

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order** President
- A. Director roll call  
Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Gary Temple
- B. Introduction of guests  
Stacy Shutts American Farmland Trust  
Paul Lum American Farmland Trust  
Johnnie Siliznoff NRCS  
Steve Haze SRCD, Kelly Kucharski SRCD
- II. Approval of Minutes for July 26 and August 23, 2021** Directors
- Did not address.
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the Agenda (No Action can be taken)**
- No public comments.
- IV. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics -- (I): Info / (A) Action**
- A. American Farmland Trust presentation on NRCS funded San Joaquin Valley Land & Water Conservation Collaborative Introduction – Paul Lum and Stacy Shutts **(I)**
- The American Farmland Trust gave a presentation to the SRCD Board of Directors about all the partners in the RCPP.
- B. Declaration of Director Vacancy **(I)** Directors
- Official 9/27/2021 That Ted Kimbler is no longer a Board Director. The SRCD Board of Directors can appoint someone if they are looking for one.
- C. Kings-Sequoia Gateway FireSafe & Stewardship Program w/OTFSC **(I)** Staff
- Almost hit the deliverables on the Fire Risk Evaluations within one year of a two year program. Hired Susana Ward as a forestry field assistant to support the program. The SRCD team launched the Fire Defense Program within this grant to pay for landowners to get defensible space cleared on their properties, as selected through the OTFSC as it ties into their current programs, and after they receive a FRE or a Fire Defense Evaluation. This part of the program is being led by Ian Ashby, SRCD Forestry Field Assistant and Safety Officer.
- D. CARCD / NRCS Tree Mortality, NRCS Post-Disaster TA & MOA **(I)** J. Siliznoff DC / Staff / DM
- There were about 18-20 NRCS contracts awarded in forestry through Fresno County.
- E. DOC – Southern Sierra Forest Health Watershed Program **(I)** DM / WSC-B / TBWP

This program will continue to go through February 2022. This program helps integrate all the watershed programs throughout the Southern Sierra.

F. Southern Sierra IRWM Grants – Community Water Systems & Meadows **(I)** Staff / DM

The CA Dept of Water Resources for meadow restoration is not in the construction phase, all the permitting has been permitted. \$ meadows is to be restored, Sierra RCD is the fiscal agent and grant management support.

Community Water Systems was kicked off with Big Sandy Rancheria and sampled two wells, and was sent to Lawrence Livermore labs and BSK labs.

G. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG **(I)** DM/Develop Advisor/Staff

Collaborative meeting last week, was approved for several years of funding, no details on that at this time.

H. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development

1) Biomass Utilization under USFS-R5 / SNF / SNC Interagency MOU **(I)** DM / Development Advisor  
John Heywood is meeting with a technology partner in Phoenix with the ability to produce electricity and biodiesel.

2) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health – Blue Rush & Hugger **(I)** DM / District Admin  
Moving forward slowly under resource constraints.

3) Auberry Mill Site – SNC CUP grant **(I)** DM / DA / Tech Partner  
The Cup is back on track and in progress to being approved.

4) CalRecycle / Cal-OES and Assigned Contractors – log deck removal **(I)** FOS / DM  
This will restart next week with log deck removal with AAA.  
HWY 168 FSC and Sierra RCD for Creek Fire Recovery MOU was just signed for a project to start on Peterson Road. HWY 168 fire Safe Council  
Alder Springs project is scheduled to start on October 4<sup>th</sup> in Adler Springs hiring the FIELD Institute CCEC for Creek Fire Recovery

I. SWEEP, NRCS/AFT SJV Collaborative, CDFA CUSP and NRCS CIC for producers **(I)** A&RPM / DM  
Included in the discussion and presentation from the American Farmland Trust.

J. CARCD – LAFCo SOI & Annexation – **(I)** Directors / DM

Steve Haze, District Manger met with LAFCo today and with Bill Stretch, GM for Fresno Irrigation District, Consolidated and Alta and it was shared that it was overstated what they would be willing to do for a compromise. Some of the wording can be changed in the SRCD long range plan so that it won't be misinterpreted for water management or the water part might be taken out of the long range plan altogether. Another potential solution that was brought up was someone from the Fresno Water District being put on the Board of Directors for Sierra RCD.

K. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support **(I)** District Admin/Consultant

L. Programs & Projects Status Report **(I)** Staff / District Manager

M. Grant Opportunities Tracking List **(I)** District Manager

CalParks OEP- Outdoor Equity Program has applications open. All three applications with Fresno Area Community Enterprises, El Dorado Park CDC, and West Fresno Center were approved to move forward from Cal Park OEP. **Alan Fry made a motion to approve the applications, Pete seconded it, and all in favor approve and the motion passed unanimously.**

V. Financial Reports

- A. Annual Audit Prep (I) Treasurer / District Mgr.
  - B. Monthly Reports (I) Treasurer / District Mgr.
  - C. QuickBooks Online Migration (I) DP&A / District Mgr.
  - D. Review & Approval Expenses – CA FireSafe Council , Sacramento (A) Directors
- Kelly can have expense covered for annual CA Fire Safe council conference annual meeting and workshop.  
**Alan Fry made a motion to cover Kelly’s expenses for the conference, Gary Temple seconded, all voted and the motion passed unanimously.**  
 The Chair for the joint forestry committee, to have Steve being reappointed.

**VI. Reports:**

- A. NRCS Report – Fresno County RCDs Local Work Group – 10/8 @ Farm Bureau Johnnie Siliznoff, DC

The Sierra RCD for their assistance, the NRCs in Fresno Co awarded 235 contracts and 3 ore this week, 238 contracts and a minimum of 11.87 million dollars, with 7 planners. Can see where Justin is going to be a large asset to the NRCS and other people as well. The largest projects were air pollution, cropland, cover crops, and forestry. CIC included 31 contracts, 1.5 million in historically underserved. The local workgroup Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 1-3:#0 for all RCD Directors to take part in person or remotely, the RCDs will be talking about the RCD concerns in the County. Anything that you want to know about NRCS and have a presentation on UCCE on soil health. Presentation from Karen Burr from CARCD, Sierra to the Slew presentation, and some on cover crops and habitat planting. The goal is to have participation to write a letter to the state conservationist outlining and defining the natural resource concerns of the county.

- B. RC&D Report – Meeting of 7/29 DP&A / District Mgr.
- C. CARCD – Forestry Committee – Reappointment & Regional Rep (I) Directors / District Mgr.
- D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses Directors / District Mgr.
- E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs All

**VII. Adjournment...Next Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams**

To make changes/additions/corrections please call or email: Kelly Kucharski – 856-2093 / [kkucharski@sierrarcid.com](mailto:kkucharski@sierrarcid.com)

Meeting ended 6:14 pm.