



## SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 26, 2016 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

### MEETING NOTES (No Quorum)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by President Pete Lassotovitch at 4:00 pm.  
Roll Call: Directors present were Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler  
Associate Directors: Gary Temple, John Haywood  
Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Justine Reynolds  
Guest: Bret Rush, Fresno County Supervisor Office  
Partners present: David Durham (NRCS); Ted Strauss, NRCS  
Absent: Alan Fry, Sherman Pennebaker

#### **II. Approval of Minutes for April Meeting**

There was no quorum for approval of the agenda or minutes

#### **III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)**

- Bret Rush from Nathan M's office state that he and Nathan have gone to Sacramento to keep Fresno County issues on the front burners.

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

- A. Farewell to David Durham and Justine Reynolds  
Dave D. is staying an additional month and will be retiring at the end of July. Justine was given her exit interview this day prior to this meeting. She will be leaving as of June 30. All her paperwork and the information to the two projects she was responsible for have been given to Steve H as well as information on how to access and update the website.
- B. 2017/2018 Annual Plan (I) (A)  
Steve H presented the 2017/2018 Work Plan based on what the Board would like to accomplish and the grant funding received for specific work to accomplish during this work year. Along with the usual goals and tasks this RCD completes each year, some additions to this Work Plan are the Biomass utilization and Biomass Conversion Technologies and water use efficiency. Also, the expansion beyond USFS's Dinkey Creek Collaborative and continued development of Auberry Mill Site Campus and District-wide Carbon Management Program and establishment of Carbon Farming Plans in association with Carbon Cycle Institute, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, San Joaquin Valley APCD and others.
- C. 2015-2020 Long Range Plan (I) (A)  
Steve reviewed sections of the Long-Range Plan for discussion. He again referred to the grant funds and how they could be used to meet the objectives of the Long-Range Plan. He suggested that the Board may want to insert a few addendums or inserts to cover the grants that were recently received to align the Plan with the funding. Pete L stated to go ahead and make the inserts and adjustments to the Long-Range Plan and then present the changes at the next meeting for discussion and approval.

- D. 2017/2018 Annual Budget (I) (A)  
Steve H distributed and explained the proposed 2017/2018 annual budget. Jeannie H distributed the budget for the REV funding to show what this additional funding will be covering. Steve H explained the proposed budget; the board will have to vote for the approval at the next meeting.
- E. DOC – CARCD REV Funding Award (I)  
The contract is signed by both parties and received with signatures as of 05/05/17. The preliminary work has begun and the deliverables of the grant based on the timeline, required to be completed by February 2019.
- F. 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. Ted Strauss sent a sample of a plan to review.
- G. Bren College (UC Santa Barbara) Project Team (I)  
This is a 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. The way the project is set-up is the SRCD is acting as their client. They are off for the summer, but when they reconvene in the fall, SRCD will continue to work with them.
- H. Lyles College of Engineering, CSUF – Watershed Vulnerability, Dave Halopoff (I)  
This is a grad student who also works with Provost and Pritchard; he is looking at Watershed Vulnerability analysis of Dry Creek from the headwaters down to the valley as his Thesis project.
- I. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. Supervisor Magsig's interests in Auberry Mill Site as opportunity (I)  
Gary and John have been leading this effort. Supervisor Magsig is hoping for a long-term agreement with PG&E.
  2. Opportunity as co-owner of Auberry Mill Site & SNC Prop 1 (I) (A)  
SRCD will be researching possible acquisition funds to become part owner; to obtain a type of management role to co-manage the site.
  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. John H attended the meeting, and stated that the road safety portion of the tree removal, it is moving along quite well.
  4. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)  
SRCD submitted the fourth round of questions. The last responses have been submitted and the technical has been addressed. The SJVAPCD is considering having a Biomass Summit in the valley; the SRCD needs to watch for this event and maybe be a part of it.
  5. All Power Labs (APL) – CA Energy Commission (CEC) – Epic Project – Unfunded Finalist – Contact w/CEC (I)  
We scored high for the CEC grant, we are the only unfunded project now. Possible funding may come through. Steve H also met with the CA Energy Commission in Sacramento for the biofuels grant proposal with Highbury Energy in which SRCD's proposal came in 3.5 points short.

6. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Grant Program – USFS (I)  
Still in the proposal for the mobile unit for Biomass processing into biochar.
7. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTL & 168 (I)  
Justine R is working on this; we will receive more details in the future.  
Hwy 168 has a draft of their plan so they just needed to do a revision. Projects were now added. She needed to reformat and update, the plan draft is under review. The OTL is working on the development of their CWWP – they need to identify the baseline for their plan.
- J. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)  
Many have been previously discussed above. There are nine projects/proposals submitted.
- K. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)  
Ted S is here to report. This program started in 2009 when the NRCS entered into an agreement with the California Air Resources Board. This was to trade out old tractor/farm equipment for new to receive a credit. SRCD has an agreement to apply an employee/student to go out and work with the farmers on usage, etc. and capturing the data for NRCS and submitting it to the NRCS office.
- L. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)  
Vue Her was hired to begin work with the NRCS and working with the SE Asian Specialty Growers effective June 1. All his paperwork was completed.
- M. Dinkey Collaboration – Public Awareness and Education Program (I)  
Justine will no longer be working on this program representing SRCD. Also, many of the individuals on the Collaborative’s steering committee have left, and it would be beneficial if a member of the board would be a member of the committee. This project/collaboration is in the SRCD district and SRCD was one of the original founding members.
- N. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)  
Southern Sierra IRWM is working on their Plan Update to Prop 1 standards.  
Nothing to report for the other partners.
- O. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)  
Steve H distributed the list of funding that is currently available and proposals submitted.
- P. 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 be working on this task.
- Q. Other
- 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 72<sup>nd</sup> 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.
  - Land Subsidence in the San Joaquin Valley – Free briefing to be held at the University Business Center, CSU Fresno on Wednesday, August 16, 2017, 8:30 to 3:30. This briefing is sponsored by DWR and the Water Education Foundation and will highlight the array of

technologies available for subsidence measurement and monitoring, including information and technical support being provided by DWR.

- The state of California has begun work on the California Water Plan Update 2018. DWR has released the draft Assumptions and Estimates Report for Update 2018. The report presents key assumptions and estimates, data and data sources, and companion plans which will be considered for the preparation of Update 2018. The schedule has been released for all to get involved.

#### **IV. Financial Report**

- A. Monthly Reports (I)  
Steve H distributed and discussed the:
  - Check Register as of June 26, 2017
  - Profit and Loss (July 1, 2016 to June 26, 2017)
  - Balance Sheet as of June 26, 2017
- B. Review & Approval of expenses – Grant Development (A)  
There is no quorum this will be reviewed again next month.

#### **V. Reports:**

- A. NRCS Report (D. Durham): (Moved to front)  
As a possible outreach project, Dave D suggested making a video – Seasonal High Tunnels: Properly building and construction. For the languages: South East Asian, Spanish, Hmong, English, Punjab – There is possibly small funding available from NRCS and possibly other assistance. The last batching period there were 96 new contracts, the most in the area. The two high positions that need to fill in the NRCS San Joaquin Area is the DC in Fresno and the DC in Bakersfield. There is still a hiring freeze.
- B. RC&D Report:  
The next meeting is Thursday, July 27 at the Clovis Memorial Building. Justine R will now be a full-time employee with them.
- C. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses  
No correspondence
- D. Other:  
No additional reports.

#### **VI. Adjournment: 6:15 pm -**

Next Meeting: Monday, July 24, 2017 – Clovis Memorial Building, Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben