



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order** *President*
- A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Director roll call
Peter Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Gary Temple,
Matt Hurley (online)
 - C. Introduction of guests
Staff: Kelly Kucharski, Marly In, Daisy Guzman
Guest: John Heywood
 - D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation *Manager*
- II. Approval of Minutes from May 2024 (A)** *President*
- Director Temple made the motion to approve the minutes with a minor spelling change, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed. (3-0-1)**
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)**
- IV. Partner Reports (I)**
- A. NRCS Report
No NRCS representative to report
- V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (I) Info / (A) Action**
- A. Financial Management *Controller*
 - 1) Financial Reports: Balance Sheet FYTD, Income Statement FYTD 2024, Income Statement FYTD with Grant Projects, Covid-19 Balance Report July 2021-May 2024, Draft Budget FY 24-25, Draft Budget FY 24-25 with Grant Projects **(I)**
Since the last Board Meeting in May, there have been 3 new grants that have been included into the draft budget that was reviewed. The Directors were walked through reports like the Income Statement which was broken down by grant project. New items budgeted in this draft include discretionary funding for program managers and a plan to purchase a new truck for District project use.
 - 2) District Budget FY 24-25 Presentation and Adoption **(A)**
Director Temple made a motion to approve the District Budget FY 24-25, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and the motion passed. (3-0-1)
 - B. Actions *Manager*
 - 1) Sierra Foothill Conservancy SRCD Lead Agency for Notice of Exemption for Creek Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition **(A)**
Sierra Foothill is requesting SRCD to post a Notice of Exemption for them to apply for a Conservation Easement Acquisition. If awarded those parcels will go under the Sierra Foothill Conservancy Conservation Easement program.
Director Temple made the motion to post the Notice of Exemption, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed. (3-0-1)
 - 2) Prop1 Round 2 Department of Water Resources Project 3: Post-Fire Headwaters Restoration Big Dry Creek and Jose Creek Watersheds of the upper San Joaquin River Headwater Restoration Project Phase 1 Project Implementation Fall 2024 “Dry Creek Small Stream Habitat Restoration” Notice of Exemption **(A)**
Forestry and Watershed Program Manager, Chelsea Hutchens, has been working with Foresters and agencies to line up the stream headwater restoration project by HWY 168 off Auberry Rd. The NOE is needed to have the project move towards bidding of contractors. This is the first part of the \$500,000 project.

Director Temple made the motion to pass the Notice of Exemption, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed. (3-0-1)

- 3) Approval for Big Sandy Rancheria Band of Western Band of Mono Indians of California Tribal Council invitation to host SRCD July 22nd Board of Directors Meeting at Tribal Location **(A)**
SRCD is looking to move their July Boad Meeting to the Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal location so the Tribal Council and SRCD Board of Directors could formally meet. They will also try to be present for the whole board meeting.

Director Temple made the motion to change the July meeting location, Director Fry seconded, all present voted in favor and motion passed. (3-0-1)

- 4) Fresno County Tribal Biomass Utilization Campus **(I)**
Development Advisor, John Heywood, gives a breakdown on future plans in the tribal biomass campus. He explains that the project, as of now, is focused on two technologies: Biomass conversion of Biofuels and Bioconversion to Humisoil. SRCDs role in the project is to set up the projects with the private landowners, following CEQA, ensuring that the feedstock continues to keep the biomass campus running. *Development Advisor*

C. District Awards

Manager

- 1) CALFIRE Business and Workforce Development “California Wood Products Innovation Campuses: A Replicable Model to Promote Bioeconomy Industry Clusters” with UCANR and ATIP Foundation -\$45,000 SRCD of \$231,642 **(I)**
Award was at first not awarded yet SRCD was told to reapply.
- 2) National Association of Resource Conservation Districts - Climate Smart Commodities “Slash to Soil: Sierra Nevada Biomass Utilization Campus” -\$2,397,612.13 **(I)**
This award was granted to fund part of the Humisoil project for the Biomass Utilization Campus.
- 3) FY 23-24 Submitted Proposals Status Report **(I)**
An overview of submitted proposals, who wrote them, which of them were awarded and amounts.

D. Sierra RCD Programs

Manager

- 1) Agriculture and Rangeland Program – New hires Megan Powers Community Engagement Coordinator and Jessie Kanter Community Projects Manager, UCANR Range Camp Scholarship **(I)**
New hire
- 2) Forestry and Watershed Program – 6 New Firewise Communities & CALFIRE Defensible Space Assessment Training **(I)**
CalFire outreach is looking to highlight SRCD Forestry program on a press release about their recent work with defensible space training.
- 3) Collective Impact Program – DWR Sierra Institute – “Community Drought Resiliency Project” Automation and Electrical Bids to Budget Review **(I)**
Kelly and Tanner (SRCD) are looking for ways to implement this project of constructing new community water systems. Challenges include an underestimate of the budget which leaves SRCD questioning how to proceed and use the funds strategically.
- 4) SRCD Strategic Plan (Long Range 2025-2030)- Board Participation Schedule and Retreat November 18th 2024 **(I)**
District Manager talked with a consultant about updating the district’s strategic plan. They put together a calendar that suggests updating the long range plan from 2025-2030. A consultant will walk the RCD through the process and Board members are invited to join the committee. November 18th is a scheduled retreat that board members are also invited to. There is no budget tied to this project yet, but the California Association of RCDs will be funding part of the consultation process.

VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: July 22nd, 2024 – Location To Be Determined & via MS Teams

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