



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 22, 2016 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by President Pete Lassotovitch at 4:00 pm.

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

Associate Directors: Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben

Guest: Nathan Magsig, Fresno BOS

Partners present: David Durham (NRCS)

On the Phone: John Heywood

Absent: Justine Reynolds

II. Approval of Minutes for April Meeting

After review of the April minutes, no changes were made.

Sherman P K made a motion to accept the April minutes as presented; Allen 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)

- Dave D is retiring effective June 30, 2017 from the position of Fresno NRCS District Conservationist. (announced at the regional meeting)
- 2017 Community Awards – Hall of Fame Inductees – Alan Fry will be awarded the “Service to Our Veterans Award” – June 10 at 6:30.
- Nathan M is now on the SNC Board under Tom Wheeler and can assist with conveying information between SRCD and SNC. He would like to see the Auberry Mill Site to become a Mill Site again, if that cannot happen, he would like it to become something that would assist with the dead tree issue. He would support the bio-energy facility.

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

A. DOC – CARCD REV Funding Award (I)

The contract is signed by both parties and work could begin as of 05/12/17. The preliminary work has begun and the deliverables of the grant based on the timeline, required to be completed by February 2019. Jeannie H will send the grant budget to Steve H to send out to the board and the deliverables for the Website to Ted K.

B. Carbon Management Program with \$10k from CCI (I)

SRCD is proposing to develop a district wide Carbon Management Program. This will be a model project for the state.

C. Bren College (UC Santa Barbara) Project Team (I)

Saturday, John H and Steve H took the students out on the ground to look at the dead trees and other issues such as sediment, erosion, etc. This is to track the impact of the dead and dying trees. This is District wide, but they also toured on a private land owner. Good

opportunity to bring in a team of people who are passionate about this project and will be assured to bring about a product of possible restoration in the forest or possible re-landscaping plan. This is a team of graduate students working on their Master's Thesis.

D. 2017/2018 Annual Plan (I) (A)

Steve H distributed the 2016-2017 Annual Plan for the Directors to update for the coming year. It was suggested that a brochure be created to act as the Annual Report to be distributed to the County BOS to highlight what has been completed this year. Dave D stated possibly NRCS could assist with this. Steve H requested that Jeannie H work on this; Ted K and Alan F also stated they would assist.

He also distributed the 2017/2018 budget to the board to review and see if they have any ideas of changes/additions/deletions to the budget for discussion at the next meeting.

E. 2015-2020 Long Range Plan (i) (A)

Steve H distributed a copy of the Long-Range Plan and explained that we are half-way through this plan. He requested that the board review the plan and see if there are any changes, additions, or updates that they may want. It will be updated to support the development of a District-wide Carbon Management Program.

F. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1. Supervisor Magsig's interests in Auberry Mill Site as opportunity (I)
Nothing more to report, the dialogue is on-going.
2. Opportunity as co-owner of Auberry Mill Site & SNC Prop 1 (I) (A)
It would be beneficial for SRCD to be part owner; SRCD would be able to receive grants for the project and SRCD would also be able to work agency to agency on the project to have a better flow between government and landowners. This assists with the local control.
3. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)
Fresno County will be removing dead and dying trees that have resulted from the current drought and subsequent bark beetle infestation. The county sent letters to landowners to act as Right of Entry Permit to go on private property to mark and remove trees.
4. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)
Still moving forward. Steve H has responded to all questions presented by the APCD.
5. All Power Labs (APL) – CA Energy Commission (CEC) – Epic Project – Unfunded Finalist – Contact w/CEC (I)
The CEC has funded four out of the five of the grants that were approved. We were the fifth project; so, approved, but not funded. Steve H will be meeting with them in the future.
6. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Grant Program – USFS (I)
The governor's office referred a technology grant program to this board to submit. This was submitted and proposed \$1.9 million. We received a letter that said thank you for your submission but it was not granted. This was for stationary biochar production units at the mill site. We are still in the running for part of the \$5 million for the mobile unit with a little more work and calculations to refine the application.
7. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 (I)
Justine R is working on this; we will receive more details in the future.

- G. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)
Many have been previously discussed above. There are nine projects/proposals submitted.
- H. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)
Steve H has submitted the paperwork for a new five-year agreement to begin in January 2018.
- I. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
There is now a replacement for Jagdeep. Jeannie H will contact this individual to complete the new-hire paperwork to allow him a June 1 hire date. And, Steve H has submitted the paperwork for a new 1 year agreement starting on January 1, 2018.
- J. Dinkey Collaboration – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)
Many of the individuals on the steering committee have left, and it would be beneficial if a member of the board would be a member on this steering committee. This project/collaboration is in the SRCD district and SRCD was one of the original founding members.
- K. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)
Nothing to report.
- L. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the list of funding that is currently available.
- M. Web Site support
This will be funded with the REV funding. This is written out in the grant of what is covered. Ted K will contact Justine and has asked to be point on this project.
- N. Other
- Chip Ashley Forest/Meadow property site visit (I)
Property – John H & Steve H went to the property to do a site review. Property like Chip Ashley's property is critical to review or consider for restoration projects and mitigating the drought and tree mortality issues. This is very early in researching this type of project.
 - Assemblymen Jim Patterson – Gary T attended the meeting held in Auberry. He spoke a lot about local control. Gary spoke with the Assemblyman's Communications Director about the RCD and would like to receive the "OK" from the board to continue the conversation with the Communication Director and begin to develop a relationship with his office. Alan F made the motion to allow Gary T to move forward with this, Ted K second the motion, all voted. Motion was passed unanimously.
 - San Joaquin Valley – Area IX Regional meeting was held May 19, in Exeter. There was discussion of recruitment issues, engagement issues, and capacity building issues. Five of the RCDs in this region received the DOC RCD funding; 1 for Tier one and 4 for Tier 2. At the end of the meeting, there was a tour of Monrovia Nursery. Jeannie H distributed to the board members who were unable to attend the meeting the SJV Brochure and the RCD booklet created to give information regarding all the RCDs in the region. She also distributed the financials for the regional group.
 - Sierra Water Workgroup is having their 2017 Summit on July 24 to July 25 in Kings Beach, CA. Sponsored by the State Bar of California, Environmental Law Section. This will be a 1 ½-day workshop focused on state-wide issues and tools around the theme "Legal and Legislative Strategies to Protecting our Headwaters."

- The CARCD's 72nd Annual Conference is on November 15 to 18, at the Hilton Arden West in Sacramento. The REV funding will allow at least two members to attend the conference.

IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- Check Register as of May 22, 2017
- Profit and Loss (July 1, 2016 to May 22, 2017)
- Balance Sheet as of May 22, 2017

B. Review & Approval of expenses – Grant Development (A)

Ted K made a motion to approve the expenses, Sherman P second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report (D. Durham): (Moved to front)

Seeing more interest in the Tree Mortality funds from NRCS. NRCS and Cal Fire are offering Tree Mortality funds; landowners need to be sure which agency to contact for their exact issue. The hiring freeze is still on with NRCS. There is now a Xerxes representative available for projects seated in the Madera field office.

B. RC&D Report:

The next meeting is Thursday, July 27 at the Clovis Memorial Building.

C. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses

No correspondence

D. Other:

No additional reports.

VI. Adjournment: 6:18 pm -

Sherman P made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm; Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 26, 2017 – Clovis Memorial Building, Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben