



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 26, 2019 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:03 pm

- A. Director Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests

Directors: Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry, Pete Lassotovitch*, and Associate Director Gary Temple *(Pete was traveling and would call in – and he also provided his votes to Alan Fry via email correspondence)

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Craig Jones (by phone), Kelly Kucharski

Guests: Jae Lee (USDA/NRCS), Sharon Nance (USDA/NRCS)

II. Approval of Minutes for July 2019 Board Meeting

Alan F. made the motion to accept the minutes for July 2019 as presented, Ted K. 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)

No comments.

IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics:

- A. Authorizing Resolution 2019-06 for DWR IRWM Grant

This application is for SRCD to be the Southern Sierra Water Management Group. This is for \$3.9 million of different projects, groundwater, water security within Fresno and Tulare counties. SRCD has been requested to apply for this by the water management group. ***Alan F. made the motion to sign on the resolution of authority to apply and then designate representation. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

- B. Biomass Resourcing – Australia: NDA, Letter of Intent & Supply Agreement

Governor's office designated SRCD as a place to go to for technology companies with biomass that need something to do with it such as Biomass Resourcing who was referred by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). Steve requested approval to move forward with the intent to assess feasibility and decide what SRCD's role will be. Providing a supply of the materials and development of the facility in order for it to become a reality.

Alan F. Made a motion to approve moving forward with intent to conduct feasibility and decide SRCD's role. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Personnel and Contractors

Neal Banta was hired and has personal business to attend to and is not available at this time. He is still a SRCD employee.

D. Annexation Application of District – Partial Waiver of Fees to LAFCo

Steve made a waiver of fees request for the annexation application. This request would meet the amount that CARD will cover, \$12,000. **Alan F. made a motion to submit the request for a fee waiver. Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

E. Website development & support Kristina

Steve wants to use cloud-based applications and integrate them into use and utilize how they can tie into SRCD website, also how the team can work on things remotely together. Kelly will be working on putting this together.

F. Candidates for directors: Doug Cockrell

Steve is trying to reach Doug to join the SRCD directors.

G. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement & MOU –

Steve received a draft agreement with the SFC for an MOU for Caltrans mitigation project. Also, looking at the favorability to work with SFC for site control in partnership in which to perform joint applied research and its application on rangeland areas. The mitigation agreement is continuing onward with Caltrans/SFC for the roundabout improvement. Sierra Foothill Conservancy is looking at working closer with SRCD for rangeland health and working with our partners in an MOU, with some things they might be able to provide.

H. Dinkey Collaborative- Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG

Steve went to the Dinkey Collaborative meeting this month.

I. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group

Ted K gave an update about the meeting from the North Fork mill site. The group is looking for more money, the development group is doing all he can to keep it moving, not getting a PGE contract will prevent them a lot from moving forward as planned.

2. CFSC - Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction

Craig and Blair are working hard, and Kelly has established tools to help move the launch of this program forward. Craig said that launch date should be established soon, some tools are still being put into place, and have been

working with partners for the strategic mailings for different phases. Have conducted several simulations at this point to refine the assessments.

3. CA Department of Conservation- Forest Health Watershed Coordinator and Tulare Basin

Alan signed the documents for \$235K and now it's back with the DOC waiting for it to be officially executed. SRCD can be engaged in Tier one and Tier two on a State and Regional basis with this coordinator funding. Matt and Steve met to talk about setting this up.

4. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5 Yr. Agreement

Biomass effort is still underway, SRCD is looking at improvements to use the equipment for more than charging cellphones, and the investment it will take to utilize it for other equipment.

5. CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health 2018 award

Had a site visit from CAL FIRE to tour the project area.

6. Auberry Mill Site- SNC CUP grant & Yosemite Clean

Things are moving forward by meeting with partners and Yosemite Clean is getting an air quality report put together.

7. Setting up operations at AMS

Working with MMR about the APL PowerPallet's capability and working with other partners for site utilization.

8. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)

They are a great technical and regulatory resource; Blair is attending the meetings and Steve attends as well.

9. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Last batch of EQIP selections were made. They received approval to increase single tree removal costs and believe they will get more activity with it in response to that.

10. CARD / Carbon Cycle Institute – Grand Bluffs Forest Carbon Farm Plan

Thursday representatives from the CCI are visiting the Grand Bluffs area and doing a baseline assessment to develop first carbon forest management plan.

- J. Programs and Projects Status Report

Over \$5 million in projects present at this time.

- K. NRCS- Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ program

Program is wrapping up, they are 100 short of the contracts they were hoping to fund, in the area of 150 contracts.

- L. NRCS- Conservation Pling & support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP

This program was on the cusp of critical change, the radio program was changing, and they decided to move forward. Looking at doing television advertising and going statewide.

- M. Kings Basin Water Authority/So. Sierra IRWM/SGMA WG/ SGAs
- N. Grant Opportunities Tracking List – distributed for review
- O. Other

V. Financial Reports

- A. Monthly Reports

Steve H distributed for review the:

- o Balance Sheet
- o the Profit & Loss
- o the Transactions by Account
- o Central Valley Bank Summary

- B. Line of Credit and Carbonator 500 purchase based upon A/R and grants

Potential funder said that SRCD didn't qualify, and SRCD will be looking at funding this through Northern California Loan Fund.

- C. Potential movement of bank account

SRCD is looking at moving to the Bank of the Sierra from Central Valley Community Bank. Steve wants to make sure SRCD has solid operations on the financial services that might be needed moving forward.

- D. Review & Approval of expenses: Office 365 Business Premium

Steve made a calculated risk with getting Office 365 Business Premium plans for a discounted price with GoDaddy which used a credit for earlier purchasing email services, for five individuals. ***Alan F made the motion to give approval for expenses for the Office 365 Business Premium for five individuals. Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report

Sharon Nance said they were given the OK to do some additional hiring and they have to complete some time accountability reports. They are moving to a competitive process with partners, and those who are supplementing their needs of their office. Sharon and Curtis will be writing out this new process as it moves forward.

- B. RC&D Report

No report.

C. CARCD – Forestry Committee /SJV Region (Area 9)

Steve volunteered to provide work to deliverables tied to what SRCO is doing when he met with the forestry committee. Steve met with Matt Angel twice to talk about Area 9 as being more and to pull together to work on opportunities together.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Representative of CA special districts came and visited, and Steve gave them a tour.

E. Other

Nothing to report.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday, September 23rd, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski