

# MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2022, 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, Alan Fry, Gary Temple.
  - B. Introduction of guests  
Staff: Steve Haze, Justin Morgan, Alyssa Flores, Chelsea Hutchens, Kelly Kucharski  
Guest: Brian Beaty, Mikhael Kazzi, John Heywood
  
- II. **Approval of Minutes for October 25, 2021, and January 24, 2022** Directors

Dollar sign instead of Jan in notes, dollar sign instead of number 4. **Alan Fry made a motion to approve the notes, Gary seconded it, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
  
- III. **Public Comment for any item not on the Agenda (No Action can be taken)**

Pete declined to be on the SIGMA committee because of too many conflicts.
  
- IV. **SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics -- (I): Info / (A) Action**
  - A. Addition of senior staff for Executive Director **(I) (A)** Directors

Part-time employee to work at Sierra RCD on biomass utilization and with Justin and Kelly for the Forestry and Watershed and Ag and Rangeland Positions. This position is second-tier support and looking at succession planning for Sierra RCD. Referred by Shawn Murphy with the California Conservation Corps. **Alan Fry made a motion to approve the part-time employee as senior staff, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
  - B. Participation with Fresno County EDC and ATIP Regional Program **(I) (A)** Directors

Gina with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation is inviting Sierra RCD into a Regional Program as in-kind donations with Sierra RCD time to participate in the Program  
**Alan Fry made a motion that Sierra RCD participates in the ATIP Regional Program, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
  - C. Field Office arrangement with SJR Conservancy Lane Ave. **(I)** Directors

Lanes property office was visited by Steve Haze and Kelly Kucharski, The San Joaquin River Conservancy is moving forward with the paperwork to approve an office space for Sierra RCD at that location.
  - D. Personnel and other related policies **(I) (A)** Directors / DP&A

Board requested to table until the next board meeting approval of the changes to the handbook.
  - E. MMR / Woodard/Curran Proposal **(I) (A)** Directors/ED/DDA

Steve and John visited Proton Power in Tennessee last week. The company was founded in 2009. The degree to which they have products of the gasification process, John will be asking some follow-up questions, there are some gaps but overall was very impressed. A representative of the Woodward/Curran will be going there as well with an engineer and Brian and MMR, what are the other things that need to be determined upfront without a solid recommendation to the board to address concerns with the risks for a feasibility study with MMR and Woodward/Curran jointly. John said feedstock and ongoing supply of feedstock to recoup the investment, site control, technology, offtakes, operations, maintenance and management at a continuous rate, sound pollution (grinder), and finance (Cutting Edge Capital) are the areas of most concern.
  - F. Kings-Sequoia Gateway FireSafe & Stewardship Program w/OTFSC **(I)** Staff

This program has not had much action in the last month because the SRCD Forestry Team has been working on Creek Fire Recovery work with the AmeriCorps team. Chelsea Hutchens and Ian Ashby (SRCD staff) have been out in the field every day working on clearing brush and pile burning with Sierra RCD Americorps Team

Blue Team 6. Blue Team 6 is moving to Pinehurst tomorrow to stay in the Sequoia Forest barracks to begin doing brush removal on HWY 180 properties.

- G. CARCD / NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA **(I)** J. Siliznoff DC / Staff / DM  
The first annual report and invoice was submitted and approved for Area 3- Tahoe to Tehachapi.
- H. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program **(I)** DM / WSC-B / TBWP  
This grant ends today, it was a resounding success, out of the 8 grants that were awarded, this grant exceeded what they expected and anticipated. It ended due to the legislation not passing for more funding.
- I. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants – Community Water Systems & Meadows **(I)** Staff / Exec. Director  
Pineridge and Alder Springs are the second and third of up to 6 testing's under the agreement with Lawrence Livermore Labs. Meadow Restoration is on halt for the winter, will pick up in May.
- J. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG **(I)** DM/Develop Advisor/Staff  
No report about the Collaborative at this time.
- K. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
- 1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU **(I)** DM / Development Advisor  
This hasn't moved forward, the Creek Fire was a tremendous impact.
  - 2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger **(I)** Executive Director  
CalFire felt Sierra RCD did not get the work done on this grant. Further correspondence is in order to continue. A decision was made without any ground conferring with partners in Sacramento to stop this grant program.
  - 3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)** DM / DA / Tech Partner  
Yosemite Clean made a commitment to respond to the APCD's questions, this has not been completed yet. The extensions on the grant came from Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
  - 4) Teaming with Highway 168 FSC on contract bidding **(I)** FOS / ED  
Peterson Road Project, went out for bid and a contractor was selected for seven properties
- L. SWEEP, NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative, CDFA CUSP and NRCS CIC for producers **(I)** A&RPM / ED  
The NRCS/SFT SJV Collaborative has monthly meetings to go through new changes as they are moving into new phases. The CDFA program is outreach and technical assistance, SRCD continues to do outreach and get word out to producers for opportunities. Justin had a visit outside of North Fork 80 acre site of cultivated Agriculture to work with them to write a Carbon Farm plan and putting together some funding for implementation. Alyssa produced a SRCD newsletter for the Ag Program to a list of about 50 farmers. NRCS CIC contracts program with West Grand Bluffs funded last fall, looking to do the implementation of the work this Spring or Summer. The implementation is an impending cultural review, waiting for the archeologist to get out on the site.
- M. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annexation – Updated Legal Description **(I) (A)** Directors / ED  
Completed on the annexation, have to do a legal description to work with the Assessor's Office on assisting with this process, to be completed within the year. **Alan Fry made a motion to work on Lafco Maps with the Assessors Office, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted, the motion passed unanimously.**
- N. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support **(I)** District Admin/Consultant  
Alyssa Flores (SRCD) has been assisting with the website updates.
- O. Programs & Projects Status Report **(I)** Staff / Exec. Director
- P. Grant Opportunities Tracking List **(I)** District Program Admin
- Office of Emergency Services, Prepare California, for a 1 million dollar grant proposal for a year or two ago for drawing heavily by the Department of Conservation and Sierra RCD in one of 8 RCDs to take part about the watershed and coordinate outreach and educational efforts to the agricultural community to create a regional approach to watershed management that takes into account SIGMA plans for over-drafted basins. Shared staff within the San Joaquin Valley, water conservationists, and outreach coordinator, it's basically for staffing to work throughout this area- the San Joaquin Hydrological Region.
  - OEP Grant had a review with Kelly on 3 applications for the Outdoor Equity Program last week, the State had \$56 million for this program and over \$130 million was requested. Good sign that Cal Parks are asking for more information but grant awards will be announced in May.

- Block Grant with CARCD for outreach and Support for underserved communities, 10 or 20 RCDs for 30k for over 2 years to do the work, NRCS funded it at 70% and refined the scope, this was submitted today from Justin Morgan (SRCD).
- Wildlife Conservation Board, Carbon Farm planning and Habitat Restoration block grant, pre-proposal for the grant, and Sierra RCD to spend over 5 years to do Carbon Farm Planning on 3 demonstration areas, Kent Kinney Kings River, Ball Ranch, and North Fork.

**V. Financial Reports**

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| A. Annual Audit <b>(I)</b>  | Treasurer / Exec. Director |
| Board received the final report and made it through well, considering the transition things are going through. This was a complex audit, with so many items on it.  |                            |
| B. Monthly Reports <b>(I)</b>   | Treasurer / Exec. Director |
| No reports at this time.  |                            |
| C. QuickBooks Online Migration <b>(I)</b>   | DP&A / ED                  |
| No update at this time.   |                            |
| D. Review & Approval Expenses – <b>(I) (A)</b> – MMR  | Directors                  |
| Pete gave tacit approval for \$2,000 for expenditures for continued due diligence for Woodward Curran within the \$147,000 proposal as an allocation for an onsite visit. <b>Alan Made a motion to approve the allocation of \$2,000 within the \$147,000 proposal to approve the engineer site visit from Woodward Curran to Proton Power, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.</b> |                            |

**VI. Reports:**

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| A. NRCS Report –  | Johnnie Siliznoff, A3 AC |
| Extended the Cover Crop Initiative, anyone who wants to plant cover crops there is a lot of funding available. Everyone who applied for cover crop assistance was funded. CIC program is open until April 1 <sup>st</sup> . The office has a new Farm Bill assistant that was hired. Two new pathway students are coming to the office in May. McMullian RCD is looking for funding for carbon sequestration. Steve Haze (SRCD) asked for the working groups to continue. |                          |
| B. RC&D Report – Meeting – 01/27  | DP&A / Exec. Director    |
| New hires with YSRC&D, Rubie left the organization.   |                          |
| E. CARCD – Forestry Committee – Reappointed & Regional Rep  | Directors / ED           |
| D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses  | Directors / ED           |
| E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs   | All                      |

**VII. Adjournment 6:06pm...Next Meeting: Monday, March 28, 2022 – 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](mailto:kkucharski@sierrarc.com)