

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 26, 2024, 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
Directors: Pete Lassatovitch, Matt Hurley, Alan Fry, Joe Denham (*online*)
C. Introduction of guests
Staff: Kelly Kucharski, Sokmarly In, Daisy Guzman
Guest: John Heywood, Erwin Duenas, Yosemite Sequoia RC & DC's Notetaker
D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation *Manager*
- II. Approval of Minutes from June 2024 (A)** *President*
Director Hurley made a motion to approve the June Minutes, Director Alan seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-0)
- III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)**
- IV. Partner Reports (I)**
- A. NRCS Report
Looking forward to the local workgroup on the 25th of September.
Sierra RCD hired a new Forestry Conservation Technician that will be working alongside the NRCS office as well as SRCD.
- V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (I) Info / (A) Action**
- A. Financial Management** *Controller*
- 1) Financial Reports: FY 23-24 Balance Sheet, FY 23-24 Budget to Actual, FY 23-24 Budget to Actual with Detail, FY 24-25 Profit and Loss, June 2024 YTD Covid-19 Balance **(I)**
The fiscal year ended in June so the reports show how the year ended.
The Financial Controller went over the reports including the balance sheet, Budget to Actual, Profit and Loss and the Covid-19 balance. In the Budget to Actual with Detail there was no budgeted income in the report, mainly wages and indirect expenses.
- B. Actions** *Manager*
- 1) *California Environmental Quality Act Compliance Notice of Exemptions for USDA USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant (5): Meadow Lakes Fuels Reduction Project, Huntington Lake Fuels Reduction Project, Dunlap, Wonder Valley, Avocado Lake, Piedra, Fuels Reduction Project, Big Creek Area Fuels Reduction Project, Auberry Road Fuels Reduction Project (A)*
There are 5 new NOE forms SRCD is seeking approval for to begin chipping projects.
Director Hurley made a motion to approve Notices of Exemptions, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed. (3-0-1)
- 2) *EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program Proposal: West Creek Village Connective Impact Community Resilience Center HUB (WCVICIRC-HUB) Statutory Partnership Agreement \$20,000,000 (A)*
West Creek Village -HUN is looking for SRCD to become a Statutory Partner of their community change grant program proposal. This would mean West Creek CBO would become the lead applicant and SRCD would support the cause. West Fresno is one of the most underserved communities in Fresno. Of the 20M, 17M would go towards development and the 3M will be for programming.
Director Hurley made a motion to approve the program proposal, Director Fry seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)
- C. Director Term Update** *Manager*
- 1) *Retirement of Director Temple (I)*

Gary Temple announced his retirement and stepped down as a director. The Board of Directors asked for a proclamation and special gift be sent to him.

2) *Renewal nominations for expiring terms in November; Directors Denham and Hurley (A)*

Kelly Kucharski is asking for the board to renominate Director Denham and Hurley.

Director Fry seconded the motion to reappoint Directors Hurley and Denham in new terms starting in November, Director Lassatovitch seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed. (2-0-2)

D. District Awards

Manager

1) *A/R: USDA-NRCS- California Conservation Contribution Agreement Award NR249104XXXXC026 "Conservation Technical Assistance for individuals, tribal governments, groups and organizations in the San Joaquin Valley" \$146,952.41 (I)*

Karin Roux sent in a few grant applications before leaving SRCD. This USDA-NRCS grant was awarded to continue the work Mason Roth has been doing alongside the NRCS

2) *F/W: California Fire Safe Council 2023-2024 State Fire Capacity Program "Strengthening Forest Stewardship and Fire Resilience in Eastern Fresno County" \$99,770 (I)*

Program Manager Chelsea Hutchens was awarded this planning grant. This will help pay for Firewise Community work that is done up in the mountains.

3) *C/I: Firewise Native Plant Demonstration Garden and Greenhouse Nursery \$500 & Auberry Mural (I)*

Program Manager Tanner Michaelson was awarded funding for a greenhouse nursery behind the Auberry office.

E. Sierra RCD Programs

Manager

1) **Fresno County Tribal Biomass Utilization Campus**

a. *Draft September Agenda at Big Sandy Rancheria (I)*

Next month (September) is SRCDs meeting with Big Sandy Rancheria council. District Advisor, John Heywood, asks the board if there are any questions or topics that should be brought to attention. The Board is open to all topics of discussion that will be helpful to move forward with the meet and greet and informational meeting.

b. *Draft California State University Fresno Equipment Loan for Education and Demonstration (I)*

Kelly Kucharski drafted an MOU for CSU Fresno to do an equipment loan for education and demonstration. The board would like to find out more information about lending District equipment to others and if there are any protocols to follow.

2) **Agriculture and Rangeland Program (A/R)**

a. *Agriculture and Rangeland Program Manager Position Available(I)*

As Karin Roux left the SRCD in July, there is now a program manager position available. Jessie Kanter and Megan Powers are two recent hires to the Ag & Rangeland program that will be considered to take on the program manager position.

b. *Local Working Group Meeting Wednesday September 25th 3:00pm-5:00pm at NRCS Fresno Office 4625 W. Jennifer Ave, Suite 125 Fresno, CA 93722 (I)*

3) **Forestry and Watershed Program (F/W)**

a. *8 New Firewise Communities (I)*

SRCD has set up 8 new Firewise Communities. One of them is lead by one of SRCDs board members, Joe Denham.

b. *Fresno County Supervisor Townhall at Denham Residence 42500 Auberry Road Thursday August 29th 5:30pm (I)*

There will be a Townhall meeting that will have a Firewise presentation from SRCD and guests like Fresno Supervisor Nathan Magsig and the Bald Mountain Fire Department.

c. *District Truck Procurement Update(I)*

Don Griffith supported by completing a report to look at regulations for new fleets for Special Districts. In the report there are Pros and Cons to different types of trucks including but not limited to all electric, hybrid, or diesel trucks. This new truck would replace the current SRCD truck that can be safer for employees to complete projects.

4) **Collective Impact Program (C/I)**

a. *DWR – Sierra Institute- Community Water Systems Upgrade Project – Scope realignment (I)*

Sierra RCD asked to rescope the project for realignment and move forward. Sierra Institute agreed to work with the district on what was budgeted.

b. *Fresno County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) Launch Meeting – September 19th Woodward Park Library from 10 am-12 pm, luncheon from 12-1 pm (I)*

Tanner Michealson is having a launch meeting for the VOAD community.

c. *District Newsletter (I)*

New District Newsletter has been released. There is a sign-up link on the SRCD website to receive the newsletters.

VI. **Adjournment – Next Meeting: September 23rd, 2024 – Location Big Sandy Rancheria & via MS Teams**

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