

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2025, 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, Matt Hurley, Joe Denham

C. Introduction of guests

Kelly Kucharski, Daisy Guzman, Sokmarly In, John Heywood, Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS), Erwin Duenas (NRCS)

D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation

Manager

II. Approval of Minutes from October and November 2024 (A)

President

Director Hurley made edits to the minutes.

Director Hurley made a motion to approve the October and November meeting updated minutes, Director Denham seconded the motion, all present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action taken)

III. Partner Reports (I)

A. NRCS Report

Erwin Duenas (NRCS) updated the SRCD with their applications. Currently, NRCS is holding IRA projects and no new agreements for irrigation are going through. Erwin shared about creating an agreement for vehicle usage between SRCD employees and NRCS vehicles. NRCS recommends that the current agreement be amended to include the new information and have it signed again. Johnnie Siliznoff (NRCS) and Jessie Kanter (SRCD) will be interviewing for the air quality position that will be helping SRCD and NRCS.

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

A. Financial Management

Controller

- 1) Financial Reports: Balance Sheet FY 24-25 YTD, Profit and Loss FY 24-25 YTD, Budget vs Actuals FY 24-25 YTD with Grants, AR Aging Detail as of 12.31.2024, AP Aging Detail as of 12.31.2024 (I)

Financials discussed in this meeting were up to December 30th 2024. Truck was purchased at 54k and showed in the assets section. There was a request to show donations made to the District on another part of the balance

B. Actions

Manager

- 1) Approval for District Controller Signing Authority for Community West Bank Account (A)

Kelly Kucharski is suggesting that Controller Sokmarly In become a signer for SRCD Community West Bank account. This will make bank transactions in person more efficient for the District.

Director Denham moved for Controller Sokmarly to become a signer for the Community West Bank account, Director Hurley seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

- 2) Approval for NRCS Vehicle Insurance Coverage for SRCD staff use (A)

NRCS was given options from their state office to allow SRCD employees to use their vehicles.

Johnnie Siliznoff suggested SRCD talks to Melissa Manel who is in charge of NRCS management strategies for guidance on an insurance agreement.

Director Denham moved to allow District Manager Kelly to sign insurance agreement drafted with NRCS, Director Hurley seconded motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

- 3) Approval of 2025 Wage Schedule (A)

Kelly Kucharski presented the 2025 Wage Schedule that shows how District positions would be structured for the year. Employees would have opportunities to move up in wages and titles depending on reviews/certifications and open positions. District Manager also proposed her position receive a dollar raise.

Director Denham motioned to approve the 2025 wage schedule and District Manager dollar raise, Director Hurley seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

4) Approval for 2025 Health Benefit Payment Adjustment **(A)**

The Board of Directors suggested having this action item be moved to next month so more information is presented.

No motion was made.

5) Approval for CAL FIRE Forest Health “Upper San Joaquin Kaiser East Protection Project” **(A)**

District Manager Kelly Kucharski is looking to have the board approve a resolution to have the District apply for the CALFIRE Forest Health grant. She would like to thank the Forest Health CALFIRE grant review team for accepting SRCD’s application after having technical difficulties due to being out of the Country.

Director Hurley motioned to approve the appropriate resolution document be submitted, Director Denham seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

C. Projects and Programs

Manager

1) Board of Directors

a. District Policies **(I)**

Kelly Kucharski reminded the Board of Directors to locate copies of the the District’s policies. Directors Lassotovitch and Hurley will work on recovering those documents.

b. CARCD Conference December 10th-12th 2024 **(I)**

3 Program Managers went with District Manager Kelly Kucharski to learn and shares about SRCDs ongoing projects.

c. Local Legislator Meeting **(I)**

d. Director Denham suggested inviting local State Legislators to understand the work SRCD is doing.

Director Denham has organized PG&E as a potential sponsor willing to pay for transportation to Shaver.

April and June are months the District is looking to hold an event. Grant Application Report FY 24-25 (I)

District Manager presented the Board of Directors the grant applications from July 1st, 2024 to date. There is 1 grant award by NACD that funding may be paused. The list contained grants that were applied for with status on awarded, not awarded, and yet to release further information on awardees.

2) New Awards – (A/R – Ag and Rangeland, F/W – Forestry and Watershed, C/I – Collective Impact)

a. (A/R) California Department of Food and Agriculture- 2023 Underserved and Small Producer Grant Program Direct Drought Relief Grants - \$1,107,500 **(I)**

The grant was awarded to be managed by the Ag and Rangeland program. It will continue the current Drought Relief direct to producers funding applications and expand them for other climate-related impacts.

b. (F/W) USFS and National Wild Turkey Foundation Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Program - San Joaquin Forest Products Mushroom Stewardship Forest Product Removal Project \$1.6 M – SRCD Subaward \$6,000. (I)

The grant was awarded to San Joaquin Forest Products with Sierra RCD as a partner on the project to support compliance and reporting.

c. (C/I) Community West Bank - \$5,000 **(I)**

3) Collective Impact Program was awarded \$1,000 from Community West Bank and \$5,000 from PG&E Fresno County Biomass Utilization

a. Demonstration Site Visit for Proton Power Singapore **(I)**

John Heywood (District Development) invited Kelly Kucharski to meet with partners in Singapore and visit their Proton Power biomass-campus. They learned about Hydrogen technology and how they manage to run in a facility that is only a few acres. There may be new opportunities for Biomass.

b. Investor Meeting March 2025 **(I)**

There will be investor meetings starting in March. Director Denham suggested that John Heywood and Kelly Kucharski meet with him to review potential investor related questions.

V. **Adjournment – Next Meeting: February 24th, 2025 – Clovis Veteran’s Memorial District**

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