

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 23, 2023, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Clovis Memorial Building – Room 2, 453 Hughes, Clovis, CA & Via MS Teams

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order** President
- A. Director roll call
Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Gary Temple, Matt Hurley
- B. Introduction of guests
Staff Present: Steve Haze, Kelly Kucharski, Karin Roux, Veronica Martinez, Tanner Michaelson, Daisy Guzman
Guest: John Heywood (PFL), Mikhael Kazzi(FPAC-NRCS)
- II. Approval of Minutes for October 24, 2022** Directors
Gary temple made a motion to approve September and October minutes, Alan seconded 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. Acknowledgement of Reappointments and new Appointment of Directors
New appointed Director Matt Hurley for 2023.
- B. Board Resolution – DWR Mt. Counties Funding Area \$1.1M **(I) (A)** Directors
DWR-Prop 1 Round 2 Implementation Grant Funding. The proposal SRCD is submitting on behalf of the Southern Sierra IRWGMG. Projects included partners with CSU East Bay, Lawrence Livermore Labs, UC Merced, and SRCD. Includes Research, applied research, and implementation for water quality and quantity for Disadvantaged Communities and Creek Fire Recovery.
Gary Temple made a motion for the resolution to take place, Alan Fry seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. CEQA – Notice Of Exemption (NOE): CARCD-CAL FIRE Project **(I) (A)** Directors
The project planning started in November and the District Forester started in January. The CEQA is for the HWY 168 and HWY 180 project areas.
Matt Hurley moved to approve the exemption as presented, Gary Temple seconded the motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. LAFCo Annexation **(I)** Directors / Executive Director
There will need to be a reapplication with no fees included to complete the annexation.
- E. Board of Supervisors Official Appointments of Directors **(I)** Directors
Welcome of Matt Hurley (SRCD), appointed new board of Director as of December.
Matt Hurley(SRCD) asked for a report summary to have in advance for review of board meetings.
- F. SJR Conservancy O & M Contract – Lanes Center Premises Admin & Mgmt **(I)** Directors /ED / District Dev'l
SJR Conservancy has proposed for SRCD to act as a property manager of the Lanes property. Generally speaking, SRCD staff will manage upkeep of the facility. John Shelton and Sheryll (SJRC) have kept communication of SRCD Staff drafting a contract to present to their board. Financial contribution is on a reimbursement basis. SJRC wants to avoid sending public bids so SRCD could mitigate what work is done to the property including: office clean up, road building, habitat restoration, etc.
- G. District and Grants Development & Programs Support **(I)** District Development
Still looking for an Ag and Rangeland program manager. Upcoming there is a virtual conference for all SRCD to attend.
- H. Community-based Programs District Development
Veronica Martinez (SRCD) is reaching out to 20 farmers per week. 182 farms have been contacted since November 2022. They have sampled 8 soils of farmers and been sent off for examination. CDFA grant is the funding used. For Soil Sampling they have been using different funding. They are using AgPro to keep data up to date with information on farmer locations/ contact. OEP grant is funding El Dorado community engagement. Looking to work with River Tree to coordinate 2 more community events this year.

- I. Grand Bluffs Forest Legacy (I) Directors/DDA/ED
Grand Bluffs purchase was part of the Cal-Fire nursery grant. SRCD was not awarded the grant but were strongly suggested to reapply after clarification of what was allowed under the grant. SRCD were the only ones from the Southern area to apply for a nursery. March 31st is when the next grant application is due.
- J. Native Plant Operation (I) DDA/ED
SRCD was invited to apply, 250K front end funding. Projected to be an ongoing profitable project for SRCD.
- K. Dinkey Collaborative – Staff, Com Planning & Socioeconomic WG (I) ED/Develop Advisor
Upcoming Collaborative Meeting in February.
- L. Tree Mortality Crisis and Biomass Resource Management Development
- 1) Auberry Mill Site – MMR/W-C/CEC & DOC Planning Grant (I) District Dev’l Advisor/ED
SRCD submitted an application for DOC funding for the Auberry Project, for phase 1 planning. There were 18 applications, SRCD was not awarded. Phase 2 will be in a year, SRCD is not ineligible for phase 2 funding.
 - 2) Feedstock Aggregation – OPR & USFS-R5/SNF/SNC Interagency MOU (I) District Dev’l Advisor/ED
Mission is to find a sector in collaboration with Fresno EDC. A steering committee has put UCANR in charge to collaborate in the theme of Biomass Utilization, more info to be developed.
 - 3) Fresno County EDC, UC-ANR (I) (A) District Dev’l Advisor/ED
Alan fry made a motion to move forward on Fresno County EDC, UC-ANR, Gary seconded that motion, all voted, and the motion passed unanimously.
- M. Creek Fire Recovery Collaborative (I) CFRC Chair
Housing has been provided, 36 families have been helped. Last year delivered 4 sheds, projecting more sheds to be delivered this year. Disaster case funding will be expiring soon in April, expected to take on around 100 cases since Merced flooding has taken up case manager’s attention.
- N. Eastern Fresno County FireSafe & Stewardship Program Management (I) Forestry Program Mgr.
SRCD has a Forester and Arborist working with the program. Successfully Funded Ian Ashby (SRCD) with his Arborist certification. Americorp NCCC has given a team of 8 (Gold 4) to work on Fire prevention and Creek fire recovery. As of now the Americorp team has been given saw training, chipper training in preparation for project planned by the Forestry team (SRCD). Open invitation to have BoD meet the Americorp team.
- O. Ag-Rangeland Program Management (Open) (I) District Dev’l / ED
RCPP 3 of them done. Veronica Martinez (SRCD) completed the 4th. Still have an open position for the program but being overseen by Karin Roux (SRCD). RCPP will be having two batches one happening in February and another in April. Looking at 2 candidates for a Conservation Technician, hopeful to hire after reviewing references.
- P. Web Site & District Enterprise Operations Development & support (I) District Admin/Consultant
No updates provided.
- Q. Programs & Projects Status Report (I) Staff / Exec. Director
No report
- R. Grant Opportunities Tracking List (I) District Program Admin
Reports passed out to Board of Directors. Have about 26 open grants, SRCD Staff has been uploading grant paperwork to track funds.
- V. **Financial Reports**
- A. Annual Audit (I) Treasurer / Exec. Director
Received, 3 months earlier. Has been submitted to the clerk’s office and shall be submitted on time.
 - B. Monthly Reports (I) Treasurer / Exec. Director
Working with Liz (SRCD) CPA for reports
 - C. QuickBooks Online Migration (I) DP&A / District Dev’l
Still having SRCD partly remote and filling timesheets. The payroll module has been approximately 85% complete in order to have the migration move smoothly.
 - D. Dept of Finance – Engagement (I) Executive Director
Covid-19 grant was \$2.3 million came from the dept. of finance under restricted use for govt. entities. Looking to put more money into the CLASS fund.
 - E. Review & Approval Expenses Directors
No expenses to be approved

- VI. Reports:**
- A. NRCS Report – RCD Local Working Group Fresno County DC
 Updates: Starting batching period. Expecting to hire more personnel. Have a pathways program, students in the last 2 years. Put in hours to get compensated with a seat on a career. FSA, Russ France has retired Over 500 applications. Working with Karin Roux (SRCD) for RCPP.
 - B. RC&D Report – Annual Meeting – 10/27 DP&A / Exec. Director
 - F. CARCD – Region 9 & Forestry Committee meeting at Annual Conference Directors / ED
 - D. Correspondence, Fresno County LAFCo Responses Directors / ED
 - E. Other – Articles, stories, and blogs All
- VII. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2023 – 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
Regular meeting adjourned 5:31pm