



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:05 pm

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

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

Staff Present: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan

Guests: Jae Lee (USDA/NRCS), Robert Jackson (Yosemite Clean), Matt Hurley (Tranquility RCD), Shawn Murphy (CCC)

II. Approval of Minutes for August, September & October 2019 Board Meetings

Ted K. made the motion to accept the minutes for August, September, & October 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. Candidates for Directors: Gary Temple

Alan Fry made a motion to accept Gary temple as a new board member, moving from his role as Associate Director of the District. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Directors – Bios, Advocacy and Support

Kelly will collect information for a bio from the board members, advisors, and staff and put it up on the website for guests to see.

- C. Biomass Resourcing – Australia: NDA, Letter of Intent & Supply Mgmt.

John Heywood and Steve Haze have been talking to an Australian company about pelletizing woody biomass.

- D. Penny/Newman – Regenerative Ag – Scott Porter, TCRCD potential MOU

In vertical tilling, one of the additives is carbon in the form of biochar. Steve would like to have board consent to meet with partners and do a site visit. Pete, Alan, and Ted (SRCD) are interested. *Alan Fry made a motion for Steve to connect with Penny Newman about*



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

a potential MOU for use of biochar in regenerative agriculture and groundwater recharge. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Personnel and Contractors – CA Conservation Corps Program

Shawn Murphy is the regional director for CCC. The region is from Madera to Bakersfield to the Monterey coast and is one of the largest regions. Their team is going to be coming to cut trees in Auberry and they are looking to bring the trees to the mill site because they are looking for carbon sequestration activities. They funded as a 60/40 split, 40 percent is reimbursement contracts and 60 is State funding. Their plans include adding a forest crew of two Cal Fire crews, renovating the former Auberry elementary school, and working with Revitalize Auberry Group. Their upcoming activities will be near the Auberry Mill Site, working for a projected 3 years in the best-case scenario and an initial investment of \$34 million. Shawn has a sample agreement with other RCDs they've worked with in the past, Steve said we have used interagency agreements. ***Ted K. made a motion to work on an agreement to work together with CCC on their Auberry projects. Alan F seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

F. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annex. – Draft MSR submitted

Everything was updated for the Municipal Services Report and submitted, no word yet on when it will be reviewed. Matt Hurley reported that there will be a presentation by Karen Buhr, Executive Director of CA Association of RCDs that will inform LAFCo about what RCDs are, and how Sierra RCD and Tranquility RCD are coordinating efforts. Region 9 is working with Jae Lee about getting the RCDs up and running and reducing fees 50 percent to move forward with that.

G. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support Kristina

Kelly gave a brief introduction to Microsoft Teams, and explained how the program is being used across the District for all activities.

H. Caltrans and Sierra Foothill Conservancy Mitigation Agreement & MOU

Caltrans is finishing off the interagency agreement, and it should be finalized this month. Cal Trans will transfer the money to SRCD, because SRCD is the fiscal sponsor for the agreement and the Sierra Foothill Conservancy is the recipient for performing the mitigation work for the establishment of the Prather round-about.

I. Dinkey Collaborative – Steering Committee, Communications Planning & Socioeconomic WG

There has not been a meeting recently, with the funding for the watershed program, SRCD can meet with them for economic development and research related activities.



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

J. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program

Matt Hurley is Watershed Coordinator B and Steve is Coordinator A. Matt has a legal background in law and is representing Tranquility RCD and is from McMullin GSA. The Watershed program is acting to adequately connect the upper watersheds with the Valley, and looking at productive projects, to stretch every gallon mother nature can provide for the Valley. The program is renewable for a second two years based on performance. At the wood utilization working group meeting Steve was asked to attend with the Governor's task force, the first time SRCD was asked to be there as a sanctioned partner. Steve showed a tiered chart about how these efforts are tied into State goals, regionals goals, and local goals. SRCD is funded and has the authority to move forward with this in the area from the upper San Joaquin River near Yosemite National Park to the Upper Kings River and all watershed down to the upper Kern River and into the Tulare Lake Basin.

K. DWR/Tulare County – SSIRWM Well Study for 3 Tribal Communities

SRCD was awarded with CSU Eastbay and Lawrence Livermore labs for SRCD to be doing water sampling. Tulare County Government will be developing a contract with the District.

L. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1. Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU
2. Potential for Carbonator 500 placed at AMS for demo purpose

SRCD has an opportunity to get a Carbonator 500. Looking at different ways to finance it.

3. Biochar Central, Chemists Without Borders – CSUF Jordan College

Blair will work with Biochar Central to be trained on these units and trained through video conferencing. If Blair gets them to work, then SRCD will be using all the units and will have a need for the carbonator.

4. CFSC – Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Fuels Reduction

Blair gave an update on CFSC program. Sent out six mailings, have completed 15 assessments and over 100 acres of property. Starting to get more word of mouth responses. Steve purchased two drones with HD cameras so Blair can use them and wants to purchase more forestry tools. Blair is looking to move forward to include technical numbers to put on the reports but remain understandable for landowners on their reports.



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

5. CAL FIRE Forest Health 2017 Award w/ USFS-SNF & 5-Yr Agreement – ends 3/20/2020

End of March will be the finishing point for the first program with the Sierra National Forest.

6. CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health 2018 Award – Executed Agreements

With this grant, SRCD is the grantee and the US Forest Service is the sub as a key partner. Business as usual, SRCD is looking at how to improve things. Almost 4 million dollars and the District is focused on private lands, most of the grant is for public lands. There may be a way the CCC can be involved in that project.

7. Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant & Yosemite Clean

Robert Jackson gave a presentation on Yosemite Clean and their technology focusing on zero emissions. Hydrogen for fuel can be created through gasifying wood without a smokestack and can create electricity for micro grids. With the biomass in CA, there is enough to sequester it and replace all diesel in CA in the next 1–15 years. Hydrogen is the key, and Yosemite Clean is moving in that direction. Auberry is one of the sites for the feasibility study, focusing on the ag community as the economic engine, as farmers feel the weight of pulling out their orchards every year. They are adding value to the wood through hydrogen. The technology is out of Austria, creating a syn gas. Starting their marketing campaign in February for locally owned plants, as a private industry solution. Have been going through the conditional use permit (CUP) process at the Auberry mill site with SRCD.

8. Setting up Operations at AMS

Work continues to move forward with setting up for operational activity in early Spring.

9. Fresno County Tree Mortality/Forest Health Task Force (TRAC)

The last meeting was in November, Blair has been attending and seeing what everyone has been up to. Everyone comes together and reports what they are working on.

10. CARCD / NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Takes multi-country project area and the state association in how money is being spent to take care of issues in our area. CARCD, NRCS area, and local partners will



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

understand where they are at and how to move forward, looking at the first implementation year in a 5-year program. RCPP takes some time to get off the ground.

11. CARCD / Carbon Cycle Institute – Grand Bluffs FCP & Potential Sale

SRCD to look at ability to acquire the remaining 10% value of the property, its value is about \$40k. Consent by the board is required to acquire the property as a forest site and look at a real estate loan. ***Alan F. made a motion to investigate a real estate loan to acquire the property. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.***

M. Programs and Projects Status Report

Estimated \$4.9 million in projects present at this time. 3 million in projected proposals. Cash flow management is a challenge currently.

N. NRCS- Diesel Tractor Replacement AQ program

This program is in limbo at the moment, no update at this time.

O. NRCS- Conservation Planning & support for SE Asian Specialty Growers/SWEEP

There is close to \$3.3K for the program left over. Jae suggested that it's time to wrap that program up, Steve will look to Jae (NRCS) for direction on the best use of those funds. No update yet on this.

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

Steve will be meeting with Steve Brandau, Board of Supervisors Fresno County, and the Kings River Conservation District regarding this program.

Q. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

Steve showed three submissions and two in process for grants.

R. Other

V. Financial Reports

A. Monthly Reports

Steve H displayed for view the:

- Balance Sheet
- the Profit & Loss



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

- the Transactions by Account
- Central Valley Bank Summary

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

Steve was contacted about the audit, Lis and Steve got everything together and passed every test for the audit. Once you reach over \$750K in Federal Grants you must have a separate audit as well.

C. Review & Approval of expenses: Truck, warranty & insurance /Security Camera

Steve purchased a truck for SRCD. He would like to have it transferred to the District. Approximate cost of \$13K for district activities for Blair at the mill site or any employee authorized for district business. Down payment, payoff, warranty and insurance. **Alan F. made a motion to transfer the vehicle down payment, payoff, warranty, and insurance to the District for District use. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Steve purchased a brand new 26-foot Greywolf camping trailer and placed it at the mill site for employees. It is set up for solar and the truck can pull it. This is Steve's donation for the district for getting the truck. This provides an option for people driving up to the site and coming back in the same day.

Security arrangement for the site is needed. Alan F. made a motion for Steve to look into a security camera set. Ted K seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve submitted a \$250K line of credit to Community Vision with Alan Fry. It used to be called Northern California Community Loan Fund. They want to know more about how this credit will serve the community and the demographics as well.

VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report

Jae gave a report from the NRCS. Bobby Evans and Blair have done some training, and Blair will be behind the firewall, and see how they work at NRCS. Jae said the PAR looks great, and they are getting Blair accustomed to NRCS reports. Jae will have more detail next month

B. RC&D Report – Next meeting 1/30

Annual Meeting is October, the last Thursday of the month.



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Clovis Memorial Building
453 Hughes, Room 2
Clovis, Ca. 93612

Monday,
January 27, 2020
4:00pm-6:00 pm

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

Steve participated in the forestry meeting.

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses

Nothing to report.

E. Other

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:30 pm

Next meeting: Monday, February 24th, 2020; 4:00pm – Room 2

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Kucharski