



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 24, 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 Lassatovich, Gary Temple, Alan Fry, Matt Hurley

Staff and paid consultants present: Kelly Kucharski, Karin Roux, Tanner Michaelson, Daisy Guzman, John Heywood

B. Introduction of guests

Erin Capuchino

II. Approval of Minutes for March 27, 2022

Directors

Director Temple makes a motion, Director Fry seconded the motion, and motion passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No Action can be taken)

IV. Partner Reports:

A. NRCS Report – RCD Local Working Group Fresno County DC

- a. Erin Capuchino, reporting on joint event with SRCD. Seeking grants to partner or support with SRCD. Reporting on similar work such as Madera county which are big projects, yet funding wouldn't be seen until late 2024.
- b. Karin Roux, met with Teri Knight, Acting District Conservationist. Coordinating next working group meeting with Fresno County RCDs. Meeting date TBD. The purpose is to bring RCD's together to generate top resource concerns to inform NRCS in their efforts to create programs that will assist needs.

V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics – (I): Info / (A): Action

A. Financial Management (I)

Co-EDs

1) Update on Change Authorized Signatories on bank accounts

- a. Authorization occurred with the Umpqua and CLASS Accounts, waiting for March Minutes to be approved to update signers for the Central Valley Community Bank accounts.

2) CA CLASS Investment Program

3) QuickBooks Online Transition

Co-ED Roux

- b. Susan Werner, consultant, recommended hiring an in-house bookkeeper. Susan Werner's contract ends in June but the contract may be extended if the need arises. For examples, there were more grants than originally known, and Ms. Werner has taken on more responsibilities than originally agreed to as she has been processing payroll in addition to organizing the transition to QuickBooks Online.

B. Native Plant Operation (I)

Dev'l Advisor/Forestry Program Mgr

- a. The National Forest Foundation funding is no longer available because the contents of the original proposal were dependent on a successful CALFIRE award. The Sierra NF has a need for native plant species beyond mixed conifers. SRCD will be looking at new proposal for fall 2023 that incorporates USFS needs and valley native species for Agriculture and Rangelands. .

C. Biomass Campus and Biomass Resource Management Development and Next Steps (I) *Dev'l Advisor/Co-ED Kucharski*

1) Auberry Mill Site

- a. District Advisor Heywood provided a summary of the Feasibility Study and the Auberry Biomass Project. The project is budgeted for \$4.9 million to finish the planning and \$90 million for implementation.
- b.
- c. District Advisor John Heywood is recommending finishing the business plan with Cutting Edge Capital, introducing the project to CERF, working with ATIP on the UCANR CALFIRE proposal, and researching additional funding for planning within the next 3-6 months. Looking for the next steps of continuing or passing off the project at a certain point.

D. City of Fresno Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission/PRAC (I) *Co-ED Kucharski*

- a. Kelly Kucharski was nominated for the PRAC commission committee..

E. Communities Economic Resilience Fund/CERF (I) *Co-EDs*

- a. SRCD will be compensated for involvement in the Fresno County Environment and Environmental Justice Stakeholder Group as part of the Valley Community Economic Resilience Fund. Participants include Co-Eds and District Advisor.
- b. Meeting with coordinators to get more details. SRCD is working with E. Capuchino at Yosemite-Sequoia RC&DC to developing a report of environmental issues that will be utilized by CERF members in decision making around potential Economic Development projects.

F. Agriculture and Rangeland Program (I) *A/R Program Mgr*

1) Award CDFA CA Underserved and Small Producers; Sierra RCD's "*Technical Assistance and Economic Relief for Small and Medium Scale Producers, Ranchers and Historically Underserved Farmers in Fresno County*"

- a. Hired Mason Roth as Conservation Technician for the Agriculture and Rangeland Program.

G. Special Districts CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit (A) *Co-EDs*

- a. Approximately \$600 registration for summit in June – will apply for scholarships. Co Eds Kelly and Karin will be going to gain knowledge. Not to surpass \$2,500 in expenses which was budgeted by Karin.

Director Temple made the motion to have Co Eds attend a leadership summit. Director Fry seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Reports

A. Monthly Reports (I) *Treasurer / Co-EDs*

VII. Closed Session

Board Members and Co-Eds

Re: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

- a. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Government Code Section 54956.9(d): (One potential case)

VIII. Adjournment – Next Meeting: Monday, May 22, 2023 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams

To make changes/additions/corrections please call or email: Daisy Guzman – 559-360-1332 / dguzman@sierrarc.com