



# SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2019 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612

## MEETING MINUTES

### **I. Call to Order: 4:03 pm**

- A. Director Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests

Directors: Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry, Associate Director Gary Temple  
Staff Present: Steve Haze, Craig Jones, Kelly Kucharski  
Guests: Bobby Evans, Rebecca Ozeran

### **II. Approval of Minutes for February and March 2019 Board Meeting**

*Pete L. made the motion to accept the minutes for February and March 2019 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. Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board-Business Service Ctr  
They have a business service center on North Palm and Downtown that we could utilize. It has a conference room and business center at no cost that will fit up to 50 people.
- B. Annexation Application of District and Sphere of Influence LAFCO/CARCD  
There will be consolidation on the West side for all the RCD's. Matt Hurley is looking to perform the consolidation and for a sphere of influence and annexations West of 99.
- C. Web Site Development & support Kristina  
Craig is looking at the forestry component for the website, with some things about carbon planning too. Will be working with Kelly who's posting the agenda and working on the website content.
- D. Candidates for Directors: Doug Cockrell/Associate Director: Ray Gutteriez  
Doug is the son of Sherman Boone who's a former president of the State association. Steve reported Ray felt it would be too much for him with his current responsibilities, even as an associate director.
- E. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement  
SCRCD is still working towards an agreement between SFC and SRCD and Cal Trans. It's in progress.
- F. CARD- CCI Carbon Farm Plan grant award and DOC FH WSC award  
There was \$30k available for carbon farm planning grants, and SRCD was selected as 1 of 2 RCDs at \$15,000 ea. SRCD's grant will be forestry based. Grand Bluffs, 240 acres, is interested in using their site for a forest carbon farm plan. SRCD has until November to develop that first plan. The check should be coming through to get started in early May. Watershed coordinator executed agreements might not be seen until July because the State is going through their May budget revision.
- G. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG  
Craig and Steve attended the collaborative meeting last Thursday. Through Forest health watershed coordinator, the forest health and RCPP, to try to get it all organized including with the Dinkey Collaborative. Steve brought a review to distribute to the board members to summarize SRCD key initiatives.
- H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
  - 1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group

Steve attended these meetings, and will continue to go, and it's built into the grant to cover the time there. The task force is in the formation stages looking at what they should be doing, and how to get there.

2. CFSC - Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction  
Still waiting for the funds, they were supposed to be released a month ago, so SRCD is going as slow as possible. Steve is trying not to hire and be as prudent as possible about time and preparations in respect to that.
  3. CA Department of Conservation- Forest Health Watershed Coordinator  
Originally, March was goal for an agreement, now it looks like July. Once started the position is funded for two years.
  4. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5 Yr Agreement  
SRCD is doing preparation at the Auberry Mill Site. Blair Duncan, SRCD employee, is learning about the All Power Labs bioenergy unit. The site has been cleaned and all the orange safety mesh has been put around, fire extinguishers has been put up. May 10<sup>th</sup> is the date to fire up the unit. The date corresponds for the Area 9 meeting. The unin will be a micro grid or off grid arrangement, limited to the site.
  5. CAL FIRE CCI Forest 2018 Award  
Making the adjustment to \$4.3 million by looking at the deliverables, have Friday meeting planned to decide where to make a adjustments. 90 cents on the dollar goes to the US Forest service.
  6. Auberry Mill Site- SNC CUP grant & their visit 4/10 and Yosemite Clean  
There was a site visit and Ted and Gary were there on April 10<sup>th</sup>. They were very impressed by what SRCD is doing and what they are trying to achieve. SNC executive director was impressed and a local area rep. Steve is meeting with Yosemite Clean about the conditional use permit.
  7. Setting up operations at AMS  
Setting up operations at the Auberry Mill Site (AMS). May 10<sup>th</sup> as firing up the APL unit. There are caretakers on the site and behind the chain link fence. Steve said there are people on site there and people who live there. No place to lock up stuff there, Ted K. brought up a concern about keeping things secure. Craig put a list together of things needed, storage is one of the things being considered. The equipment is insured. Pete L. suggested getting some product moving out and purchasing some storage or protection equipment.
  8. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)  
There is a TRAC meeting tomorrow, in order to move forward into the technical and regulatory advisory approach.
  9. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program  
RCPP will forego the bird survey on that part of removing trees, but the resources are the bigger bottleneck. Bobby suggested SRCD forewarns people in the outreach. The holdup for RCPP is the messaging and the cost shares, Bobby E. said the timeline to iron these out is 18-24 months.
- I. Programs & Projects Status Report  
Steve passed out the projects list. All projects balance is \$5.2 million.
- J. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program  
No update given.
- K. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP  
No update given.
- L. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / SGAs  
Steve had nothing to report at this time.
- M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List  
Positive review, SRCD has been awarded 5 grants in the last 6 months.
- N. Other –  
SCRD is signing a letter to create a state level EFIP like EQIP program but doing it through the CA Department of Food and Ag.

## V. Financial Reports

- A. Codifying of Accounting Practice  
This needs to be completed and made available for Directors to review.
- B. Monthly Reports  
Steve H distributed for review the:
  - o Balance Sheet
  - o the Profit & Loss
  - o the Transactions by Account
  - o Central Valley Bank Summary
- C. Line of Credit based upon A/R and grants  
Looking at other options besides Central Valley Community Bank
- D. Potential movement of bank account  
Having problems with the account, SRCD want another account for a better situation.
- E. Review & Approval of expenses-  
RCDI & SCALE workshop for two nights, in Jackson at the end of May, Steve needs \$350 for the trip. **Pete L. made the motion to approve expenses for the workshop, Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.**  
Utility vehicles by ZeroNox Company is based out of Porterville, and the vehicles are awarded by the SJV Air Pollution Control District. The use of them is to move materials and equipment around on the Auberry Mill Site or on a project site. They will have toolboxes instead of back seats on them. Steve needs approval for 10k for up to 5 vehicles, each is worth 20k. **Pete L. made the motion to apply for the 5 grants for the vehicles, Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.**  
Through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research governor's office, there's a program to ship samples for analysis, of the sawdust for the mill site. Steve wants to ship it so they can check it for use as feedstock to make pellets to be shipped to SE Asia and be used to fire up old coal burning electric facilities. The goal is to retro fit coal plants. First the sawdust needs to be analyzed in Iowa with a pellet company. Up to 500 tons a year to be produced and exported. **Alan F. made the motion to approve permission for Stevev to ship this for analysis, Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**

## VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report: Bobby shared several staff changes happening at their office.
- B. RC&D Report: They meet quarterly and will meet this week.
- C. CARCD – Area 9 Meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> CVM Patriots Rooms: Meeting in the Patriots room at the Veterans memorial district on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Steve is working with Mira for presentations, one on Forest First and another with MMR.
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses: No update given.
- E. Other: UCCE- Rebecca Ozeran shared two upcoming events, Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> rangeland weed management workshop and May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Merced a short course on rangeland. Another change in their office right now, Rebecca is filling in for the county director as the lead administrator.

## VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 5:50 pm

**Next meeting: Monday, June 24nd, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2**

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski