



MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:18 pm

A. Director Roll Call

Kelly Kucharski, Alan Fry, Blair Duncan, Gary Temple, Ted Kimbler, Steve Haze, Pete Lassotovitch.
Attendance was virtual on MS Teams.

B. Introduction of Guests

Directors: Alan Fry, Gary Temple, Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler

Associate Directors: Not present.

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan

Guests: Jae Lee (NRCS), Rebecca Ozeron (UCCE)

II. Approval of Minutes for July 2020 Board Meeting

Alan F. made the motion to accept the minutes for April 2020 as presented, Gary T. 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. Adoption of updated model Conflict of Interest Code

It was submitted and waiting for it to be approved.

B. NRCS Memorandum of Agreement

Has been signed from SRCD, it's in Sacramento to be signed by the State Conservationist and the CA association of RCDs.

C. CA Wildlife Conservation Board – SJR – Habitat-Public Access Resolution

For building a program with SJRC and the Wildlife Conservation Board, regarding the log hauling operations SRCD has been engaged with and supporting their efforts for building a habitat restoration and public access parkway along the San Joaquin River.

Alan F. made a motion to adopt the resolution as drafted. Gary T. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.



D. Annual Plan and 5 Year Long Range Plan 2020-25

Kelly (SRCD) called each of the board members and asked for their updates on the annual plan and the 5 year plan and sent out an updated draft to the Board of Directors for review. The board will need to discuss what these further involve as more updates are added from other members.

Alan Fry and Gary Temple asked for a manual with the procedures and board policies for SRCD. Kelly (SRCD) will send out to the board members on the policies that we have, in one document.

E. CA Conservation Corps Regional Campus and Sierra RCD Biomass Campus Partnership and Internship

Shawn Murphy (CCC) sent over documentation for SRCD to continue to proceed to establish an internship program with the CCC. Kelly and Blair (SRCD) drafted an intern job description. Ted Kimbler (SRCD) wants to be involved in building this partnership with the CCC and will be copied on future correspondence.

F. Phase 2 Community FireSafe and Stewardship Program

11 completed log deck removal projects to date, upwards of 1,600 logs, 229 thousand cubic feet of material, and 36 hundred tons of woody material that's now at the San Joaquin River Conservancy from off of the mountain.

Vance Flemming suffered a fatal accident while on another log hauling job. Matt Allen (SRCD contractor) does not have another log hauler right now. Blair is working on making contact with Matt on when he might be able to get another one. Six properties are ready to go at the moment. Landowners are very happy with the work that has been completed. Blair invited the board members to see how the operation is going, and to see the logs at the San Joaquin River Conservancy when things get started again. The logs are currently stacked and the uses SJRC is talking about are multiple; delineating roads and trails, habitat projects, and use to fill old gravel pits.

SRCD has a new hire, Faith McClure, who is a student at Reedley Community College. Her role is to help with what Kelly and Blair are doing. She is currently working only a few hours a week but showing a lot of interest and getting more involved.

Steve (SRCD) displayed the fuels reduction tracking sheet, which can update the board on the progress, the volumes, the number of logs, the CO2, and other working assumptions on the right hand side.

G. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program



Southern Sierra watershed program is moving along well, April invoice was approved and all the reports were submitted. Reports are submitted on a monthly basis, and can be made available to the board. Reports will be available on the website when the site is expanded for that capability.

H. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants- Community Water Systems & Meadows

Friday was the first field day for well water testing in Dunlap. It was attended by Dirk Charlie, Steve, and Kelly from SRCD, Jean and Angelah from CSU Eastbay, and Ryan from BSK. They tested 4 wells and one creek. They visited the Hall Ranch to collect samples from Mill Creek, because it is an upper watershed significant for flowing into Pine Flat Dam. The wells that were scheduled to be tested were the Dunlap community center, and Dunlap Elementary School. The Dunlap Leadership Center and Charlie Ranch were other well sites. This was a great starting basis for going to the next community, where Dirk will help lead the connection with Cold Spring Rancheria and Tule River Indian tribes. Kelly was trained on the sampling because the researchers might not be able to participate due to COVID 19.

Meadow restoration grant with the Sequoia National Forest and the SSRWMG with SRCD as the fiscal sponsor, the current step is getting through the pre-grant execution steps. Might be the first grant with DWR for green infrastructure for meadow restoration in the State of CA. This is with Trout Unlimited led by Jessica Strickland, where Trout Unlimited is doing the meadow restoration work once it gets going. The grant agreement is not fully executed yet.

I. Announcement of Funding Awards

These are tied into the SSRWMG that SRCD has been a member of for over ten years, and they asked SRCD to be the applicant.

1) NRCS – RCPP – AFT & 5-RCDs – SJV Conservation Collaborative

By October SRCD will be part of a ten million dollar Regional Partnership Program on the Valley Floor, for ag producers and will deal with soils and water and some of the conservation practice standards at NRCS. This will be over 5 years, about a quarter million dollars, Vue was going to be the SRCD employee doing this program. Once the funding and program start, SRCD will be doing the recruitment for this position. To discuss how this will roll out, the expectation by mid next year to start rolling it out, and providing technical assistance to the growers, with SWEEP. For 5 years and with 250 thousand dollars.

J. CARCD- LAFCo SOI & Annex. – Draft MSR submitted



No news or update about the submission for sphere of influence and annexation.

K. Website & District Enterprise Operations Development & support

Kelly updated she made progress with the DOC website, with an initial page online to view. The Sierra RCD website has a blog that has been getting a lot of traffic and viewers and followers. Kelly has been training Faith (SRCD) on the Enterprise Operations and using them with the SSRWMG to support their efforts.

L. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Com Plng & Socioeconomic WG

The Collaborative was approved for funding for the next 8 years but it still has to go through the Secretary of Agriculture, and reviewed by the Secretary and their staff for signature, and then the funding will have to be appropriated for it.

M. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU **(I)**

Looking at biochar production on a small scale basis, looking at chips being produced at the chipping place next to the SRCD site. Blair is in connection with All power labs and connecting the gasifier to the storage center, and the load center. Getting close to storing power in the power pod. Blair is helping troubleshoot the battery storage to get it up and running. It's complex with how it's working out and there are a lot of bumps because it is complicated. Brian Beaty installed the Pod and tied it into the grid there.

2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger **(I)**

The Forest Service is resourced constrained and they are moving slowly on the program, but it is amazing what progress they are doing under the conditions.

3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)**

Conditional use Permit has clearance and was approved for improvements made on the mill pond. Steve has met with Provost and Prichard with moving the study forward, a preliminary study to be done by the engineers and Yosemite Clean to get that taken care of in order to see it move it forward. The Mill pond improvements were signed off by the Department of Water Resources.

4) CARCD / NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program **(I)**



Nothing to report at this time. SRCD is looking at ways to help the NRCS because they are resource constrained at this time.

5) CARCD / Carbon Cycle Institute – Grand Bluffs FCP & Potential Sale **(I)**

Draft was completed by Craig Jones, is not a high priority at this time.

N. Programs and Projects Status Report

3.5 million in active projects at SRCD at this time. Steve (SRCD) is looking forward to the establishment of the grant program with the Wildlife Conservation Partners and the San Joaquin River Conservancy.

O. CARCD – DWR/NRCS/CDFA SWEEP & Healthy Soils for diverse small growers

Steve (SRCD) was notified that this program has a one year extension. With the loss of Vue Her, SRCD is looking for a new employee to run this program with SRCD. This came through the State Association with funding and will work with a local lab, Kern County RCD and Brian, who is one of the best irrigation testers in this network. Steve received the outreach list for small growers for technical assistance for their irrigation systems in the state of California.

P. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Reviewed the grant tracking list. The list is turning into developing programs that will support a various arrangement of projects. Some of the projects SRCD is not the lead, but the fiscal sponsor or the program manager, and provides admin and other types of support.

V. Financial Reports

A. Annual Audit.

Submitted to the auditor, Brian Jolley and Associates. It will be more expensive going forward because the audit is more complex.

B. Monthly Reports

Kelly K displayed for view the:

- Balance Sheet
- the Profit & Loss
- the Transactions by Account



- Central Valley Bank Summary

C. Review & Approval of expenses:

The researchers did not include the Charlie Ranch in their community profile for the wells that they selected for the program, each well was to only have 2 wells per community. Steve wants to include it as a good will gesture to Dirk for his efforts. Also, The researchers took more samples than were in the grant, but they said that they would not invoice for all of them. This may be an expense for approval in the future.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report

No report at this time.

B. RC&D Report – Closer Consultations Request - Next meeting 7/30

There was more focus and attention on what they are doing in Fresno and Tulare counties, and seeing more movement in that respect.

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

Kelly is reaching out to Laurel and area 9 to improve communications.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Nothing to report.

E. Other

Emergency Preparedness for livestock owners, Rebecca Ozeran is doing a webinar on the topic. Rebecca will send the information to Kelly to post that. Ted Kimbler knows a person that helps remove livestock in an emergency, Ted send it to Kelly and combine the information.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:05 pm

Next meeting: Monday, August 24th, 2020 MS Teams videoconference

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski