



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2019 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

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

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:18 pm

- A. Director Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests
 - Directors: Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry
 - Associate Directors: Gary Temple
 - Staff Present: Steve Haze, Craig Jones, Kelly Kucharski
 - Guest: Jeannie Habben

II. Approval of Minutes for January 2019 Board Meeting

No quorum to call the meeting to action.

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. Review and Approval of Fresno County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Sierra RCD's Annex P
 - Reviewed and approved at the last board meeting. If anything else required please let Steve know.
- B. Annexation Application of District and Sphere of Influence LAFCO/CARCD
 - There will be consolidation on the West side for all the RCD's. Matt Hurley is looking to perform the consolidation and for a sphere of influence and annexations West of 99. On April 3rd SRCD will meet Sarah Schremmer with CARCD to go through it all. In progress.
- C. Web Site Development & support Kristina Price & District Emails
 - Kelly met with Kristina and learned how to update the website. Steve asked Kelly to send him her suggestions on the website that Kristina offered.
- D. Potential Candidate for Associate Director- Ray Gutteriez
 - Steve sent Ray the handbook and the application form. Steve has not heard back from Ray. Steve will follow up again.
- E. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement
 - SCRD is still working towards an agreement between SFC and SRCD and Cal Trans. It's in progress.
- F. CARD- CCI Carbon Farm Plan grant award and DOC FH WSC award
 - Steve was notified by the state association they had \$30,000 and \$15,000 could go to Sierra RCD. Steve indicated that SRCD would be interested in pursuing the funding with technical support being provided by the Carbon Cycle Institute. This fits into the carbon management plan SRCD adopted for forest lands. SRCD was awarded \$235,000 for the Forest Health Watershed Coordinator grant. Steve will be the 1st watershed coordinator. Matt Hurley- will be the 2nd watershed coordinator, Matt will represent downstream beneficiaries and is a water attorney. SRCD had 15 letters of recommendation for this grant.

- G. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG
Last month collaborative meeting in February. Since then SRCD has had tribal consultations with the Dunlap band of Mono Indians. The objective is to bring them economic development and jobs creation opportunities.
- H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group
Steve attended the meeting at the NRCS headquarters for the State of CA in Davis. That was the first face to face meeting and will be funded through the DOC watershed grant once executed. Steve asked all the board members to look through the watershed grant. With the big issues of drought, climate change, and fires, the State wants to know how to respond to all this.
 2. CFSC - Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction
Award received for \$300,000, originally was \$130,000 but was increased to \$300,000. Craig, Kelly, Blair, and Steve met once to get it started. SRCD has the contract in hand, but the funding hasn't arrived yet. Objective is to be ready when the money arrives to do education outreach, meeting with landowners one on one, offering signups for work through 3-4 funding options. Want to provide landowners a suite of information, funding options, and guide the landowner in the process. Will use the app by Bren College for SRCD to show avoidance costs and exposure. Mostly for Shaver Lake and Dinkey Creek conifers in Tier 1 high hazard zones. Will be working to formalize SRCD's relationship with the county and coordinate with what they are doing.
 3. CA Department of Conservation- Forest Health Watershed Coordinator
This grant will assist in paying for two more employees over a two-year period. The grant was completed by Craig and Steve, who came up with a proposal and questions in advance. They partnered with SSIRWM and spoke with American Forest as another partner. They received 15 letters of support, most were from significant state, local entities and NGOs in our communities.
 4. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with WSFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement
SRCD is looking at starting to get the equipment operational. The power generator, the APL, and finish assembling the gasifier. Waiting for the weather to clear. April 10th there will be a meeting at the Auberry mill site with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's new executive officer, Angela Avery, who replaced Jim Branham.
 5. Auberry Mill Site- SNC CUP and Yosemite Clean
Working toward a conditional use permit for the site, and it's in progress. SRCD was being tied into a breach with the dam, for the little mill pond. The County is trying to get the land owners to get it addressed, as they wanted a survey of record. There may be a SRCD board action needed to go with county council and their attorney to have a conversation about the breach and getting it addressed.
 6. Setting up operations at AMS
SRCD has a one-year lease agreement to start the process. The landowners tend to vacillate on their support; SRCD may look for alternate land for the project.
 7. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)
Moving in this direction now with the CA FireSafe council award. Next meeting is April 5th. SRCD wants to move forward in a strong relationship with the county because there are so many competing interests. The intent is to formalize SRCD's relationship with the county.
 8. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program
This program will be run by CARCD for Tree Mortality issue. Jae Lee, District Conservationist will partner and coordinate with SRCD. The partners are working on a ranking status and development for a solid program.
 9. CARCD/NRCS Regional Technical Assistance Grant
SRCD is not eligible for this because it's for other areas in northern and southern CA.

I. Programs & Projects Status Report

Steve passed out a list of all the current programs and where they are at financially. The DOC grant, for capacity building, is now closed. SRCD has \$883,000 in projects in the pipeline. Steve received an email on the way to the board meeting from Cal Fire that was congratulating SRCD on an award for the proposal submitted Jan 29th, this was for 7.2 million dollars.

J. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program

No one present to report.

K. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP

No one present to report.

L. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs

Steve attended the IRWM conference call meeting. They are looking at SRCD as being the applicant for a number of projects.

M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Positive review on the grants tracking list Steve distributed. SRCD has been awarded 4 to 5 grants that were written in the last 6 months.

N. Other – SB253 (Dodd) Letter of support

SRCD is signing this letter to create a state level EFIP like EQIP program but doing it through the CA Department of Food and Ag.

V. Financial Reports

A. Codifying of Accounting Practice

Still to be done.

B. Monthly Reports

Steve H distributed for review the:

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

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

Alan and Steve want to meet with the Vice President to discuss.

D. Potential movement of bank account

Having problems with the current account, thinking about transferring to another bank. SRCD wants to look at other accounts for a better arrangement.

E. Review & Approval of expenses- Biochar & Biomass Field Day – USFS

May 8th Steve and Craig should be able to cover this visit through the Sierra National Forest SRLC grant. Will tie in to Stanislaus National forest. Steve and Craig might be able to get some biochar there.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report: No rep present

B. RC&D Report: No rep present

C. CARCD – Area 9

The next Area IX meeting will be the Spring meeting 1st or 2nd week of May. Not a lot of people stepping up, in need of a Secretary, Treasurer, and a new President.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:15pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 22nd, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski