



MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order: 4:07pm

A. Director Roll Call

Gary Temple, Pete Lassovitch, Ted, Alan Fry

B. Introduction of Guests

Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Ian Ashby, Blair Duncan, Justin Morgan, Faith McClure, Matt Hurley, Mark Huston, Jacob Wright (NRCS), John Heywood (People Land and Food)
Attendance was virtual on MS Teams.

II. Approval of Minutes

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 of Melanie Broderson.

New employee for SRCD assisting bookkeeping and administration.

B. Board Resolution 02-2021 – CAL FIRE: Fire Prevention Grant

Gary temple made a motion to approve the resolution, Pete seconded it and all in favor approved- for board resolution for the approval for the Cal Fire proposal.

C. REEP and Proton Power & Community Futures – site visits to AMS & SFP **(I)**

D. Creek Fire - Cal-OES/FEMA sessions and HMGP \$9.75M max – 5/1 due date

E. Phase 2 Highway 168 Community Fire Safe and Stewardship Program

F. Creek Fire Recovery - Volunteer workdays – Shaver Springs & Mile High

G. Kings-Sequoia Gateway Communities FireSafe & Stewardship Prgm w/OTFSC

This program started in November 2020 and started PARs in February 2021, which are now being changed to Fire Risk Evaluations by name. The SRCD staff has completed close to 20 PARs in about



2 months. The SRCD staff is meeting with the OTFSC to review the status of the program and talk about implementation steps and outreach efforts.

H. CARCD/NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA

Johnnie Siliznoff will be acting as the new DC for Fresno County for some time, the workload there is huge, 150 active contracts, and batching period is large. They do not have a range con or a forester in Fresno. Jacob said they are hiring more forestry staff at NRCS office.

I. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program

Extension through February and redirection of funds for sequoia fire recovery

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

Kelly and Steve (SRCD) have reached out to Cold springs tribe and have set up series of water samples to be tested. Deadline is end of June 2021. Meadow restoration is ready for Katie Wilcox and Kelly to execute project. Dead line is 2023.

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

Funds are depleted but there may be a session in June 2021

L. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

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

Steve will be reaching out to Ringgold (AMS) and Yosemite clean will be submitting forms for approval.

2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger – COVID19 Extension **(I)**

Extension to March 2023-Kelly has site visit with Christine S. (USFS) June 1st, 2021 to see planting project results.

3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant- 1 year Extension thru 12/31 **(I)**



Blair's working on Bio char machine June 1st, 2021 and with tech partner June 7th, 2021.
Gurbinder plans to bring agriculture pruning UC Merced to the mill.

4) CalRecycle /Cal-OES and Assigned Contractors

Blair (SRCD) has been managing project with AAA.

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

This item has been put on hold at this point in time. Grand Bluffs is the 240 acre private forest conversation easement SRCD has where some of the KREW research is being conducted.

M. Announcement of Funding Awards

1) PG&E Grant with YSRCD - \$22,500

Fuels reduction in Creek Fire area. 10 properties within 100 ft of PG&E property. Deadline is October 2021

2) CA Dept of Food & Ag – CUSP \$94,214

Aid for underserved farmer and ranchers to provide technical assistance and outreach. Short term interns and contractors may be hired to assist with program.

N. CARCD/CDFA SWEEP & NRCS/AFT Healthy Soils for diverse small growers

Justin Morgan and Gurbinder Kang (SRCD) have been working on launching this program. Justin been at SRCD for two months now and have a list of 43 growers in Fresno County who have received funding from CDFA in 2019, for drip irrigation system improvements. SRCD's role is to identify if they have completed their enhancement and efficiency projects and see if they are interested in evaluation, with distribution uniformity testing. They are also working on identifying farmers who are growers who have traditionally not have had access to these kinds of programs. A lot of growers haven't completed their projects, some are not calling back yet. First on site visit happened last month, a young and new farmer, who might be interested in the evaluation phase. Justin and Gurbinder are working on making connections or relationship through the UCCE and NRCS with the growers they are actively engaged with. Gurbinder to help with the association of Punjabi farmers in Fresno. Outreach for SWEEP testing and project improvement for conservation practices.

O. CARCD- LAFCo SOI & Annex. – KRCA & MOU – Watershed Coordinator



SRCD scheduled June 9th, 2021 at 1:30 to finalize report for approval SOI and Annex certification. Update annexation to begin.

P. Programs and Projects Status Report

4.5 million in awards and 15 million in proposals.

Q. Grant Opportunities Tracking List

V. Financial Reports

A. Annual Budget Review

Increase of 18,000 approx. In total fixed and discretionary expenses. Gary made motion to approve projected budget. Pete Lassovitch and Alan Fry second the motion. Ted unaccounted for.

B. Annual Audit Prep

Steve will give total costs for audit prep in June. Gary made motion to proceed with audit preparation. Alan Fry and Pete Lassovitch second the motion.

C. Monthly Reports

Displayed for view the:

- Balance Sheet
- the Profit & Loss
- the Transactions by Account
- Central Valley Bank Summary

D. Review & Approval of expenses

VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report
- B. RC&D Report
- C. CARCD – Forestry Committee /SJV Region (Area 9)
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCO Responses
- E. Other – Articles, stories and blogs



Sierra Resource Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting
Online MS Teams Meeting

Monday, May
24th, 2021
4:00pm-6:00 pm

VII. Adjournment: Meeting end 6:06 pm

Next meeting: Monday, June 28th, 2021 MS Teams videoconference

Respectfully Submitted, Faith McClure