

SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 25, 2019 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Clovis Memorial Building, 453 Hughes, Room 2, Clovis, Ca. 93612



MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:08 pm

- A. Director Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests
 - Directors: Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry
 - Associate Directors: Gary Temple
 - Staff Present: Steve Haze, Jeannie Habben, Craig Jones, Kelly Kucharski
 - Partners: Jae Lee- NRCS, Rebecca Ozeran- UCCE
 - Director on Phone: Pete Lassotovitch
 - Guests: Blair Duncan

II. Approval of Minutes for January 2019 Board Meeting

Ted K made the motion to accept the minutes for January 2019 as presented, Alan F 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)

IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics:

- A. New Staff Kelly Kucharski as District and Project Administration.
 - In general replacing Jeannie by taking minutes and working with district manager on administrative matters. Starting to work with the webmaster Kristina Price and will meet with Lis Bundli for accounting activities. Kelly will be providing support on HR, and the CA FireSafe Council grant for the District' FireSafe and Stewardship program
- B. Annexation/Expansion District's Sphere of Influence LAFCO/CARCD/CVCF
 - Steve has to meet with the director at LAFCO to see what the numbers are, the price is negotiable. There should be an agreement with the CA Association of RCDs.
- C. Web Site Development & Support Kristina Price & District Emails
 - Steve presented a 3-year option for subscriptions for SRCD email addresses linked to the new website. These addresses are \$70 per subscription based on Kristina Price's recommendation. **Ted K made the motion to sign-up for the 3-year subscription, Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion was passed unanimously.**
- D. Board Reappointments/Vacancies- Board of supervisors mtg 1/29
 - Alan F and Ted K were up for re-appointment to the SRCD board as directors; it appeared on the Fresno BOS "Consent Calendar" at the board meeting on January 29, 2019. *They both need to go to the County office and take their Oath of Office.*
- E. Potential Candidate for Associate Director- Ray Gutierrez
 - Steve distributed the resume of Ray Gutierrez to the Board for discussion. Once discussed, **Ted K made the motion for Steve to approach Ray and invite him to become an associate director and fill out a complete application. Alan F seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- F. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement
 - The roundabout in Prather required mitigation for its impact. What SRCD board will be is responsible for administering with Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy. For SRCD board being legal counterpart on behalf of Caltrans will be \$11,500 in admin fees.

- G. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG
Steve gave a presentation last Thursday to Dinkey Creek and sent a PDF to everybody. It lists all our projects relevant to forest health and tree mortality crisis and what direction we are headed. *Suggested board members look over presentation and send feedback to Craig and Steve.*
- H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group
SRCD is staying actively involved participating in “Sierra Eastside Region” and the Tree Mortality Task Force.
 2. CFSC - Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction
This is the first award SRCD has received that has no inter-agency requirement. This is 100% funding for SRCD programs. Craig Jones will be the lead Project Manager on this project; Steve introduced Kelly and Blair as new employees who will be assisting Craig in different capacities on this project.
 3. CA Department of Conservation- Forest Health Watershed Coordinator
This grant will assist in paying for two more employees over a two-year period. The grant was completed by Craig and Steve, who came up with a proposal and questions in advance. They partnered with SSIRWM and spoke with American Forest as another partner. They received 13 letters of support, most were from high ranking individuals in our communities.
 4. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5 Yr Agreement
Blair Duncan is the first employee to come on board once funding is received that will be involved with activities at the Auberry Mill site. Now moving into position to start looking at initial operations there. Got the permit from the APCD, Steve will request an extension because this is going to be the 3rd month without operation.
 5. Auberry Mill Site- SNC CUP and Yosemite Clean
Yosemite Clean applied (with Steve’s assistance) to CA Energy Commission for funding and came up 2.5 point short. They are going to apply again and are optimistic that this will go through.
 6. Setting up operations at AMS Owners
SRCD has a one-year lease agreement to start the process. The landowners tend to vacillate on their support; SRCD may look for alternate land for the project.
 7. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)
Craig reported that Fresno County is replicating the state change. Moving from a response to the pine beetle to a progression on management of the forests. It’s evolving into an overall forest health task force, still focusing on tree mortality but looking at how to restore these landscapes. Purpose of the task force is to keep everyone informed and a place where we can share resources.
 8. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program
This program will be run by CARCD for Tree Mortality issue. Jae Lee, NRCS District Conservationist will provide assistance and SRCD will be the lead in Fresno County. The partners are working on a ranking status and development for a solid program.
 9. CARCD/NRCS Regional Technical Assistance Grant
This program is also with ACRC and NRCS partners and SRCD will work on taking the lead in the Fresno County foothills.
- I. Programs & Projects Status Report
Steve gave budget outline on all the projects. March 15th or sooner for grant award Information to become available.
- J. NRCS – Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ Program
They don’t help anymore for stationeries and irrigation pumps tier 2 and below. For tractor engines they are still replacing 0’s-3’s.

- K. NRCS – Conservation Planning & Support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP
Sam V is on a personal assignment in Laos, but when he returns, he and Vue will be assisting SRCD in holding two workshops plus they will be doing irrigation testing. The targeted dates for the workshops are April 23 or April 30 at one of the Hmong Growers Farm.
- L. Kings Basin Water Authority/ So. Sierra IRWM / SGMA WG / GSAs
The Public Policy Institute of California located out of San Francisco gave a presentation at the San Joaquin Valley Water Summit at CSU Fresno. RCD's are a part of these initiatives and can play an important role. Karen Buhr, Executive Director for CARCD and Steve discussed RCDs with Hellen Hanak of PPIC, and Mas Masumoto is on their board and we did a pollinator project on his property. Steve said he talked to Karen about restarting a water committee.
- M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List
For the DOC Forest Health Watershed Coordinator grant opportunity, we received 15 letters of support. Steve passed out a list of the grant opportunities. Each of these have been submitted or have been awarded.
- N. Other – none

V. Financial Report

- A. Codifying of Accounting Practice
This will need to be developed.
- 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 – it was resubmitted and are awaiting a response.
- D. Review & Approval of expenses
 1. ***Ted made a motion to approve \$139 instead of the standard \$600 for a subscription to Grant Station to have the ability to review and determine what funding opportunities are out there to develop in house capabilities. Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***
 2. ***Ted called for a motion to codify our accounting practices for the district. Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously. Steve will be working with our Auditor and CPA based on how other RCD's are doing this.***
 3. ***Ted made a motion to approve the travel expenses for those attending the FHTF and Eastside prioritization meeting and the SNC WIP summit not to exceed \$500. Alan F seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.***

VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report:
 1. Jae Lee, Fresno County District Conservationist reported that the vacant soil conservationist position had to be re advertised. Made a selection and attempted job offer went out, pleased with the candidate
 2. New Area State Conservationist based in Fresno is Sharon Nance, who is starting on March 4th. She should be on board before the next meeting.
 3. Had a teleconference NRCS field house and counterparts within the RCPP for the tree mortality issues. The teleconference was with all the NRCS' participating. CRCD and Jen Shepard also on the call. It was a lot of general information, was really helpful. Only hit tip of iceberg on the process and how things will be ranked. Has a March 5th

1pm meeting scheduled with Pete, Bobby, and Steve before or after another broader teleconference. Wants our two entities are on the same page as we move forward. It could be a little more complex with a broad array of partners like this. Whatever comes out of that they can bring up to the state level.

4. Farm bill 2018 moving forward. Preparing obligation activities again. With new farm bill he's expecting a flood of more contracts. Working on their existing contracts.

B. RC&D Report:

The next Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D meeting is on Thursday, April 25 from 9:30 to Noon at the Veterans Memorial Building in Clovis.

C. CARCD – Area 9

The next Area IX meeting will be the Spring meeting that is usually held in April. No one has volunteered to host this meeting yet, so there is no date or location. There needs to be an election of officers for this group as they are currently do not have a Treasurer or a Secretary

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

E. Other:

1. Ted brought up a conversation about biochar and met with a representative who owns a company that creates biochar in Missouri.
2. Rebecca Ozeran, UCCE is doing a spray demonstration and asking for anything useful for their presentation. Another important item was that she was nominated to serve on the Fresno County Farm Bureau committee. In two weeks, she was wondering for their meeting as the Fresno County rep, what issues she needs to bring up. Big focus will be on the endangered species act and how it affects agriculture.

VII. Adjournment: 6:09pm

Next meeting: Monday, March 25, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski