. They had the first meeting of the year and it was a short meeting. The working group leaders are tasked to present the current workgroup priorities and accomplishments at full Task Force meetings.
- I. Blue Forest Conservation MOU (I)
Blue Forest Conservation is doing economic studies on bio-mass for the area. Graduate students have contacted SRCD for information. They are looking for investors and those to underwrite the work.
- J. 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. The Steering Committee is tasked with creating the agenda for the meeting. The professional facilitator now works for SRCD and not CCP. 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.

K. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)
Launched in January and there have been three meetings since then. The Power Pallet - PP20 was delivered. The next steps are assembly, trials, and then use starting April 9th.
2. Auberry Mill Site as Opportunity - SNC funding and RAC award (I)
Steve H attended the meeting in Sacramento. Steve H has been working with Sarah Campe to work through the scope of the project. The funding was approved, and work will start approximately in May 2018.

Brett R stated that Supervisor Magsig is part of a committee to breakdown the barriers for projects that involve grants to assist with any funding. He is working on finding out what causes grants to stall; what are the problems that cause the slow-down in getting grants pushed through. How can these applications get pushed forward and get granted?

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 first Thursday of the month.
4. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)
Steve H is working with Rob R from NRCS and Karen B from CARCD to assist with this program. They are discussing how this program can go forward and distribute the funds and the duties for this program fairly and consistently. Most of the funds will go to NRCS to be distributed through the EQIP program. SRCD will act as assistance to the landowners.
5. CFSC – Community Wildfire Protection Plans – OTTL & 168 & FC MH-MP (I)
Annex L (All Hazards Plan) is the multijurisdictional plan for all hazards. Every group needs to submit their projects to be a part of this plan. Craig pulled all the SRCD projects together and sent them to the consultant working on the Annex L. SRCD is one of 14 agencies in the plan.

The CWPP is moving along, tomorrow is the fifth meeting and they are going to work on tracking changes. 168 core meeting is on April 24, their plan needs CalFire, USFS and the Stakeholders (all need) to sign off on the plan. OTFSC is meeting on Wednesday to look at the draft and assign chapters for review. They are progressing forward.

L. Programs & Projects Status Report – Including CARCD RCPP Award (I)

Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. There are no updates on the NRCS agreements with the two interns; the quarter is almost over, and invoicing will happen soon. Steve H also explained other grants invoiced and waiting for payment and proposals submitted waiting for responses.

- M. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)
The total money allocated to CA for air quality issues for this year is \$21.5million. The next batching period begins in April. This falls under NAQI – or the National Air Quality Initiative.
- N. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
Sam V is not present for a report. The invoice for the website was received by SRCD and the cost has increased by 50% since the last statement, Sam V is going to research this.
- O. Kings Basin Water Authority/ **So. Sierra IRWM** / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)
Bobby K was here to report on some of the efforts in SSIRWM. They are looking to put together a hydrologic model of the upper watersheds to assist the valley in understanding the water system from the upper to the lower watersheds. SSIRWM is about a third through writing the plan update. They are also working on DAC issues and studies through the DAC Mountain County Funding Area (\$1.3 million) and the communities and partners with SSIRWM. They are currently having a call for projects for the Plan Update. They are working with the Sierra National Forest who has three water projects right now and they are going to be sending out a survey for partners to complete to get data points that are important.

Bobby K stated they have a project to publish BMP from local ranchers and landowners using local ecological knowledge. They are developing workshops using the local ranchers and developing creative ideas for income and funding for the landowners and ranchers. We have an interagency agreement with SSIRWM, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, and SRCD. And Dinkey Creek landscapes and Firesafe Councils – for education and outreach.

- P. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the list of funding opportunities that are currently available, and proposals submitted. He stated that he recently removed the grant information that no longer pertains and added the Rural Development Grants information.
- Q. Web Site support (I)
Jeannie H has been working with Kristina from Priceless Kreations. After discussions and emails, she submitted an outline of how she would set-up the Website. She has seven sections: 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. Jeannie H discussed this with the board to ask their suggestions and their comments on this outline.
- R. Other –
- At the February 15 CARCD Board of Directors meeting, they discussed appointing members to the CARCD Forestry Committee. The Region needs to nominate a representative to the Forestry Committee and outreach to the RCD Region for interested nominees for the three at-large RCD member positions on the committee. Contact Emily S at the CARCD office by May 16 with nominations.
 - Bren College – UCB – Report to SRCD/UCFS (I) & FCEDC (I)
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 sent the 155-page

report to the RCD to also 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.

IV. Financial Report

- A. Monthly Reports (I)
Steve H distributed and discussed the Check Register printed as of March 26, 2018 to date. He also distributed the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2018.
- B. Line of Credit based upon A/R and grants (I)
The bank did not approve the line of credit, \$50k, with no explanation even though they stated the packet was complete and professional. Steve H and Alan F will set an appointment with the bank to follow-up on this decision.
- C. Review & Approval of expenses –
Bren College, UCSB trip expenses for DCLC presentation. The students have requested assistance in the amount of \$200 to make the trip to this area for the presentation. Alan F made a motion to approve sending the students of Bren College \$200 to pay for expenses; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report:
Brandon Bates from Bakersfield is Part-time in the Fresno NRCS office he will be acting DC for approximately 120 days. They are closing the batching period and there will be one more batching period this year. Bobby Evans will be going to Grass Valley as acting DC the month of April.
- 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 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. The cost will be \$12.00 each and this will include entrance to and the tour of the museum and lunch. Minarets FFA Ag Issues Team will be giving their presentation on the Impacts of Precision Agriculture and we will be holding the election for executive positions.
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses
No correspondence
- E. Other:

VI. Adjournment: 6:27 pm – Next meeting: Monday, April 23, 2018 – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben