

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, March 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, Alyssa Flores, Chelsea Hutchens, Kelly Kucharski, Karin Roux  
Guest: Brian Beaty, Mira Dick, Brook Fuller, Matt Hurley, John Heywood
- II. Approval of Minutes for September 27, 2021, January 24 & February 28, 2022** Directors
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the Agenda (No Action can be taken)**  
Suggestion of meeting time to start at 3pm by Pete Lassotovitch.
- IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics -- (I): Info / (A) Action**
- A. Introduction of Karin Roux – District Develop & Elizet Gomez – Forestry (I) Directors  
Karin and Elizet are new employees with the District, they were introduced to the board members.
- B. District Investment Policy (I) (A) Directors  
The CA Special District Association had a template investment policy that was presented to the board to adopt.  
**Alan Fry made a to adopt the template investment policy, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Updated Long Range Plan based on LAFCo (I) (A) Directors  
The long-range plan is in draft to accommodate the changes made to expand the District boundaries. The general manger reviewed and provided comments and it will be presented at the next board meeting.
- D. Governor’s Office of Planning & Research – Feedstock Aggregation (I) (A) Directors/Dev’l Advisor  
SRCD wants to put together a plan to work with the governor’s office on feedstock aggregation and will be the 6<sup>th</sup> site for the State and the only one in the region.  
**Alan Fry made a motion that Sierra RCD participates in putting together a plan, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- E. MMR / Woodard/Curran Proposal; Insurance (I) (A) Directors/ED/DDA  
The feasibility study is to see if there are any red flags as a part of this biomass energy proposed project. The study is also something that can be backed out at any time. The review of the nondisclosure statement and the investment with CEC was provided by District Development Officer John Heywood.  
**Alan Fry made a motion to take the next step for the feasibility study at 147k, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**  
**Alan Fry made a motion to take the next step to enter a nondisclosure statement with AON, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**  
**Gary Temple made a motion to approve the feasibility study with CEC capital investment for phase one (10k estimated), Alan Fry seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- F. Native Plant Operation (I) (A) Directors/ED/DDA  
The District Development Advisor and District Manager are seeking approval to pursue financing for a local nursery for conifer and other native plants species for the area through Sierra RCD.  
**Alan Fry made a motion to further study and pursue a nursery for restocking forested material, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- G. District and Grants Development & Programs Support Exec. Dir / Dist Dev’l Staff

Karin Roux (SRCD) is stepping into the role of supporting the District Programs, District ED, and potentially the Board of Directors.

- H. Craig School of Business -- Marketing Students Exec. Dir / Dist Dev'l Staff  
Five marketing students to develop a marketing plan for a community-based organization was set up with Sierra RCD, Karin (SRCD) Is leading this opportunity.
- I. Participation with Fresno County EDC and ATIP Regional Program (I) Directors / Dev'l Advisor  
The ATIP Regional Program is working with the EDC Fresno on workforce development and biomass utilization, SRCD has pursued the ways to develop that partnership.
- J. Field Office arrangement with SJP Conservancy Lane Ave. (I) Admin & District Dev'l Staff  
No update at this time, still waiting to hear from Rebecca for the paperwork.
- K. Personnel and other related policies (I) (A) Directors/ DP&A  
The handbook was updated by District Programs and Admin, Kelly, and was presented to the board for review for approval.  
**Alan Fry made a motion to adopt the new changes to the handbook, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**
- L. Kings-Sequoia Gateway FireSafe & Stewardship Program w/OTFSC (I) Staff  
Cedarbook Project this last weekend was a complete success with over 100 people who came to volunteer, clearing defensible space around ten cabins. This program with the AmeriCorps Team in the past three months has removed over 100,000 cubic feet of woody debris
- M. CARCD / NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA (I) J. Siliznoff DC / Staff / DM  
No update at this time.
- N. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program (I) DM / WSC-B / TBWP  
Steve Haze (SRCD) is working on the final reports on the grant program. The funding sunset for a future program and the DOC reported that SRCD may have over delivered on the results based on the amount of funding for the program.
- O. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants – Community Water Systems & Meadows (I) Staff / Exec. Director  
The four-meadow restoration was inactive due to winter, they pushed it to June to start up again on the meadow restoration work. The water sampling will start again soon with Chelsea Hutchens (RCD) taking the lead on the project.
- P. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG (I) DM/Develop Advisor/Staff  
The collaborative has funding again and looking to start things back up for in-person, online, and in-person field trips.
- Q. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development  
1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU (I) DM / Development Advisor  
Nothing to report at this time outside previous agenda items.  
2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger (I) Executive Director  
The letter from CalFire was sent to the Board of Directors. CalFire is accepting the revised invoicing by the other partners.  
3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant (I) DM / DA / Tech Partner  
Yosemite Clean is working with Provost and Pritchard to complete the CUP study for 51k.  
4) Teaming with Highway 168 FSC on contract bidding (I) FOS / ED  
Peterson Road Project, Will Wintersteen is the LTO and is working on the exemptions and contacting the landowners about the work. Waiting to hear for a start date soon.  
Informational update on Blue Forest, as a working group for
- R. NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative, CDFA CUSP and NRCS CIC for producers (I) A&RPM / ED  
Alyssa Flores (SRCD) made an update that the applications for RCPP by April 1<sup>st</sup> and are reaching out for the second round of the CUSP grant. Justin has been meeting with a lot of small producers to enroll them into the program. The conservation Easement side Karin (SRCD) is helping work on that process for the program.
- S. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annexation – Updated Legal Description (I) (A) Directors / ED  
Steve Haze is working on the updated legal description for the new District Boundaries.
- T. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support (I) District Admin/Consultant

Alyssa Flores (SRCD) has been assisting with the website updates. Developing a Community Workdays page since 2020 as well as a calendar for all the District events.

U. Programs & Projects Status Report (I) Staff / Exec. Director

Karin is going to work on the programs and projects update list for the Board of Directors. Karin will be working on demographics for the District EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion).

V. 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.
- CFSC SFA Grant program.
- CARCD and CalFire Wildfire Resilience Block Funding Program.

## V. Financial Reports

A. Monthly Reports (I) Treasurer / Exec. Director

a. P&L, Transactions report July-March 27th

B. QuickBooks Online Migration (I) DP&A / ED

C. Review & Approval Expenses – (I) Directors

Range Camp Program with UCCE program with Half Moon Bay. The Range Society holds a camp there for high school students, Sierra RCD has been sending kids to go there. Sierra RCD would like to send two youth there this year from FFA. **Gary Temple made a motion to provide 1k to sponsor two kids to the range camp, Alan Fry Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Alan Fry made a motion not to exceed \$750 for a going-away celebration for NCCC team, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**

## VI. Reports:

A. NRCS Report – RCD Local Working Group 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 – Next Meeting 4/28 DP&A / Exec. Director

D. CARCD – Forestry Committee Directors / ED

D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses Directors / ED

E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs All

## VII. Adjournment 6:34pm...Next Meeting: Monday, April 25, 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)