



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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

Minutes

- I. Call to Order** *President*
- A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Director roll call
Pete Lassotovitch, Gary Temple, Alan Fry, Matt Hurley, Joe Denham
 - C. Introduction of guests
Staff present: Kelly Kucharski, Chelsea Hutchens, Daisy Guzman, Tanner Michealson,
Guest: John Heywood, Raymond Laclergue, Mikhael Kazzi
 - D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation *Manager*
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 2024 (A)**
- Director Fry moved to approve the minutes from January, Director Temple seconded the motion, all voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (5-0)*
- President*
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)**
- Raymond (Guest) went over the history of the West Grand Bluffs property and how it tied in with SRCD. Director Lassotovitch passed along a message from the Sierra Forest Supervisor Dean Gould sharing that they are pleased with SRCD District Manager and staff, and that they are interested in presenting about partnership needs with the District.
- IV. Partner Reports (I)**
- A. NRCS Report
A new Soil Conservationist from Madera was hired. NRCS is looking to get another RCPP which would require more hiring since the Fresno office is already busy with work. Report given by Michael Kazzi from the Fresno Field Office.
- V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (I) Info / (A) Action**
- A. Financial Management and Reports *Manager*
 - 1) New Hire - District Financial Controller – Sokmarly In **(I)**
The District Financial Controller position has been filled and part of their responsibilities are to keep the financial reports up to date. Sokmarly will start on March 18th and will be onboarded by Daisy Guzman.
 - 2) Financial Reports July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 **(I)**
District Manager Kelly Kucharski updated reports with the help of a bookkeeper who was contracted for 1 week.
 - B. Resolutions *Manager*
 - 1) 03-2024 CAL FIRE Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant
Forestry and Watershed Program - *Fresno County Strategic Forest Stewardship Alignment Project (A)*
CAL FIRE Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant opened and RCDs were instructed to consider applying. This proposal includes \$3 million to support forest health and stewardship activities for Fresno County Firewise Communities.
Director Hurley moved to adopt the Resolution for the CAL FIRE grant, Director Fry seconded the motion, all voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (5-0)

C. District Awards

Manager

- 1) Sierra Nevada Conservancy Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Building Program Round 3 Forestry and Watershed Program - \$428,591K **(I)**
This grant awarded 5 different capacity building needs for the District to expand it's Forest and Fire capacity.
- 2) Northern California United Way Fresno County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters Collective Impact Program - \$9K **(I)**
Tanner Michealson applied and was awarded the VOAD grant to fund the Collective Impact Program.
- 3) San Joaquin River Conservancy Fire Fuel Reduction and Nature-Based Solutions Forestry and Watershed Program - \$1.8 million **(I)**
This grant will fund fire prevention, planning, and restoration work on the San Joaquin River with the Conservancy.

D. Sierra RCD Programs

Program Managers

- 1) New Hire – Anthony Cruz – NRCS Programs Intern - Agriculture and Rangeland (I)
The new SRCD employee will work part-time with SRCD and part-time with NRCS and will assist the District Ag and Rangeland Program.
- 2) Forestry and Watershed Presentation **(I)** *C. Hutchens*
Chelsea Hutchens, Forestry and Watershed Program Manager, gave a presentation detailing the current activities of the program including educational topics and current grants.
- 3) Collective Impact Presentation **(I)** *T. Michaelson*
Tanner Michaelson, Collective Impact Program Manager, gave a presentation on this newest SRCD program with funded grants. Collective Impact will intertwine with both existing programs (Forestry & Watershed and Agriculture & Rangeland) and work to meet natural resource challenges towards a climate-level impact.

VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: March 25th, 2024 – at Clovis Veterans Memorial Room 2 & via MS Teams

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