



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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8 January 2020

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Mike Chrisman, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls, Antonia Perez

NRCS: Lurana Strong, Genett Carstensen, Alex Hepler

Cal-Fire: Nick Shew, Ray Gutteriez

Visitors: Dennis Butcher, Matt Nicoletti, Richard, Patrick Kopersman, and Finn Telles from Penny Newman Company; Johnny Gailey from Delta View Water Association; Steve Haze, Sierra RCD; Michael Tharp, R.L. Schafer & Associates

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

**Review minutes:** Previous meeting minutes for December 11<sup>th</sup> were reviewed, Mike moved, and Scott seconded to approve minutes. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** The check run was reviewed with the Board. The Board approved the accounts payable, with the plan for holding one invoice until receipt of funding.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Watershed Improvement activities** – Scott Powell. Scott and Penny Newman Company work in the field of Regenerative Ag, and are testing a product that help water go into the ground in an organic way. It is a hydrogen-activated carbon product that opens up the soil and works best when paired with a vertical composting plant like safflower that puts deep tap roots down in the bottom of a groundwater recharge basin. Early results are promising.

## Updates:

**Case Mountain, BLM project:** Jeff has scheduled a crew for 14 days of hazardous tree removal.

**Cal-Fire Projects updates:** Bob has the chipper and Green Climber working in the Badger area clearing 200 feet each side of the road. The snow and heavy wind storms in December broke a lot of limbs and he is communicating with the Miramonte Conservation Camp to assist in the effort as there are trees fallen and debris in the road itself.

**RCPD:** Alex Hepler talked to the Board about the NRCS approach to the RCPD. He says there are a lot of small plots in the foothills and landowners have a hard time finding competent contractors to clear the dead trees.

**SGMA** – Mike reported that the first big deadline for all draft plans to be submitted is here, and now the 5-year process starts – baseline monitoring, etc., and 20 years from now groundwater use has to be sustainable. John Daly, from the water district in Tulare, says his district has no water.



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**NRCS Updates:** Lurana talked about a farmer she's working with who wants to create a slough as a water project, something that used to be natural in this valley. She'd like to have an Earth Day booth at the Visalia Earth Day in April.

**Public Comment Period:**

**Correspondence:** none

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Teri Van Huss. The next meeting is February 19th, 2020