



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 622-0378

11 March 2020

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Scott Powell, Robin Galloway
Staff: David Witt, Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls, Antonia Perez
NRCS: Lurana Strong, Genett Carstensen, Amy Rocha, Sharon Nance
Visitors: Steve Haza, Sierra RCD

Mike called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Review minutes: There was no quorum for the February 19th meeting, so the minutes for that meeting as well as the January 8th meeting were reviewed with the Directors present at this meeting. Scott moved, and Robin seconded that the minutes be approved. An aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: The check run for the past month was reviewed with the Board. Accounts payable and accounts receivable were presented and discussed. Cash flow was explained as there are still outstanding receivables from the fuel break activities last fall. Scott moved, and Robin seconded that the accounts payable be approved for payment and the financial statement accepted. Aye vote ensued. Additionally, Scott moved, and Robin seconded, that we start the process to move \$50,000 to the County account. An aye vote ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit update: An audit update was given by Teri for those Board members not present in February. Doug Souza, from Sciacca & Company, CPAs, presented our 2017-2018 / 2018-2019 audit with as complete and with no issues. Teri also updated the Board that she had presented a major improvement & change to our accounting system for tracking the revenue / expenses for our equipment to Mr. Souza who approved it the planned change. It was also his suggestion that we submit our books each year for his review because we have grown so much. It will be helpful to have him informed in between Biannual Audits.

Yosemite / Sequoia RC&D Presentation update: Board members not present in February were briefed on Y/SRC&D's presentation in February.

Conservation Easement Presentation update: Board members not present in February were briefed on the presentation by Hilary Dustin on the what and how of Conservation Easements.

Updates:

Cal-Fire Projects updates: David Witt reported on the status of all the projects after our first active season. Both Ponderosa projects are projected to be completed by the end of the 2020 summer / fall season. Bob Puls has been using the Green Climber at Badger for much of the winter, working on clearing the roads from fallen timber and creating a partial fuel break along the road that will be widened later by hand crews and chipping. The Chipper Days project will continue this summer with



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demonstration projects with signage, especially in the Sequoia Crest area. Bob Puls has been able to do some Green Climber work at Upper Grouse and Blue Ridge and will continue that in the spring/summer of this year, but hand-crew work is scheduled for 2021. David and Jeff are continuing their search for contractors to do the CWPP project. David reported that Bob does a great job with the Green Climber – it has been a great tool for fuel break work, especially because of the increase in safety with it being remote controlled.

Case Mountain, BLM project: David reported that negotiations are underway for the first season of this project which consists of hazardous fuel removal and fuel break plans. There is already a lot of dead wood on the ground in the area and some burning will need to be done by BLM before more wood can come down. BLM projects this project will total \$1 million per year for several years.

RCPP: Antonia reported that the entire postcard mailing list was released in the Foothills areas. She now has 7 applications in process. We are still working with CARCD and how activities are billed under this grant. With active applications Antonia will need to have a 4-WD vehicle to inspect and survey the sites with and without Alex Hepler. The RCD can insure a NRCS vehicle for her but it can only be a certain vehicle which makes the scheduling complicated.

Tree Mortality / Forest Management Task Force: Bob reported no activity this month.

SGMA: Bob reported no new information as plans are being reviewed.

NRCS Updates: Sharon Nance, our Assistant Area Resource Manager, reported on behalf of the State NRCS office, and asked the Directors if there were any questions about the renewal of the MOU between us; there were none. She reported that the Local Working Groups will start up again and that Lurana will be trained to facilitate the meetings. Sharon also spoke to the vehicle situation saying that, indeed, NRCS would be glad to make sure Antonia has the best vehicle possible to go up into the Foothills. Lurana reported that deadlines are approaching for tractors (3/18) and EQIP. Lurana also reported that as one of the results of a Quality Review, she encourages us to pay attention to the diversity of our staff and Board members, perhaps utilizing bringing on Associate Directors as a way to increase diversity.

Public Comment Period: Steve Haze reported the Sierra RCD is participating in a 2-year Southern Sierra Waters Forest Carbon Plan grant with 9 deliverables, including biomass, which he has been working with for a long time. He encourages us to considering rejoining the Southern Sierra IRWMP Working Group as in will increase our capacity to operate Inter-Agency – utilizing our ability as a special district with government agencies.

Correspondence: none

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next meeting is April 8th, 2020