



## MEETING MINUTES

### **I. Call to Order: 4:05 pm**

#### A. Director Roll Call

Kelly Kucharski, Alan Fry, Blair Duncan, Gary Temple, Ted Kimbler, Jae Lee, Steve Haze, Pete Lassotovitch, Dirk Charlie, John Heywood. Attendance was virtual on MS Teams.

#### B. Introduction of Guests

Directors: Alan Fry, Gary Temple, Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler

Associate Directors: Dirk Charlie

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan

Guests: Jae Lee (NRCS), John Heywood (IP Funding Advisors), Shawn Murphy (CCC)

### **II. Approval of Minutes for 2020 Board Meeting**

*Alan F. made the motion to accept the minutes for April 2020 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. Adoption of updated model Conflict of Interest Code

*Gary Temple made a motion to adopt the model conflict of interest code. Alan F. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.*

#### B. Darrell Marsh offer to donate 13 acres Ag Hwy 180/Cove

An individual put an offer on the property, if it falls through, then they will donate it to SRCD. Steve is going to look at underground storage issues, plumes, etc. Steve mentioned uses being for a decking or chipping operation, or it could be for research or demonstration purposes, or educational.

#### C. NRCS Memorandum of Agreement

SRCD board voted last month to accept the MOA. It is a re-vamp of a current agreement that was in existence. It was a change to the local work group and inclusion of CARCD to it, the first agreement was made over a decade ago. It just needs to be signed a copy to SRCD returned to SRCD afterward.



D. Annual Plan and 5 Year Long Range Plan 2020-25

Annual work plan was not reviewed by the board and staff. The 5 year planning meeting that was last Monday was asked to be sent to the board. The 5 year planning meeting feedback, the annual plan, and the Covid19 guidelines will be reviewed by the board before the next board meeting, in order to create the SRCD annual plan and the 5 year plan.

E. CA Conservation Corps Regional Campus and Sierra RCD Biomass Campus Partnership and Internship

Shawn Murphy sent over documentation to allow SRCD to continue to proceed to establish an internship program with the CCC. Shawn (CCC) reported that the State budget might be opened August or September to look at it again, and there might be a possibility for this year for the budget to open back up. The Director of CCC and CalFire are pushing for a fire crew and the project to be funded and opened back up. Shawn is hopeful to see the funding come through again. ***Gary Temple made a motion that SRCD pursues the internship agreement with the CCC. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

F. Phase 2 Community FireSafe and Stewardship Program

11 completed log deck removal projects to date, upwards of 1,600 logs, 229 thousand cubic feet of material, and 36 hundred tons of woody material that's now at the San Joaquin River Conservancy from off of the mountain. Matt Allen the contractor went to look at a project on Acorn road area that is looking to start this Thursday. Blair is working on getting permissions for a fire safety access road, which will move SRCD into vegetation management work. This is in partnership with Howard Hendrix, who leads the 168 Firesafe council and HOA at Pineridge, and with CalFire.

Steve pointed out the articles that were put in the newspaper written by Tami Jones. Board discussed last week the importance of knowing what publications were made about SRCD and when so that they are informed.

Board member Ted K asked for a professional overview booklet instead of a brochure, and a one page information sheet about each SRCD project. Board is interested in the language and how things are being described and how SRCD is being communicated.

G. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program



It is moving along, no issues at this point, just getting some of the invoices over to DOC is taking a while. Coordinator B, Matt Hurley, is getting jammed up and stretched because of Covid19. Kelly is working on the DOC website. With this funding SRCD has not tapped into it as extensively as they could or should. SRCD will have \$189 out of the \$298 and will be able to ramp up activity. What Kelly is doing in how to increase effectiveness and efficiencies is critical in that, and SRCD is building off of it. Working with the SSIRWM group and with John Shelton, as well to think outside of the box on how to create the platform necessary to do regional work.

#### H. Announcement of Funding Awards

These are tied into the SSRWMG that SRCD has been a member of for over ten years, and they asked SRCD to be the applicant.

- 1) DWR - Mt. Counties - DAC Well Studies. 441K in partnership with SNF and Trout Unlimited to do meadow restoration efforts, with 8-10 meadows targeted for restoration.
- 2) DWR – Mt. Counties – DAC Technical assistance. Technical assistance funding with mountain counties region within Fresno county with Big Sandy Rancheria, Mobile home parks as part of disadvantages unincorporated communities. (DAUCs).
- 3) DWR Tulare Lake Region IRWM – Sequoia Nat’l Forest/TU

#### I. CARCD- LAFCo SOI & Annex. – Draft MSR submitted

Something from LAFCo will be sent to SRCD that states SRCD does not want any tax revenue. SRCD has never been eligible for those revenues, LAFCo will be sending SRCD that information.

#### J. Website & District Enterprise Operations Development & support

Landing page on SRCD, Ted Kimbler pointed out a few changes to make. Kelly will make those corrections and asked if any board members have feedback about the website and how it represents us or not to let her know and she will make those changes.

#### K. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG

Once a month Meeting online that happens, there was no report given at this time.

#### L. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

- 1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU (I)



MMR came out this week and started to mount the storage unit, so when the power palette (gasifier) is running the storage box can be recharged for energy use at any time. Ted Kimbler has volunteered at the AMS with a fork lift to move things around, especially helping deck the demonstration log area. Blair will have to do some trouble shooting on the gasifier and is waiting on a replacement fan for the biochar unit.

2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger **(I)**

The advance is shown in SRCD financials. SRCD funds will be used from this for the vegetation management project Blair and Kelly are working on. The movement on the forest service side is moving slowly. SRCD is also looking at clean-up work for small crews after log hauling services are provided to landowners.

3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)**

The mill pond is almost complete, to get the spillway done. Pouring all the forms and completing it, is the current status on this project from Steve's perspective. The mill pond on the conditional use permit is getting resolved, in regard to air quality with Yosemite Clean with the County. Should be able to move forward without any interruptions on this.

4) CARCD / NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program **(I)**

Not moving as quickly as possible due to Bobby Evans departure.

5) CARCD / Carbon Cycle Institute – Grand Bluffs FCP & Potential Sale **(I)**

John Heywood (IP Funding Advisors) reported that the owners would like to put the price at 245-250 thousand for the Grand Bluffs area.

M. Programs and Projects Status Report

Steve submitted another CA firesafe council grant for the 180 firesafe council to do what SRCD is doing now in the Shaver Lake area. Also SRCD is a fiscal sponsor, asked over the weekend for the 3 rivers firesafe council. They were both successfully submitted. The Joint Chiefs 2 project was discussed as a collaborative coordinated strategic approach project.

N. CARCD – DWR/NRCS/CDFA SWEEP & Healthy Soils for diverse small growers

Steve was notified that this program has a one year extension. With the loss of Vue Her, SRCD is looking for a new employee to run this program with SRCD.



O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Reviewed the grant tracking list.

**V. Financial Reports**

A. Monthly Reports

Kelly K displayed for view the:

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

B. Review & Approval of expenses:

Steve and Liz Bundli are working on getting things together for the annual audit and closing out the year end.

**VI. Reports:**

A. NRCS Report

Jacob Wright is a new employee in the NRCS office, and a recent student from the NRCS student program, and spent a lot of time with Bobby Evans and has exposure to the range and higher elevations. Jae is still working on getting Blair certified at NRCS, and getting Jacob and Blair working together. Covid19 has slowed down the RCPP tree mortality program, it did not get a lot of applicants across all the county areas. Completed all their assessments of other applications, from other funding opportunities. Jae is in their 14 quarantine right now at their first office staff exposure.

B. RC&D Report – Closer Consultations Request - Next meeting 7/30

This has come through, Steve will know more Thursday when he attends the council meeting.

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

Steve was reappointed onto the committee to the end of 2020 for another year for the forestry committee. Steve reached over to Laurel Angel, and how the RCDs can work collectively together in partnership in regional opportunities and looking at more collaboration on a regional basis.



**Sierra Resource Conservation District**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
Online MS Teams Meeting

Monday, July  
27th, 2020  
4:00pm-6:00 pm

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Nothing to report.

E. Other

**VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:14 pm**

**Next meeting: Monday, August 24th, 2020 MS Teams videoconference**

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski