



## SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 28, 2017 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:15pm**

Meeting called to order by President Pete Lassotovitch at 4:02 pm.

Roll Call: Directors present were Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry

Associate Directors: Gary Temple

Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben

Guest: Rebecca Ozeran – University Cooperative Extension

Partners present: Hugo Calvillo (NRCS), Rob Roy (NRCS)

Absent: John Heywood, Sherman Pennebaker

Via Phone Line: Ted Kimbler, Director

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

- Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes from July; Ted K 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)**

No public in attendance.

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

##### **A. Potential Replacement for Justine Reynolds (I) (A)**

Steve H circulated a resume for an applicant named Craig Jones. He is a Forrester/Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. He would be hired part-time, possibly for a couple of years. Alan F made the motion to hire Craig J; Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Carbon Management & 2015-2020 (I)**

Representation from NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, and other partners. SRCD is moving into district wide carbon management. Carbon Cycle Institute reviewed our Long-Range Plan and stated SRCD's Plan is going in the correct direction; some suggestions will be made. SRCD should end up once all is reviewed and rewritten to be good through 2020.

##### **C. NDCAs with HEATech, MMR & GCN (I) (A)**

Steve H discussed a few standard Non-Disclosure Agreements between the Sierra RCD and: 1. HEATech; 2. MMR Energy Solutions; and 3. Green Carbon Nexus. These have been signed and counter-signed. Ted K made the motion to accept the Non-Disclosure Agreements as presented; Alan F second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

##### **D. DOC – REV Grant – (I)**

The first report/invoice has been submitted to DOC for the first quarter of the REV grant for approval and processing in the State Controller's Office. The SRCD

report/invoice was the first received and approved at the state level and reviewed as well as getting processed at the State Controller's Office.

- E. CARCD – Capacity Development Program – Directors Bootcamp, Regional Durable Collaboration with Tulare County RCD and Business Planning (I)  
The Directors Bootcamp will begin in January. Ted K and Alan F will be attending that session. The Durable Collaboration was approved and the collaborative process will involve a full day retreat in the winter of 2017-2018.
- F. State of California Healthy Soils Interagency Working Group (I) (A)  
SRCD is a local state agency and is representing this area to participate in the Healthy Soils Interagency meeting. This will be part of the REV directives to represent and participate with the interagency committee for Healthy Soils. Alan F made the motion to move forward; Ted K second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. CA FireSafe Council – HW168 & OTL Community Wildfire Protection Plans & County Hazard Mitigation (I)  
There is one year for completion of the plan, with the new employee coming on board with SRCD, this will be possible. Steve H attended the last meeting and the new coordinator is Pat Gallegos. Craig (SRCD new emp.) will be a volunteer with the OTL to assist them, and he will be on board with SRCD to write the Plan. There will be a meeting on September 15.
- H. Dinkey Collaborative – Public Awareness and Education Program (I) (A)  
SRCD has been working on the Communication Planning with the USFS and Dinkey Creek Collaborative. Steve H met with the USFS and stated that he would work with them for the Communication Planning for the three years remaining on this project. The USFS requested that SRCD be the manager of the Facilitation Support of the organization. This is more than ten times monetarily for SRCD from the original partnership agreement.  
Ted K made a motion that these actions are consistent with the board's intent; Alan F second the motion; all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- I. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
  - 1. Supervisor Magsig's interests in Auberry Mill Site as opportunity (I)  
Gary T has been working as our Liaison with the government offices. He has notified Supervisor Nathan Magsig and his assistant as well as Jim Patterson that SRCD has been successful in receiving many recent grants SRCD. He feels it is important to keep them on board and in the know to show that SRCD is making forward progress both financially and on the ground.
  - 2. Opportunity as co-owner of Auberry Mill Site & SNC Prop 1 funding (I)  
Currently there is only funding for log-decking and shipping to China. Steve H is working on the pre-application for p-title acquisition to get above 50% ownership so SRCD can have control of the property/project. This would put us in position of being the lead-agency. The application is due on Friday.
  - 3. Fresno County RAC Proposal (I)  
The application deadline was July 30. Steve submitted the application for \$25K, broken up into \$5k increments for the project steps. Even if \$5k is received to get SRCD started it will assist. The RAC will be meeting on Thursday to review

the submitted proposals and voting. There were 11 proposals submitted. It is the intention that by this time next year SRCD will be in operation of the mobile unit.

4. RCPP with GOPR & CARCD – Letter of Support (I) (A)  
Resource Conservation Partnership Proposal – The full amount requested by CARCD was \$10M; SRCD will be part of that. Unknown how much SRCD will receive.
  5. 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.
  6. SJV Air Pollution Control District – Emissions Reduction Proposal (I)  
The proposal for AG and Forestry was positively received.
  7. All Power Labs (APL) – CA Energy Commission (CEC) – Epic Project – Unfunded Finalist – Contact w/CEC (I)  
SRCD scored high for the CEC grant and but went unfunded for the first and second round.as an unfunded finalist. An additional \$5M was freed up as one of the recipients dropped out. SRCD requested \$3M and now there is a wait to see if the CEC will have decided to fund the project that was submitted and accepted with the funds not accepted by the recipient who dropped out. Will possibly hear this week if SRCD will receive the funds.
  8. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Grant Program – USFS (I)  
SRCD needs to get ready to begin the project as soon as they get the green light. SRCD met with Judy Tapia from the USFS and it was told to get ready to start moving on this project.
  9. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 (I)  
Hwy 168 has a draft of their plan so they just needed to do a revision. The OTTL is working on the development on their CWWP – they need to identify the basecamp for their plan. (See “G” above)
- J. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)  
Steve H distributed the list of Proposals Submitted and their status. Nine projects are showing on the books in some stage of submittal.
- K. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)  
NAQI (National Air Quality Incentive Program) – more funding was received for this program, so there will be a fourth batching period. Ted Strauss is not available for further reporting.
- 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 on June 1. Vue is continuing to work in the NRCS field office completing outreach.
- M. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)  
Southern Sierra IRWM is working on their Plan Update to Prop 1 standards, SRCD has an agreement with them to provide an outreach program. Nothing to report for the other partners.

N. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)

Steve H distributed the list of funding opportunities that are currently available and proposals submitted. This list shows a lot of movement in the last month.

O. Web Site support – REV Funding and Hand-Off Required (I)

This will be funded with the REV funding. When Ted K stated that he will be working on this task. Steve H will be posting on the website the agenda and minutes. He will change the password and give it to Ted K to take over when he is back in town.

P. Other –

Kirchhoff Hydro re-licensing

- Steve H spoke with the Kirchhoff Facility regarding the fires and the effects that the silt from the fires has on storage. This is a possible future partnership/project.
- Rebecca O reported that the Cooperative Extension can be part of the team to assist with projects. They have 22 livestock advisors in the state. She can act a hub of information to connect people to existing knowledge. The Cooperative Extension now has an economist that handles rangeland economics. It was suggested that a forestry economist, that would be helpful for this area.
- 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. Steve H and Alan F will be attending.
- The San Joaquin Valley Region/Area IX Regional Fall Meeting will be held on Friday, October 13, 2017 from 9:00 to 3:30 in Los Banos. This meeting will be hosted by Grasslands RCD. They will be sponsoring lunch and giving a presentation and possibly a tour of the Waterfowl Wildlife Preserve. The student speak-off contest will also be held the meeting; the subject is "How can RCDs better involve their communities in conservation?"

#### IV. Financial Report

A. Monthly Reports (I)

Steve H distributed and discussed the:

- Check Register printed as of August 28, 2017

B. Review & Approval of expenses – (I) (A)

Nothing to approve at this time.

#### V. Reports:

A. NRCS Report (Hugo Calvillo): (Moved to front)

Hugo C. is covering for in the Fresno Field office to assist until the DC in that office is replaced; he is also still working in the Hanford office. They are working on flying the position to fill it by the end of the year. In the meantime, he will be working on the next NRCS batching period in both offices.

Rob R also joined the meeting from the NRCS HQ office in Fresno. He is looking to provide technical assistance to the CDFA healthy soils program. CDFA is taking applications to adopt practices for carbon sequestration. The tool to use is the comet planner and compose planner to fill-out the application

B. RC&D Report:

The next meeting is Thursday, October 26 at the Clovis Memorial Building. Justine R is now a full-time employee with them. Jeannie H will attend these meetings on behalf of SRCD.

- C. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses  
No correspondence

- D. Other:

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research gave a Power Point presentation to various groups on "Biochar for Environmental Management." In one of the slides there was a "Recognition of CARCD and Sierra RCD's Efforts:" It stated:

- a. Sierra Resource Conservation District
  - i. Funded \$5 million from CAL FIRE's Forest Health Grant Program, to conduct tree mortality biomass removal and reforestation, in Fresno and Madera counties.
  - ii. Project includes funding for the purchase of a mobile biochar production unit, for the conversion of tree mortality biomass into biochar.
- b. NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant (2017)
  - i. Lead Applicant: CARCD
  - ii. Intent: To conduct tree mortality biomass removal and designate it for biochar production, in an alternative waste stream management strategy.
  - iii. Requested Funds: \$10,000,000

**VI. Adjournment: 6:00 pm – Next meeting: Monday, September 24, 2017 – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben