

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order** President
A. Director roll call
Board of Directors: Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Gary Temple
SRCD Staff: Karin Roux, Chelsea Hutchens, Elizet Gomez, Alyssa Flores, Justin Morgan, Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski
B. Introduction of guests
John Heywood (People Food and Land Foundation, District Development Advisor), Alex Hepler (NRCS), Mira Dirck (NRCS), Rebecca Ozeran (UCCE)
- II. **Approval of Minutes for August 23, October 25, 2021 & March 28, 2022** Directors
Alan Fry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for Jan, Feb, March 2022. Gary Temple 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)**
- IV. **SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics – (I): Info / (A) Action**
- A. Director applications to Clerk of the Board of Supervisors – NLT 7/6 (I) Directors
Steve Haze (SRCD) informed the board of directors that these forms are available and need to be filled out.
- B. Letters of Support for AB1902 (Div. 9), 1776 (Payments) & 2878 (Biomass) (I) (A) Directors
Steve Haze was requested to write a letter of support from the RCD State Association to approve the legislation to modernize RCD's, and about penalizing agencies that are late on payment, and another to support biomass utilization.
Alan Fry made a motion that SRCD supports these three efforts with a letter of support. 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 (5yr RCD plan 2020-2025) was updated based on the conversations with the Water Districts as part of the LAFCo hearings.
Alan Fry made a motion to approve the modified 5year long range plan. Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. Field Office arrangement w/ PFL, Auberry (I) (A) Directors
There is an Oak Knoll office complex when approaching the 4 lanes from Auberry, and a room of 550 or 600 sq feet and a single room available for office space with People Food and Land Foundation. There will be a \$320-\$350 monthly office space available with John Heywood and People, Food and Land Foundation. This could serve as a field office for the forestry team.
Gary Temple made a motion to approve the office rental space at Oak Knoll at \$350 a month, depending on utilities. Alan Fry seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. Governor's Office of Planning & Research – Feedstock Aggregation (I) Directors / Dev'l Advisor
Steve Haze met with the project manager on this project in Sacramento on Thursday. They are still in the process for a proposal for the pilot program, the other 5 recipients of the grant from OPR are engaged, and starting to kick this project off in the next couple of months. All Area 9 of the RCD's might be included as a part of the project for the area. The other 5 sites are north of Yosemite and this 6th site will bring in the Southern Sierra's.
- F. MMR / Woodard-Curran Proposal; Finance & Insurance (I) Directors/ED/DDA
MRR and Woodard-Curran are in the process of the feasibility study. Once a week there is a check-in with Proton Power and their representative, Woodard-Curran and MMR to make sure things are happening on a timely basis. Financing options are being engaged, including Cutting Edge Capital and creating a business model to use for financing purpose. The agreement was put into place about a week ago. John Heywood (PFL, District Advisor) will continue to work with Anon to get the non-disclosure statements resolved. The participants of about 8 people that are meeting weekly to check-in and move the project forward are creating a data room in the cloud for all the participants to share documents. Karin (SRCD) will be providing documents to have all the information associated with the projects available to the board.

- G. Native Plant Operation **(I) (A)** Directors/ED/DDA
John Heywood (District Advisor) reported that RCD is figuring out the financing on this project, and a report will be given at then next board meeting.
- H. District and Grants Development & Programs Support **(I)** Exec. Dir / Dist Dev'l Staff
Working on operational and strategic work for the District, Karin (SRCD) will be the central point of contact for the NRCS Linc Pass process. Ian Ashby (SRCD) is really close to receiving his Linc Pass and 5 other staff are in process. Justin Morgan (SRCD) is the only RCD member who has a Linc Pass. Karin Roux (SRCD) is working on grant applications with the Forestry and Watershed program and Ag and Rangeland Programs and on a District wide level, and for biomass utilization operations.
- I. Craig School of Business – Marketing Students **(I)** Exec. Dir / Dist Dev'l Staff
There are 5 Fresno State Students working on a marketing plan for the District. The students are working on translation services for the Ag and Rangeland Program, and looking at volunteering at some of the Forestry Program events.
- J. Participation with Fresno County EDC and ATIP Regional Program **(I)** Directors / Dev'l Advisor
SRCD is expecting and MOU for how to work with ATIP.
- K. Field Office arrangement with SJR Conservancy, Lane Ave. **(I)** Admin & District Dev'l Staff
The staff at the SJRC are working on the process, it is moving slowly, but offering tours and doing maintenance. Working on it but it is taking time.
- L. Personnel and other related policies **(I) (A)** Directors / DP&A
No actions required at this time.
- M. Kings-Sequoia Gateway FireSafe & Stewardship Program w/ OTFSC **(I)** Forestry Operations Staff
Chelsea Hutchens (SRCD) gave an update on HWY 180 for the projects with two different contractors, one working on six different properties and the other on a project for one landowner that supports a neighboring property. All projects were selected in coordination with the Firesafe Councils.
- N. CARCD / NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA **(I)** J. Siliznoff DC / Staff / ED
Technical Assistance Funding has been applied with the RCD staff team and the Calvin Crest Camp with Coarsegold RCD to show forest stewardship and fire prevention efforts for the camp.
- O. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program **(I)** DM / WSC-B / TBWP
This program is not funded at this time.
- P. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants – Community Water Systems & Meadows **(I)** Staff / Exec. Director
The project with DWR is right on schedule.
- Q. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG **(I)** DM/Develop Advisor/Staff
A steering committee meeting may be set up in May and looking at the possibility of a Collaborative meeting for June.
- R. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
- 1) Feedstock Aggregation – OPR & USFS-R5/SNF/SNC Interagency MOU**(I)** ED / Development Advisor
 - 2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Huger **(I)** Executive Director
Final invoice was submitted April 11th.
 - 3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)** DM / DA / Tech Partner
The grant is coming to a close in June, the technology partner informed that they are not going to move forward with SRCD, after incurring 100k in expenses. Will be addressed post June 30th close-out.
 - 4) Teaming with Highway 168 FSC on contract bidding **(I)** FOS / ED
Peterson Road project, 6 properties involved, Chelsea (SRCD) is checking in on the status of the contractor. Chelsea Hutchens is stepping into the Hwy 168 Coordinator role, and meeting with the Pine Ridge Property's Association and the HWY 168 Fire Safe Council. Prather Canyon Fork area, Arbor Day event from 10am-2pm this Saturday, SRCD will be there.
- S. NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative, CDFA CUSP and NRCS CIC for producers **(I)** Ag-Rangeland Staff
Justin Morgan (SRCD) got through the first deadline and submitted three applications with the NRCS for the NRCS/AFT SJV collaborative project. The CDFA grant project process is the SRCD Ag and Rangeland Team reached out to 28 local producers and provided direct technical assistance for 9-10 farmers. The CIC is a NRCS

pilot program as a middle ground for EQIP and Conservation Stewardship Program, with the Grand Bluffs property as the recipient, and it is in the cultural review process at this time.

- T. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annexation – Updated Legal Description **(I)** Directors / ED
SRCD is approved for the annexation, and the legal description is being worked on right now by Steve Haze (SRCD).
- U. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support **(I)** District Admin/Consultant
Alyssa (SRCD) is working on the website updates for the District, the District was complemented for their website at a Special District Associations media even this past week.
- V. Programs & Projects Status Report **(I)** Staff / Exec. Director
Reviewed the Income and Opportunities Tracking Sheet.
- W. Grant Opportunities Tracking List **(I)** District Program Admin
Over 24 million in projects has been submitted or is in progress by Sierra RCD.

V. Financial Reports

- A. Monthly Reports **(I)** Treasurer / Exec. Director
- B. Draft Budget & Income 2022/2023 **(I)** Treasurer / Exec. Director
- C. QuickBooks Online Migration **(I)** DP&A / ED
Still in progress for the Quick Books Migration.

D. Review & Approval Expenses – Director Tools, CSDA Media/Legislation WS **(I)(A)** Directors
Steve Haze (SRCD) suggested that the Board of Directors have a District issued laptop for RCD business.

Alan Fry made a motion that those who are interested in a District laptop or device then it will become available to the Board of Directors. Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Fry made a motion not to exceed \$600 for expenses related the Special District media training April 22nd and upcoming legislative workshops May 17th-18th. 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
These meetings typically happen one time a year. Alex Hepler is the new NRCS District Conservationist for Fresno County.
- B. RC&D Report – Next meeting 4/28 DP&A / Exec. Director
- E. CARCD – Forestry Committee Directors / ED
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses Directors / ED
- E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs All

VII. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday, May, 2022 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

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