



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 (Dunlap Tribe), John Heywood (IP advisors). 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)

II. Approval of Minutes for April 2020 Board Meeting

Pete L. 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. Darrell Marsh offer to donate 13 acres Ag Hwy 180/Cove

A landowner contacted the District to see interest in acquiring this property. Steve requested board permission to look into the property for District use. ***Pete made a motion to explore and determine the status of the property and what the responsibilities of the District would be if there is any cleanup or anything else required. Ted seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

B. NRCS Memorandum of Agreement

NRCS state conservationist makes an agreement with CARCD, and there is a new revision that includes an addition of a local work group. Participation in the local work group will only be at the willingness and ability of each conservation district able to play in that role. ***Alan F. made a motion to approve the MOA. Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

C. Annual Budget and Compensation



Review of new budget. Steve asked the boards approval to do an adjustment on salaries and compensation. **Alan made a motion to accept the budget amendment for dues to CARCD and for exploring a compensation adjustment for the staff. Pete L. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Steve asked the board and staff to look at the 5 year plan and make suggestions for the 5 year long range plan. Steve and the staff will try and support making time and space for board and staff to come together to review it. Make it a major action for the next board meeting, can send comments and clarifications if needed. **Pete made a motion to make this an action item at the next meeting. Alan seconded it and Ted approved it.**

E. CA Conservation Corps Regional Campus/Auberry Revitalization Committee and Sierra RCD Biomass Campus Partnership

There is no update on this project until the budget opens up again in August. Steve is talking to the CCC about the microgrid and the future for energy. Steve went out to the former elementary school and took some of the brush down around the campus. SRCD is looking at an interagency MOU with the CCC. Tami helped write a letter for Nathan Magsig to request getting the funding back for the Auberry CCC project.

F. District Clean Air Initiative and "Our Cars Run on Wood" Outreach Campaign

SRCD staff was tasked to look at things in the future and what the opportunities might be with the APCD. It is one of the strategic partners for program development for SRCD. The goal is to develop a clean air initiative with the APCD.

G. Phase 2 Community FireSafe and Stewardship Program

Blair Duncan gave an update to the strategy in place for what private landowners are in line for log removal, and Blair has been working more closely with the contractors Matt and Luke Allen with Pioneer Logging Company. More people are contacting the District with their interests and through word of mouth. The logs are being moved the SJRC for use with traffic control, gravel roads, for blocking roads, creation of a parking lot. In the bigger picture the logs will bring carbon to the carbon deficient soil as they decompose over time. The logs are being stored at the SJRC and they now have control over them, but are looking to SRCD for planning and implementation of this restoration as well. There are currently over 1,400 logs there. This project also contributes to considerable carbon sequestration because the logs are not being burned.

H. Announcement of Funding Awards



- 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

No indication if the final municipal service report has been completed and when it will be agenized for an annexation proposal. It was all paid for by CARCD.

J. Website & District Enterprise Operations Development & support

Kelly shared a blog post on the website, and is seeing some comments on there, and is working on the DOC website project website as well. Steve indicated Kelly is helping to facilitate meetings with the SSIRWM group and doing a great job.

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

Meeting last Thursday that Steve went to, lots of science-based research at that meeting. John Heywood is on the steering committee for the Dinkey Collaborative, John said that it’s been pretty quiet right now there.

L. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest health watershed Program

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 sand 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.

M. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

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

Well into the utilization efforts, and John Heywood has been retained by the board to pursue as many options as possible. John Heywood said nothing to share this moment with the board.

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



Did receive 896K and put it into our account with Umpqua Bank. This project is moving slow because of COVID 19.

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

AMS conditional use permit extension until December, they put in improvements with the breach on the mill site. Had to submit a 6 month bi annual report to SNC that is due this month.

4) Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC) **(I)**

No meeting yet, nothing to report.

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

Jae Lee had nothing to report at this time.

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

John had a conversation with Ray and Bonnie about Grand Bluffs property and needs to talk to Steve with that and circle around with the board next time.

N. 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. 4.6 million awards at this time. About 319k in potentially high probability as well. About 169K coming in the next month. There is a total of 14 projects awarded and now in the pipeline.

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

Vue Her moved out of the area with his family to take care of his mother. Conferring with state association with the healthy soils program, and CARCD will provide candidates and send them over to us.

P. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Reviewed the grant tracking list.



V. Financial Reports

A. Monthly Reports

100k in the bank with CVCB. Working with Umpqua Bank and the CA State Special Districts Association, they focus on municipal or government accounts. SRCD was eligible, and they will back it in assets for every dollar. CVCB will do 5-10% at the most. Alan Fry shared the amount of cash withdraw you can take per day to 2k. Will be transferred over, to Umpqua bank. Staff will have purchase cards, will be able to purchase 10k of equipment. Chevy Bolt was first time financed anything and only put 5k in. Will pay it down accordingly. Established the first credit history for SRCD with the Bolt purchase.

Kelly K displayed for view the:

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

B. Review & Approval of expenses:

For the energy commission conference, the board is favorable to give a stipend for John to go for SRCD. SRCD has the funding for a power wall unit. When the power goes out, the power wall can keep the lights on without restarting the Power Palette. There is a rebate and a discount for a 20 KW power wall. Steve is trying to get that available, and with that the power wall will be about \$12k.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report

No report given.

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

Yosemite RC&D next meeting is on a virtual basis July 30th as SRCD discusses having closer consultations as a member of the council.

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

Steve was reappointed onto the committee to the end of 2020. 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, June
22nd, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Nothing to report.

E. Other

Dirk Charlie is a tribal liaison for the Dunlap Band of mono Indians. Dirk agreed to be nominated for the candidate associate position. Pete said Dirk would be a great asset to the board, as another view. Dirk said that he will give his best in a conservative and good way, for our land and that the issues are all about the water. There is a nomination made for Dirk to be an associated director on the board. ***Pete made a motion to nominate Dirk Charlie to be an associated director on the board. Alan F. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:04pm

Next meeting: Monday, July 27th, 2020 MS Teams videoconference

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski