



## SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 25, 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 President Pete L)**

A. Director Roll Call

B. Introduction of Guests

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

Associate Directors: Gary Temple, John Heywood

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben

Absent: Craig Jones

#### **II. Approval of Minutes for April Board Meeting (*No meeting in May due to Memorial Holiday*)**

Ted K made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; 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)**

- A comprehensive conference on SGMA's next phase: Sustainable Groundwater Planning in California: Important practical legal, technical, business and regulatory information for preparing GSPs. This will be in Sacramento on July 26 & 27 by Law Seminars International.
- 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. Jeannie H has 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.

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

A. Update of Conflict of Interest Code (I) (A)

A law was released to include digital information into the Conflict of Interest Code to bring it up to code. This is due by August; this will be rewritten and presented to the board for approval.

B. CARCD Bootcamp – September (I)

Registration is open for the RCD Board Leadership Boot Camp taking place in Oakhurst, CA from September 7-8! Directors from all over the state are encouraged to attend. This is a rare 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. The registration form is still available and will be open through the summer. Ted K and Alan F are both signed up for this training; John H will look into this.

- C. AB1981 (Limon) – Utilization of compost by CALFIRE (I) (A)  
A letter was written on behalf of the RCD president and submitted to the Assembly member The board believes that this is still consistent with the board's position.
- D. Ethics and Harassment Training 04/24 – Directors & Staff (I) (A)  
Tier 1 and the state mandate ethics and harassment Training for RCD Board Members every two years. All have completed the training but for one board member.
- E. Board Vacancies (I) (A)  
All the Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) of Madera and Fresno County are looking for new Directors to participate on the board. 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 sent the flyer to the Fresno Supervisor's Office and the Fresno County Farm Bureau, as well as the NRCS office. No responses have been received.
- F. Cooperative Agreement w/EI Rio Reyes Conservation Trust (I)  
This is not required, and this can be dropped off the agenda.
- G. Potential Expansion of District's Sphere of Influence CARCD/CVCF (I) (A)  
CVCF (Central Valley Community Foundation) agreed to fund the SOI expansion of the areas of Fresno County that are not covered by any Resource Conservation District in Western Fresno County (the valley.)  
Ted K made the motion to allow the staff to move forward on expanding the SOI for the District now that funding has potentially been received; Alan F second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- H. Tree Mortality Task Force – Utilization – Market Development WG (I)  
State of CA is looking at selecting a site for a model on biomass utilization. SRCD got invited to participate though it may shift to another focus; but the SRCD involvement shows forward progress. Steve H has been appointed to the CARCD Forestry Committee; a letter was received from Emily Sutherland that Steve H has been selected to serve on this committee. There will be a teleconference the second Tuesday of every month.
- I. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG (I)  
The last collaborative meeting was last Thursday. A Steering Committee meeting was not held, nor a Socio-economic Work Group. The groups who reported were the Meadow Restoration and the Tribal Forest Restoration. The Communication Planning Work Group reported that they held a conference call to discuss the communication plan. During that call it was decided to research participating in the Fresno Fair is in October. This is 14 days at a booth for approximately 10-hour days to get exposure for the Collaborative. Possibly have a sign-up sheet for members of the collaborative to man the booth during this event. A booth will either be shared with CalFire/Forest Service or with UC Cooperative Extension.
- J. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
  - 1. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)  
No meeting was held this month, the next meeting will be on July 13. The Starbots are being built and the delivery date will be on July 9.

2. Auberry Mill Site - SNC and RAC awards – Gov. Office of Plng & Research (I)  
John H is working towards approaching the owners of the land of the Auberry Mill Site to see if they will release an area to place the equipment and start to work. The SRCD would like to secure a lease agreement or rent an acre to open up the conversation to start using that area to produce the electricity. Funding will soon be received from the RAC, Steve H brought the Accounting System RAC paperwork for signature; this was signed by Alan F.
  3. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)  
Nothing to report at this time.
  4. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)  
CARCD and NRCS is still working on finalizing the agreement. It may be finalized by September and then will be ready to start using the funds in October for the new fiscal year.
  5. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 & FC MH-MP (I)  
Craig is currently in Colorado and will report at the next meeting.
- K. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)  
Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. The current projects are with NRCS, SSIRWM, CFSC/WFPP, DLRP, DOC/CARCD, USFS, SNC. There are several other proposals that have been submitted.
- L. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)  
This program is still going strong and was well funded this year.
- M. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)  
Tuesday, September 24, 9:00 to 12:00 in Sanger at Keumoua Farm (Jensen and McCall ) the NRCS staff will be having a workshop on water conservation and cover crops for the South East Asian farmers.
- N. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)  
In July, Sierra Institute will begin contacting the representatives of the DACs in the Southern Sierra area for their upcoming DAC workshop. There will be three workshops combined as one: Part 1- community capacity assessment, and Part 2- water/wastewater needs assessment; Part 3 – Tribal needs. The workshop will be held in August. The IRWM Plan Update is on track and there is one more chapter currently under review before the plan is put together. They were originally shooting for December, but the new date will be in October for completion/submission. The next in-person Mountain County Funding Area DAC Coordinating Committee is on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento and they are considering having our second in-person meeting of 2018 in September and having a call-in meeting in December.
- O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)  
No update at this time.
- P. Web Site Development and Support – <http://new.sierrarc.com/>  
Jeannie H has been working with Kristina from Priceless Kreations. A link was sent to all board members for their review of the draft website. This currently shows a lot of place holders, which is the point. The board needs to add content to show what has been accomplished. It was suggested, that if a donation button is added in the end, a better explanation to why funds are needed and the fact that the RCD does not receive a tax base needs to be explained.

Jeannie H was requested to contact Kristina at Priceless Kreation and set -up a date between Jeannie H, Steve H, and Kristina to load content onto the website. Steve has a great deal of information on Hard drive form.

Q. Other –

- The RCD Communications Academy is an upcoming training opportunity offered by CARCD as part of the Capacity Building Program. The Academy will launch at this year's conference and be followed by six monthly 1.5-2 - hour online webinars. The focus will be on learning specific communications and marketing approaches and on working to develop a communications plan that is specific to your RCD. The Communications Academy is also where we'll debut the new RCD "message platform," which has been in development for about six months and will provide all of us with consistent messaging and tips for highlighting our unique strengths and stories to various audiences.
- Alan Fry met with Assemblyman Juan Arambula from the budget committee on behalf of Karen Buhr and Steve H. It was a meet and greet used to push for an increase in the amount for the Fish and Game funds in the state budget.

## V. Financial Report

A. Annual Budget – 2018/2019 Draft (I) (A)

In the Budget are the fixed costs that cannot be avoided; these are shown in the draft presented. This draft budget shows the Proposed Budget and the Estimated Actual costs and the Fiscal Year changes. The discussion was held to possibly pay more towards CARCD Dues when available.

Alan F made the motion to accept the 2018/2019 Annual Budget as presented (subject to Revision upon approval); Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed for review the bank statement as of 06/25/18.

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

Steve H is working towards closing the books for this fiscal year and adopting the Annual Budget for 2018/2019 to present to the bank as discussion for the proposed line of credit.

D. Review & Approval of expenses: Soils Health and Carbon Farming – Haze (I) (A)

There is a workshop that Steve H will be attending a Soils Health and Carbon Farming will be attending. Alan F made the motion to approve expenses, not to exceed \$300.00 for Steve H to attend the workshop; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Jeannie H will be attending a workshop at the Fresno Farm Bureau on June 28 about Climate Change. She will report back.

## VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

NRCS was not present to report.

B. RC&D Report:

The next Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D meeting will be on Thursday, July 26 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. They changed the meeting time to the afternoon so that the Mariposa groups can attend. There needs to be more representation in Fresno and Tulare Counties as they are predominately representing Madera and Mariposa Counties.

C. CARCD – Area 9

There is no date or location for the Fall meeting yet, but the fall meeting will be in the southern area of the region sometime in October. The SRCD needs to decide if they will have a contestant in the speak off contest. If so, they need to have them present/compete at the September RCD meeting so that they can compete/present at the October Area IX Regional meeting. The winner from the Regional meeting will compete at the State meeting in San Diego in November. The 2018 topic is: “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses  
No correspondence

E. Other:

**VII. Adjournment: 6:01 pm –  
Next meeting: Monday, July 23, 2018 – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben