

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

President

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Director Roll Call

Pete Lassatovitch, Alan Fry, Joe Denham,

Absent: Matt Hurley

C. Introduction of Guests

Kelly Kucharski, Tanner Michaelson, Chelsea Hutchens, Sokmarly In, Paige Simmons, Adam Hernandez, John Heywood,

Dianne Dukleth, Don Dukleth, Daisy Guzman, Erwin Duenas

D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation

II. Approval of Minutes from October and November 2025 (A)

President

Director Denham motioned to approve October and November meeting minutes, Director Fry seconded the motion.

All present voted in favor and motion passed 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 on the NRCS programs. They had about 450 applications for the year. They still have about 4 employees running the office, so Erwin took the time to thank SRCD employees Mason and Paige for their contributions to the office.

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

A. Board of Directors

President

1) Management Leadership Update (A)

No action was made, there was a request for a closed session on the matter for next month's board meeting.

2) Brown Act Update SB 707 (I)

There has been updates to the brown act which were brought to the board's attention. A video detailing the changes was shared with the board to watch at their own leisure.

3) 2026 Meeting Schedule (A)

The Board was presented with a meeting schedule for the year which included discussion on locations for each meeting. The Board would like to prioritize meeting at the Forest Service office with some being at the Auberry office. When those locations are not available they will be held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Every meeting is held the 4th Monday of the month with the exception for the month of May. Due to Memorial Day landing on Monday, the May meeting will be moved to Monday, May 18th.

Director Denham moved to approve the Board Meeting schedule, Director Fry seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

4) District Grants 5 Year 2026-2030 Report (I)

The District Manager went over the 5-year plan report which detailed how each grant would be managed to meet its deliverables. There was discussion on the amount of work needed to be done by the end of 2026 and working around wildlife compliance to meet deadlines for projects.

5) Grant Projects Status Report (I)

District Manager Kelly Kucharski did an overview of the grants' completion rate and where they stand. This report goes into detail for each of the active grants for the board member's review.

6) Long Range Plan Draft (I)

There will be a 5 year plan for the SRCD presented in February

7) CARCD Election Materials (I)

CARCD requested for districts to review the election ballot and submit votes by early March. The board of directors asked for the district manager and the assigned delegate, Director Hurley, to list their

recommendations to vote at next board meeting in February.

B. Financial Management

Controller

- 1) Financial Reports: AR Aging Detail 12/31/2025, AP Aging Detail 12/31/2025, Balance Sheet FY 25-26 12/31/2025, Profit & Loss FY 25-26 12/31/2025, Cash Flow Projection, Grant Project Status 12/31/2025 **(I)**

The financial controller reviewed the financial reports with the Board and updated them on what's to come. When allowed, the District has started invoicing monthly for grants and started using a system that has improved invoicing developed last May through QuickBooks. There may be a change in how fringe rates are calculated for the district since their workers' compensation rate is going up due to the work Alignment Strategies is doing.

The Board requested to add an action item to choose a credit line for next board meeting.

C. Projects and Programs

President

- 1) Programs (F/W – Forestry, C/I – Collective Impact, A/R – Agriculture, ASG – Alignment Strategies Group)

- 1) Resolution for approving an application requesting grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board for Restoring Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat Across Fresno County Landscapes. Includes California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemptions for Wildlife Conservation Board Project **(A)**
Collective Impact and Agriculture & Rangeland are seeking to submit a request for funds through the Wildlife Conservation Board. The project will consist of restoring pollinator habitat around Fresno county.

Director Denham moved to approve the resolution, Director Fry seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed unanimously. (3-0-1)

- 2) Alignment Strategies Group Presentation **(I)**

Hernandez

Sierra RCDs newest program manager, Adam Hernandez, presented on what the Alignment Strategies Group is focusing on as a program of the District. The ASG will provide regional prescribed fire support in the Sierras. Their goal for the second year of the program is to expand the crew if funding allows it and work towards securing a second truck for the Districts needs.

- 3) USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant T-26 Project Before and During Footage **(I)**

District Manager showed a video on a project the SRCD worked on in Miramonte. The project is 75% complete and the RCD will be moving on the next contractor to finish the project.

D. Grant Awards

President

These are all grants that have been awarded since the last Board Meeting in November 2025.

- 1) Department of Conservation – Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation Program – Capacity and Project Development Grant - \$99,990 – A/R
- 2) California Association of Resource Conservation Districts – California Department of Food and Agriculture – Expanding Specialty Crop Agroforestry Demonstrations and Technical Assistance Through the California Farm Demonstration Network - \$48,293 - A/R
- 3) CAL FIRE – Wildfire Prevention Grants - Fresno County Front Country Fuel Break Network - \$774,170.43 – F/W

VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: February 23, 2026 3pm-5pm Location TBD

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