



## MEETING MINUTES

### **I. Call to Order: 4:18 pm**

#### A. Director Roll Call

Kelly Kucharski, Alan Fry, Blair Duncan, Ted Kimbler, Steve Haze, Faith McClure, John Heywood, Jae Lee, Rebecca Ozeron, Matt Hurley, Pete Lassotovitch. Attendance was virtual on MS Teams.

#### B. Introduction of Guests

Directors: Alan Fry, Pete Lassotovitch, Ted Kimbler

Associate Directors: Not present.

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan, Faith McClure

Guests: Jae Lee (NRCS), Rebecca Ozeron (UCCE), John Shelton (SJRC), Matt Hurley

### **II. Approval of Minutes for July 2020 Board Meeting**

*Alan F. made the motion to accept the minutes for August 2020 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. Introduction and welcoming of new staff: Faith, Kate, and Nanda

Displayed the new organization chart on the shared screen and introduced Nanda and Kate as new interns for the RCD. Faith McClure as new hire to assist Blair as the Forestry Field Assistant.

#### B. Camp Fire – Cal/OES/FEMA sessions and HMGP

Cal EPA is setting up at the former Auberry Mill Site. Hazmat clean-up later this week is starting with landowners. Glen Alan and Augie Ramirez from Fresno County visited the Ball Ranch last Friday and it may be utilized for additional material removal. The Hazard mitigation grant program will be an application for 9.25 million in partnership with the 168 Firesafe Council and the San Joaquin River Conservancy and the California Conservation Corp.



***Alan F. made a motion to carry the HMGP application forward, Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

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

SRCD District manager Steve submitted a concept proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the San Joaquin River Conservancy (SJRC) for 1.4 million looking at green infrastructure for habitat restoration, public access and management of public access. The initial review was submitted and now it's back to John Shelton (SJRC) to see how to move it forward. John Shelton and Steve will meet right away to address some concerns that Heidi from the WCB had.

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

Kelly (SRCD) will send out the 5 year plan again for a final review. She suggested an addition of the Creek Fire Recovery. Will be submitted to board for final approval in Jan 2021.

E. Phase 2 Community FireSafe and Stewardship Program

This grant program will be moved into Post-fire recovery work. Steve (SRCD) submitted a modification for re-allocation for recovery efforts and including a 6 month extension.

F. 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.

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

The SSRWMG has several community programs, including a meadow restoration piece that's in final review of agreement for the end of 2023 to complete the projects. The Creek Fire and Sequoia Complex Fires are impacting the potential work on these projects.

H. CARCD – SWEEP and AFT

Nanda (SRCD) is starting to work on this RCPP program that's for 10 million over 5 years. Brian Hawkett, who will be hired for the technical reviews is to meet with SRCD team tomorrow. There are 5 other RCD participating in this agreement. The kick-off meeting will be this month with all 5 RCDs.



**Sierra Resource Conservation District**  
**Monthly Board Meeting**  
Online MS Teams Meeting

Monday,  
October 26th,  
2020

4:00pm-6:00 pm

I. Announcement of Funding Awards

- 1) CRCS – Kings-Sequoia Gate. This award was very competitive, Sierra RCD the only one in the area awarded this for fire prevention. Kelly and Blair (SRCD) think this can start 11/1/2020. This agreement includes funding to provide the Oak to Timberline Firesafe Council to hire someone to help.
- 2) NRCS- Fire Response TA Agreement. This agreement is for Technical Assistance and fire assistance from Tahoe to the Tehachapi's to address post-fire response. This will require district coordination and could be the beginning of something bigger.

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 (SRCD) helped organize a communications meeting for the staff regarding internal communications and human resources. Steve (SRCD) provided guidance and recommendations regarding safety, communications, organization and cultural climate for the staff with our new Post Creek Fire team re-structuring.

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

Steve (SRCD) received an email from the collaborative thanking SRCD for their support. The last session was a 2 hour session in the area of research. In their Jan meeting they are hoping to reassess the purpose to collaborate due to the impact of the Creek Fire.

M. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

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

The campus has halted and subsided for now. The US EPA is setting up their operations at the mill site and the staff is focused on PAR development for post-fire at this time. The property assessment reports (PARs) are the evaluations that will provide the framework for biomass utilization.

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

Steve (SRCD) and the USFS are working on a re-allocation and extension to March 2023. It' has been approved but needs to be detailed out.



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

The air study by Provost and Pritchard was worked on this month to support the Conditional use permit moving forward.

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

This program will be for unimpacted landowners wanting work related to tree mortality.

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

No action at this time.

N. Programs and Projects Status Report

Total awards at 4.6 million, 84k in receivables and advancements just under 900k in the bank. There are 15 programs and projects in progress or about to launch.

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. Waiting to hear from CPA Lis Bundli, she is still recovering from the Creek Fire impact to her home and business.



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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: GIS/Data Analysis Laptop

The need for ARC GIS to make maps and having the right equipment to make those maps has arisen for data analysis. Dell Inspiron 5000 and ARCD GIS subscription totals \$1,337.

***Alan F. made a motion to purchase the laptop and subscription, Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

The CARCD conference is virtual this year and each board member and staff person can attend with the budgeted amount for regular in-person attendance.

***Alan F. made a motion to purchase conference attendance for all staff and directors, Ted K. seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

**VI. Reports:**

A. NRCS Report

Jae Lee reported a recap of their staffing, they filled some vacancies. Now have Mira Dick as admin for the region, Jacob Wright and Dave Singh as new engineers.

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

No report.

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

No report.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

No report.

E. Other



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Some 4 H families want to help with restoration and activities for Creek Fire. Intermountain nursery wants to help with growing and replanting.

Matt Hurley is working on another grant opportunity for SGMA watershed coordination. Also working on developing the Tulare Watershed Basin partnership Network, that can partner with SRCD for the Tulare basin with their rapid response projects.

Steve Haze is working on a partnership with Blue Forest, looking at options to support financing our efforts.

**VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:00 pm**

**Next meeting: Monday, January 25th, 2021 MS Teams videoconference**

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski