



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 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. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Director roll call

Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Gary Temple, Matt Hurley

C. Introduction of guests

Kelly Kucharski, Daisy Guzman, John Heywood, Erwin Duenas, Guy Anderson

D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation

Manager

II. Approval of Minutes from September 2023 (A)

Directors

Director Hurley moved to approve the September minutes, Director Temple seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0)

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

IV. Partner Reports (I)

A. NRCS Report

NRCS is getting ready for the new fiscal year. They will be hiring new office personnel.

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

A. Financial Management and Reports (I)

Manager

Reports are not monthly yet although SRCD has inputted all transactions from the past fiscal year. Now District Manager Kelly Kucharski is taking over running payroll starting October. Accountant Susan Werner has completed her contract and a conversation regarding her return to SRCD will take place in January. Susan Werner left a list of things for SRCD staff to complete and have financial reports up to date for January.

B. Approval of Expenses for Staff Training, Holiday Bonus, and CARCD Conference (A) Manager

Board Members looked over the expense sheet detailing budgets for staff training, holiday bonus and CARCD Conference.

Director Fry motioned to approve expenses, Director Temple seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0)

C. Consideration of Candidate to Vacant Board Position as Associate Director (A)

Manager

Resolution: SRCD Board members request the Board of Supervisors to approve and appoint Joe Denham as the newest board member, taking over the vacant board position. Director Lassotovitch motioned to pass the resolution, Director Fry seconded, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0)

D. SRCD Programs

Manager

1) SRCD presentation to the County Board of Supervisors and Fresno County Wildfire Prevention and Recovery Coordination Group (I)

On November 7th, 2023 Kelly Kucharski will have 5 minutes to present at the County Board of Supervisors meeting and will present on SRCD highlights.

2) Forestry and Watershed Program 6-week Crew Project AmeriCorps Red 7 and California Conservation Corps and Community Engagement Overview (I)

The SRCD Forestry Team will host a new AmeriCorp team. Starting November 3rd to December 15th. Red 7 is the team group name of 8 young adults who will be under the direction of Program Manager Chelsea Hutchens. Most of the projects the AmeriCorps team will work on will cover fire prevention services for private landowners.

3) Agriculture and Rangeland Program Oakcrest Ranch Site Visit NRCS and SRCD (I)

SRCD management team went on a site visit to Oakcrest Ranch and got a tour of the different ways they conserve their land. NRCS Fresno County District Conservationist Erwin Duendes and NRCS Conservationist Mikael Kazzi were part of the site visit.

4) Biomass Utilization Projects **(I)**

Advisor

John Heywood, District Advisor, presented on biomass utilization methods with biotechnology.

E. Consulting Registered Professional Forester Presentation **(I)**

Advisor

SRCD Forester Consultant, Guy Anderson, went over a presentation detailing CEQA requirements and his process of how CEQA compliance is followed for District Forestry and Watershed Projects.

F. Grant Proposals and Agreements

Manager

1) NRCS-CARCD-Forestry TA Award \$168,198.02 **(I)**

The new grant was awarded to SRCD to provide technical assistance to forested landowners to enroll in NRCS programs.

2) DWR Reauthorization for District Manager as Designee for Prop 1 Round 2 **(A)**

Need to change the designee from past Co-Executive Directors to District Manager.

Director Hurley made a motion for Reauthorization to the District Manager instead of the Co-Executive Directors, Director Lassotovitch seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0)

3) EPA- SWRCB 319 Post-Fire Implementation or Watershed Plan **(I)**

The Watershed plan would be the route SRCD would go with the grant as it aligns better with SRCD structure and Board Members advised it. There are different ways to approach the implementation proposal that were discussed.

4) CDFA Urban Agriculture, SNC RFFCP Capacity Building, CALFIRE Business Development Proposal Submissions **(I)**

1 to 1.2 million dollars in proposal submissions have been submitted since July 2023.

VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: January 22nd, 2024 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams

To make changes/additions/corrections please email: Daisy Guzman dguzman@sierrarc.com