



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 24, 2018 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: 4:06 pm (by Pete Lassotovitch)

- A. Director Roll Call
 - B. Introduction of Guests
- Roll Call: Directors present were Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry, Pete Lassotovitch
Associate Directors: None
Staff present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones
Absent: Gary Temple, Associate Director
Partner: NRCS: Rob Roy

II. Approval of Minutes for August Board Meeting

Ted K made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Alan 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)

- Yosemite Peace Symposium – A Gathering of Peacemakers will be presented at the Tenaya Lodge on October 26-27, 2018. Peace and the Environment; Peace and Our Youth; Peace and Human Dignity are three tracks. Jeannie H has been requested to present at one of the Peace and the Environment break-out sessions. She will be presenting on “Living in Harmony with the New California Landscape.” Steve Haze will also be speaking at one of the Environment break-out sessions.
- The California Association of RCDs 2018 Annual Conference registration is now open. The topic is “Celebrating Resilient Landscapes and Adaptive Communities” in San Diego, CA, November 14th-17th, 2018 at the Kona Kai Resort.
- Self-Help Enterprises is conducting two Ground water workshops in October. The “Groundwater Quality & SGMA Roundtable” workshop will be on October 10 from 5 to 7:30 pm at Café 210 in Visalia. The second is “Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workshop” on October 27 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Marriott Hotel in Visalia.
- Dinkey Collaborative at the Fresno Fair in October. They will have a booth representing the Forest Service and Dinkey Collaborative. They will be distributing a kid’s activity book, Dinkey Logo sticker, and a brochure about the Dinkey Collaborative.
- Nearly 2 Billion Now Available for Eligible Producers Affected by 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes - Agricultural producers affected by wildfires in 2017 now may apply for assistance to help recover and rebuild their farming operations. Signup began July 16, 2018 and continues through Nov. 16, 2018.
- The Water Education Foundation is offering a special, free workshop on Oct. 2 at Fresno State — co-sponsored by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Foundation – that will highlight ongoing land subsidence monitoring, monitoring techniques and DWR assistance to help local agencies comply with requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). You’ll also hear about results of satellite-based remote sensing monitoring being performed by NASA for DWR. October 2, 2018 – 8:15 to 2:30 at the Fresno State, Alice Peters Auditorium. Fresno, CA 93740

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

- A. Letter of Support to Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D Council (I) (A)

The Y/S RC& D Council is requesting a letter of support for two projects for the Forest Leadership and SNC application for funding. These two projects are in Fresno County. Alan F made the motion to accept the concept of the project and sending a letter of support; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Review and Approval of 2018/2019 Annual Plan (A)

Steve H distributed the draft of the 2018/2019 Annual Plan for the approval. The discussion showed the importance of the Biomass Resource Management and the implementation of the District-wide Carbon Management Program. Alan F made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Board Vacancies (I)

Steve H met an individual that may be interested. There may be a couple others interested in Clovis. The question came up regarding the eligibility of an individual that does not live in the district; but would live in the area of the Sphere of Influence.
- D. Expansion of District's Sphere of Influence CARCD/CVCF (I)

Central Valley Community Foundation agreed to fund the SOI expansion of the areas of Fresno County white areas that are not covered by any Resource Conservation District in Western Fresno County Jeannie H was requested to write a budget and proposal for the SOI work to submit to CARCD for the amount of funding available.
- E. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG (I)

At the September meeting there was a presentation about the Musick project. The Communication/Planning Group is working on the Fresno Fair event; the printing is complete, and the set-up is this week and the group will be manning the booth throughout the Fair. October 3 to October 14. There has not been a meeting of the Steering Committee or the Socioeconomic Committee have not met for several months.
- F. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
 1. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement (I)

This is for the StarBot – this is now bought, delivered, paid for and insured. The Fresno County Dept of Public Works and Planning has reviewed the application and determined that the required findings can be made and hereby approves the Site Plan review. Based on the volume and type of material, the operation could be listed as an excluded activity per CCR Title 14 for biomass conversion.
 2. Auberry Mill Site - SNC and RAC awards (I)

These funds will assist with paying for the needed appraisal and conditional use permit. SRCD will still need to comply with the Fresno County Planning Department and only a grading permit waiver will be required.
 3. Setting up operations at AMS Owners and Phase 1 ESA (I)

That was completed by Steve H. We are running parallel with other applications. This has been submitted to SNC before the due date.
 4. Fresno County Tree Mortality Task Force (I)

We are looking at them becoming a TRAC, Technical and Regulatory Advisory Committee. Steve H and Craig J will be working with the Task Force to move this forward.

5. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (I)
Karen Buhr from CARCD has signed the agreement and it has been sent to Carlos S at the NRCS state office. This funding will create a mini EQIP program that will be ran by CARCD for Tree Mortality issue.
 6. CFSC – Community Wildlife Protection Plans – OTTL &168 & FC MH-MP (I)
The CWPPs have both been submitted and approved. The Fresno County approval process through the legal process (through County Counsel) takes a little more and they are now waiting for the approval from the OES department in Fresno. The completion of the project for the grant requires the complete approval for both of these CWPP. Mostly from CalFire and OES, but later from the Board of Supervisors.
- G. Programs & Projects Status Report (I)
Steve H distributed the list of funded programs; he explained the programs/projects. The funded programs are looking well and are showing positive progress. He has nine proposals submitted or in the works for future funding and projects. Some of these are waiting for the invitation to submit a full proposal. The largest proposal was for a project titled, “Next Generation Thermochemical Gasification & Fischer-Tropsch Technologies – Forest Waste Biofuels.” The second largest proposal is “Watershed, Forest Health and Resiliency through Biomass Management and Utilization in Eastern Fresno County.”
- H. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program (I)
The NRCS is anticipating positive funding in this area for next year.
- I. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers (I)
Sam Vang and Vue are working on the workshop on October 16 from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Keumoua Farm in Sanger (Jensen and McCaw) the NRCS staff will be presenting on water conservation and cover crops for the South East Asian Farmers. They will also be talking about high-tunnels and salinity.
- J. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs (I)
SSIRWM discussed at their September meeting the Plan Update. It is just about ready to send to DWR by October. The plan update can be reviewed on the SSIRWM website. They will also be having their DACI meetings on September 25 and 26 at the Shaver Museum. Three meetings will be held: 1) Community input; 2) Water/Waste Water Concerns; and 3) Tribal Advisory.
- K. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I)
Steve H distributed the Funding/Grant Tracking List. The most significant proposal submission was the Biofuels Production submission to CA Energy Commission. The list included information about ten projects/proposals.
- L. Web Site Development and Support – <http://new.sierrarc.com/>
Jeannie H and Steve H met with Kristina P the Web designer on September 7 to finalize the details of the website to populate the site and make the final changes and decisions to release it to the public. Kristina was given a great deal of information to populate the website. Kristina created a drop box account for the Board to send any additional information to her.
- M. Other –
- Speak – Off (6pm)
There is one Speak-Off contest competitor, Alex Widman a sophomore from Orosi High School. The subject of the speech is “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?” He will represent SRCD at the Regional meeting in Hanford in October.

- Rebecca Ozeran the UCCE Livestock & Natural Resources Advisor for Fresno and Madera Counties was unable to attend this afternoon's meeting, but she would like to share with the board two key updates from UC Cooperative Extension:
First, our oak project survey is now available online. This is a very short (3 minute) survey to help us design an oak research project in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast. This project has the potential to evolve into a statewide oak population study. Please help us by filling it out here: <http://www.ucanr.edu/oaksurvey>.

Second, on October 23 they are offering a workshop on Water Measurement and Reporting, including certification (for compliance with SB88 / AB589). See the attached materials for more information, and feel free to contact her with any questions. If you can pass along this information to your networks, she would appreciate it!

V. Financial Report

- A. Opening of Savings Account for SNC Grant (I) (A)
This has been opened and Steve H and Alan F are signatory on the account.
- B. Annual Audit (I) (A)
The Audit was approved to get completed based on the line-item showing in the Annual Budget. Steve H presented the option of a three-year contract at the same annual rate with the auditor. Alan F made the motion to agree to a three-year engagement letter for the auditor to complete the annual auditor holding the price of \$4,250/year; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. Monthly Reports (I)
Steve H distributed for review the:
 - Balance Sheet as of September 24, 2018;
 - the Profit & Loss for July 1 through September 24, 2018;
 - the Transactions by Account as of September 24, 2018;
- D. Line of Credit based upon A/R and grants (I)
This application will be resubmitted with the final financials for the fiscal year. This is still pending.
- E. Review & Approval of expenses – No additional expenses for approval

VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report:
Both houses in Congress has a version of the Farm Bill that they are reviewing, and both versions have a new process to stream line the process. May happen in Feb of 2019 – a request was submitted to have an earlier sign-up then that. Curtis C stated that there will most likely have a DC in the Fresno office by November.
- B. RC&D Report:
The next Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D meeting will be on Thursday, October 25 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. There needs to be more representation in Fresno and Tulare Counties as they are predominately representing Madera and Mariposa Counties.
- C. CARCD – Area 9
The San Joaquin Valley Regional / Area IX Fall meeting is on Friday, October 19 at the Hanford Ag and NRCS Multi-Purpose Room, 680 Campus Drive, Hanford. This meeting will be sponsored by Excelsior/Kings River RCD and will have the annual speak-off contest. The theme of the speak-off contest is “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”

D. Correspondence, Fresno County EA Responses
No correspondence

E. Other:

VII. Adjournment: 6:13 –

At 6:13pm Alan F made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Ted K second the motion; all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Monday, October 22, 2018; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Habben