



SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 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: 4:06 pm

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

Directors: Pete Lassotovitch (present by phone), Ted Kimbler, Alan Fry, Associate Director Gary Temple

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Craig Jones, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan, Neal Banta

Guests: Jae Lee, Rebecca Ozeran, Joy Hollingsworth

II. Approval of Minutes for June 2019 Board Meeting

Pete L. made the motion to accept the minutes for June 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)

No comments.

IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics:

- A. 2019/20 Annual Work Plan

Alan F. made the motion to give approve the annual work plan as presented.

Pete L. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Personnel and Contractors

Steve notified everyone that Neal Banta was just hired for SRCD. Neal shared that he just got out of emergency medical services and is happy to be a part of the team. Steve said Neal can cover a lot of basis, crew knowledge for safety, investment knowledge, and the forestry component. Steve wants to improve forestry activities that deal with biomass.

- C. Annexation Application of District – Board Resolution for LAFCo

One of the RCD's, Tranquility, is being reactivated. On a coordinated basis, the West side and the RCD's are going to go through a consolidation, and their influence will extend to highway 99 and include areas that are not currently served. SRCD will extend their boundary to the 99 on the east side. Steve drafted a SRCD board resolution. *Alan F. made the motion to give approval of the resolution. Pete L. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.*

- D. Website development & support Kristina

Kelly is working with Steve and Craig about the website and looking at making improvements. Craig talked about making a forestry tab and Kelly wants to put some posts up of the things that we are doing. more friendly with keeping posts up with things that we are doing more regularly.

- E. Candidates for directors: Doug Cockrell

Steve is trying to reach Doug to join the SRCD directors.

- F. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement & MOU –

Steve received a draft agreement with the SFC for an MOU to provide site control for SRCD to do applied research and it's application on rangeland areas. The mitigation agreement is continuing onward with the 168 council and the roundabout improvement. Sierra Foothill Conservancy is looking at working closer with SRCD for rangeland

health and working with our partners in an MOU, with some things they might be able to provide.

- G. Dinkey Collaborative- Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG
Steve went to the Dinkey Collaborative meeting last month. Steve wants the CCI to do a presentation there, because it will be helpful to landowners.
- H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
1. CA Forest Management Task Force – Sierra-Eastside Regional Group
Last Friday or Thursday was the last meeting. They are trying to get their feet on the ground, established, and operating. Their next meeting will be at the North Fork mill site, and they are conducting a tour. They will be talking about what they are doing in Fresno and Madera County.
 2. CFSC - Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction
Craig said this is moving a long really quickly now. There were several pre launch meetings. Now prepping for a launch, and getting ready to reach out to landowners. Meetings are happening with with CalFire planning chief and foresters, and the team did some mock assessments. Blair said he's looking forward to meeting with Julie at CalFire to talk about eh stewardship portion of the program because anything outside the defensible space around da house can go in a lot of different directions.
 3. CA Department of Conservation- Forest Health Watershed Coordinator and Tulare Basin
Alan signed the documents for \$235k and now it's back with the DOC waiting for it to be officially executed.
 4. CALFIRE Forest Health 2017 Award with USFS-SNF & 5 Yr Agreement
NRCS did a tour with SRCD at the Auberry Mill site with the gasifier and the biochar attachment. Lots of assistance with people visiting, lots of discussion on where it goes next, and what applications can come next with the gasifier. Ted and Lisa came with the forklift to help too.
Brian Beaty from MMR talked about setting up a trailer for \$200 a month as a portable office at the mill site. It can be used as demonstration. Using the gasifier and configuring the connections with to be a good use of the gasifier. Brian is looking at what is the most practical thing that it can be used for.
 5. CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health 2018 award
The agreement was sent out signed on SRCD's side, and is back with CAL FIRE to be signed on their side. Someone from CalFire would like to come down next thursday to meet with SRCD and the partners. They are going out to where the grants are approved and getting a site tour of the project areas.
 6. Auberry Mill Site- SNC CUP grant & Yosemite Clean
Jae from NRCS was impressed with the SRCD tour, and is looking at the gasifier for different ways to be applied to CA dairies. Not many people are looking at it for a larger scale at NRCS conservation, and most of it is really new. The exposure is good, and the tour was great for that.
 7. Setting up operations at AMS
For the tour there was training prior to the tour. All Power Labs were there, Craig put together the notes and photos for a checklist how to put it back on and running, Blair is trained, and will continue to look at possible locations from it. The next big question is where is the feedstock coming from for it. There is enough feedstock to do another demonstration, but the purpose is to use woody biomass. Blair said there needs to be a better sorting system for the feedstock as well.
 8. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)
Blair attended the first meeting and was introduced to the group. Craig recommends it and said the partners at the table are great and they care about what they are a part of. They are a great technical and regulatory resource.

9. CARCD/NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Last batch of EQIP selections were made. They received approval to increase single tree removal costs and believe they will get more activity with it in response to that.

I. Programs and Projects Status Report

Over 4 million in projects present at this time.

J. NRCS- Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ program

Not much update, it's basically another EQIP program, they already made their selections from the last batch.

K. NRCS- Conservation Pling & support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP

This program was on the cusp of critical change, the radio program was changing, and they decided to move forward. Looking at doing television advertising and going statewide.

L. Kings Basin Water Authority/So. Sierra IRWM/SGMA WG/ SGAs

Ted visited the last water meeting and was enlightened about the issues with the Friant/Kern damn and the needs of the canals and all the bridges as more water is being released.

M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Steve shared that there are a lot of awards that have come in and wants to make sure they are rolled out successfully.

N. Other

V. Financial Reports

A. 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

B. Line of Credit and Carbonator 500 purchase based upon A/R and grants

Once the agreements are fully executed, SRCD can go back to CVCB for the line of credit. Sierra Bank and Wells Fargo are more online banking friendly but SRCD wants something more local. CVCB will give a 300k line of credit if the agreements are put in place. Another bank called Community Visions is looking at funding SRCD and doing business with SRCD as well, they did a site visit to AMS.

C. Potential movement of bank account

D. Review & Approval of expenses

For the annual conference, SRCD usually sends 2-3, the question is whether SRCD sends 4-5. Steve believes a lot of the conference will be forestry based, and programs that we are involved with on the State level, and it will be good to have SRCD present. Steve is looking for approval of expenses of up to 5 people to attend the conference.

Alan F. made the motion to give approval for expenses for up to 5 people to attend the conference in November. Pete L. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report and Field Trip of Area-3 DCs to Auberry Mill Site Thursday, 6/27

Jae gave a positive report of NRCS meeting at the AMS.

B. RC&D Report

This report is Thursday.

C. CARCD – Forestry Committee /SJV Region (Area 9)

Steve volunteered to provide work to deliverables tied to what SRCD is doing when he met with the forestry committee. Steve met with Matt Angel twice to talk about Area 9 as being more and to pull together to work on opportunities together.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Representative of CA special districts came and visited and Steve gave them a tour.

E. Other

Rebecca shared there is a CAL FIRE grant about prescribed fires and their goal is to educate people on the process. She is involved with putting on some workshops for different groups and extended the invitation.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday, August 26th, 2019; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski