

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 26, 2021, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Clovis Memorial Building – Room 2, 453 Hughes, Clovis, Ca. 93612 and via MS Teams

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order** President
- A. Director roll call
Pete Lassotovitch, Gary Temple, Alan Fry, Gary Temple
Staff: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Blair Duncan, Ian Ashby, Justin Morgan
- B. Introduction of guests
John Heywood (People Food and Land Foundation), Robert Jackson (Yosemite Clean), Jacob Wright (NRCS), Mikhael Kazzi (NRCS)
- II. Approval of Minutes for April 26, May 24 & June 28 (as required)** Directors
- All minutes were approved at the last board of Director's meeting. The June minutes were not sent out.
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the Agenda (No Action can be taken)**
- Ted Kimbler has moved to Kentucky and his official last day was August 1st, 2021. He will need to fill out a form 700 for his exit for his position on the board.
- IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics -- (I): Info / (A) Action**
- A. Madera-Chowchilla RCD / Other RCDs – Support in Area 9 **(I)** Directors
Amy Silzonoff is the new RCD President for Chowchilla, she met with Justin Morgan (SRCD) and Matt Hurley (Tranquility RCD) on how to grow Agricultural programs through the partnering RCD's.
- B. REEP and Proton Power & Community Futures **(I)** Directors / District Advisor
Community Futures has a group of investors that wants to help with rural partners, they were interested in connections that we can make for them.
- C. Kings-Sequoia Gateway FireSafe & Stewardship Program w/OTFSC **(I)** Staff
Fire Risk Evaluations are on their way in the community close to 25 completed. Two workdays started and chipping will be completed soon. Looking at contractors to hire to help with improving defensible space with the local landowners. The team completed some projects working with Team Rubicon, hiring crews, the Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council is thrilled with the work that's been completed. Ian Ashby has helped build our safety program as the new safety officer. They are providing a lot of leadership for the community with the community workday model, providing
- D. CARCD / NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA **(I)** J. Silzonoff DC / Staff / DM
Blair Duncan (SRCD) will pick up his Linc Pass on September 20th. Blair is meeting with Alex Davis from Coarsegold RCD to show what the FRE's are about training them with a visit to Sugar Pine Camp and then Calvin Crest Camp. The program will integrate the resources with the RCD to provide additional support for post-natural disasters, such as floods, wind storms, and fire.
- E. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program **(I)** DM / WSC-B / TBWP
Running through February 2022.
- F. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants – Community Water Systems & Meadows **(I)** Staff / DM

The community water systems, were able to complete all the sampling before the deadline in spite of COVID 19, Dunlap band of Mom Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria, and the Tule River Indian Tribe. The samples are back at Lawrence Livermore Labs and BSK labs.

The Meadow Restoration Project just was started this year, it's a 440K agreement with the DWR, SRCD is the fiscal sponsor as part of the SSRWMG.

- G. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG **(I)** DM/Develop Advisor/Staff
There was a 2 day field trip in June. Met and networked with a conservation and first responder professionals. They went over the Creek Fire and we visited the Forest Service's work on the CCI Forest Health Agreement with Sierra RCD.
- H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
- 1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU **(I)** DM / Development Advisor
Recently the Volt and the EV's were charged and ran off of wood chips with the power pallet.
 - 2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger **(I)** DM / District Admin
Kelly (SRCD) will be taking over some of the administration on the grant working more closely with Kris Gibson (USFS).
 - 3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)** DM / DA / Tech Partner
A \$1,200 fee was paid for a CUP revision and the check came from Yosemite Clean for the revision fee. The CUP is back on track for approval. Without a land deal Yosemite Clean has been held back on company development.
 - 4) CalRecycle / Cal-OES and Assigned Contractors – log deck removal **(I)** FOS / DM
No updates. AAA, Mobraw and other processing contractors are headed up to the Dixie Fire. There are constraints for local resources to commit to local needs, due to the ongoing other fires in the State.
- I. SWEEP, NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative, CDFA CUSP and NRCS CIC for producers **(I)** A&RPM / DM
Justin Morgan (SRCD) is leading the Agriculture Program for SRCD. Outreach has increased for SWEEP for producers who completed their SWEEP projects. A short list of producers have been identified and will be provided the follow up service when they have completed their SWEEP projects.

Gurbinder Kang was added as an intern from the Jordan College of Engineering at Fresno State this year soon after Justin Morgan was hired for the Agricultural programs. Gurbinder Kang is part of the Punjabi Community and has been assisting with SRCD Punjabi outreach.

The CDFA CUSP is outreach to small growers and local producers for the next two years. There is some funding for some short term workers, and finding other candidates to help with the CUSP program. Justin (SRCD) is looking at hiring other Jordan College Interns to assist with the outreach and support as part of the two year program.

NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative is an additional funding program that is a national award announced over a year ago, it's a ten year national award as a regional approach to groundwater sustainability through conservation planning. There is a short term agreement to carry through the next four months. There are 5 RCDs in the agreement through the SJV and a section in the critically over-drafted groundwater basins in CA. The RCDs are working with AFT for conservation planning to do conservation planning for 100,000 acres. To meet individual producer challenges and conservation practices that have tangible impacts on groundwater conservation and recharge. Every RCD needs qualified NRCS conservation planners.

Conservation Incentives Contracts, a pilot program launched a few months ago with 22.7 million dollars for drought, wildfire, climate change, and one other major resource constraint. CA, CO, ID and WA are the 4 States involved in the rollout of the program. This program is starting with the Grand Bluffs property as part of the conservation easement.

Justin showed a one page of what is all available in the Agricultural Program for the RCD, that will be passed out to the Board of Directors.

- J. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annexation – **(I)** Directors / DM
There is a letter to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors that was given LAFCo with some groups and agencies that are against SRCD annexing the rest of Fresno County. Some of their concerns include a new tax. State associate from the CARCD is meeting with Steve this week, they funded the expansion request. LAFCo will vote on August 11th. The Board wasn't to Steve to continue to go through the process. The Board is fighting for the annexation to happen.
- K. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support **(I)** District Admin/Consultant
No updates at this time.
- L. Programs & Projects Status Report **(I)** Staff / District Manager
No updates at this time.
- M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List **(I)** District Manager
No updates at this time. Steve is looking at a planning grant for Community Resilience available up to 200K for this grant, where People, Food, and Land and the Creek Fire Recovery Collaborative as a part fo the process. Possibly September 15th due date.

V. Financial Reports

- A. Annual Audit Prep **(I)** Treasurer / District Mgr.
Still prepping for the Annual Audit. The financials were sent to the Board of Directors as unaudited.
- B. Monthly Reports **(I)** Treasurer / District Mgr.
No update at this time.
- C. QuickBooks Online Migration **(I)** DP&A / District Mgr.
No update at this time.
- D. Review & Approval Expenses Directors
No update at this time.

VI. Reports:

- A. NRCS Report Johnnie Siliznoff, DC
- B. RC&D Report – next mtg 7/29 DP&A / District Mgr.
- E. CARCD – Forestry Committee / SJV Region (Area 9) Directors / District Mgr.
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses Directors / District Mgr.
- E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs All

Creek Fire Recovery Event this Saturday on the 31st.
Meeting End 6:18pm

VII. Adjournment...Next Meeting: Monday, August 23, 2021 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams

To make changes/additions/corrections please call or email: Kelly Kucharski – 856-2093 / kkucharski@sierrarc.com