

## **MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, April 28, 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  
Staff: Kelly Kucharski, Sokmarly In, Daisy Guzman, Tanner Michaelson, Paige Simons-Owens  
Guest: John Heywood, Erwin Duenas, Fish & Wildlife Service Employee
  - D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation *Manager*
- II. Approval of Minutes from March 2025 (A)** *President*
- Director Hurley motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Director Lassotovitch seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion pass unanimously. (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  
Erwin Duenas reports that IRA funds are still on hold. They are down to 3 staff and have lost 5 employees in the past 2 months. Of the 12 million in funding, 3.5 million has been awarded. The NRCS office also got a CTA agreement terminated which has affected funding for SRCD employee hours at their office.
- Director Alan Fry arrived to the meeting room.**
- V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (I) Info / (A) Action**
- A. Financial Management *Controller*
    - 1) Financial Reports: Balance Sheet FY 24-25 YTD, Budget vs. Actual FY 24-25 YTD, Profit and Loss Report, Grant Status Report, AR Aging Detail as of 03.31.2025, AP Aging Detail as of 03.31.2025, NRCS Projects Reallocation Overview **(I)**  
Financial Controller, Sokmarly In, went over the district's financial reports. She explained the receivables that are unpaid and waiting on payment. Board members are pleased to have a Financial Controller that can provide reports to view monthly.
    - 2) NRCS Cooperative Agreement Cancellation NR249104XXXXC026 **(I)**  
The NRCS Cooperative Grant Agreement was terminated due to work being DEI related. This grant was meant to support the NRCS office with conservation technician assistance. In lieu of the terminated agreement, the District Manager has moved 2 SRCD employees to an RCPP grant to continue supporting the NRCS office.
  - B. New Awards (A/R – Ag and Rangeland, F/W – Forestry and Watershed, C/I – Collective Impact) *Manager*
    - 1) F/W California Association of RCD's - CAL FIRE Workforce Development for RCD's - \$54,717 **(I)**  
The CALFIRE Workforce Development grant was awarded and SRCD is looking forward to providing more training for staff.
    - 2) F/W CAL FIRE Fresno/Kings Unit - Bear Creek Vegetation Treatment Program - \$350,000 **(I)**  
This grant could start this upcoming fall and would fund fuel work on 28,000 acres.
    - 3) C/I California State University Fresno - Black Student Success Initiative \$10,000 **(I)**  
Collective Impact was awarded this grant to work with Fresno State. The SRCD team has planned trips for the BSSI group to educate and give them an opportunity to visit outdoor areas.
    - 4) C/I Asian Business Institute Resource Center – California Department of Food and Agriculture – Urban Agriculture \$50,000 **(I)**  
Collective Impact will be taking over this subgrant to do Urban Agriculture work.
  - C. Projects and Programs *Manager*

1) Board of Directors

- a. First Annual Sierra RCD & Fresno County Awards: Stewardship and Firewise Community Nominations **(I/A)**  
Sierra RCD and Fresno County will be announcing new awards on May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the first time the District has come up with an award and is excited to highlight the recipients for their great work. SRCD will be awarding two awards: SRCD & Fresno County Stewardship Award & Firewise Community of the Year Award. District Manager Kelly Kucharski went over the candidates and shared the district's recipient recommendations. The award will be presented at the Auberry May 31<sup>st</sup> community event and the board members were invited to present the awards.

***Director Hurley moved to approve the recommendations; Director Fry seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (4-0-0)***

- b. Grant Application Report FY 24-25 **(I)**  
District Manager, Kelly Kucharski, went over the grant applications that have been submitted this fiscal year.
- c. May District Events: Meadow Lakes Community Workday May 17<sup>th</sup>, Firewise Townhall with Assemblyman Tangipa Auberry May 31<sup>st</sup>, CAL FIRE 1,000 Firewise Community Celebration Press Conference Table Mountain Casino May 6<sup>th</sup> **(I)**  
There are a few events that SRCD will be attending in the month of May. The District Manager, Kelly Kucharski, will be speaking at the Table Mountain Casino Press Conference in celebration of the 1,000 Firewise community. There is a Community Workday planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> and a town hall in Auberry May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- d. California Congressional Representatives and National Association of RCD's Visit in Washington D.C. **(I)**  
After scheduling a personal trip, Kelly Kucharski took the opportunity to do some RCD work in Washington D.C. . The District Manager will have meetings set up for her by a lobbyist and will meet with Congressional Representatives in Washington D.C.

2) Programs

- a. Biomass Utilization – Jireh Packing Company and Big Sandy Rancheria **(I)** *Advisor*  
John Heywood and Kelly Kucharski met with W.M. Lyles Co to pitch the Biomass Campus. The company showed interest and is a potential contractor and/or investor. They would like to become more informed about how it is to work with tribal land.
- b. Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board Educational Videos Sierra RCD **(I)**  
The FRWD Board is creating educational videos and out of 5, 4 of them will feature SRCD. In these videos, SRCD will have the opportunity to showcase what they do in the field. District Manager met with their creative video director to plan out days to shoot the videos.
- c. Fresno County Chipping Program – Jeremiah Ince Project: Clearing a way forward **(I)**  
If awarded, Kelly Kucharski is proposing for the chipping project to be named in memory of Jeremiah Ince who worked on over 200 acres with the District.

**VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: May 19th, 2025 – Clovis Veteran's Memorial District**

To make changes/additions/corrections please email: Daisy Guzman [dguzman@sierrarc.com](mailto:dguzman@sierrarc.com)