



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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19 February 2020

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Mike Chrisman, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls, Antonia Perez

NRCS: (all staff at training)

Visitors: Matt Gisler, Full Circle Farms; Penelope Shibley, Daniel Smith, and Brian Block - USFS Sequoia National Forest; Justine Reynolds and Robert Hopkins, Yosemite / Sequoia RC&D; Johnny Bailey, Delta View Water Association; Denise England, Water Resource Director, Tulare County; Hilary Dustin, consultant

Mike called to order at 12:03 p.m.

**Review minutes:** No quorum, minutes not reviewed.

**Financial Report:** The check run was reviewed with the Board. The information was noted and normal invoices were approved for payment.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Conservation Easement discussion:** RCDs can hold conservation easements, and it's possible we will be called to do several for retention basins currently under construction by the City of Visalia. Hilary Dustin has 16 years of working for Land Trusts and talked to the Board about what CEs are (permanent restriction on management of the conservation property / farmland).

**Sequoia National Forest / RAC:** Penelope Shibley is the Environmental Coordinator for the Kern River District of Sequoia National Forest. She gave a presentation on the Kern and Tulare Counties Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) that was established in 2010 under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act which provides federal funds for collaborative special projects that benefit National Forest system Lands. These special projects can focus on various areas – social, economics, historic, timber, recreation. There are 100 RAC committees across the country. The Kern Tulare committee expired in September of 2017, but there is more funding available and the FS would like to see it working again. So, committee members and groups who are looking for funding are both encouraged to apply.

**Audit presentation:** Doug Souza, CPA, from Sciacca and Co., presentation our recently completed 2017-2018 / 2018-2019 audits. He went through each one with the members present, answered any questions, and reported the audits were good and clean. There was discussion about equipment & depreciation. Doug and Teri also talked about an idea they had for the RCD to hand in the books every year, instead of every two years, so Doug could look things over. There is much more activity and it would be helpful to have our CPA more involved.

**Yosemite / Sequoia RC&D:** Justine Reynolds, Project Manager & Program Development, and Robert Hopkins, Communications and Partnership Coordinator, came to introduce themselves as a regional



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partner, covering Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Mariposa Counties. The RC&D has a Watershed Improvement grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help local communities become more fire resilient and assist with tree mortality issues. They are asking RCDs what kind of assistance they need, i.e., funding, capacity, organizational as they have a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Sierra National Forest to increase project implementation and grant capacity.

## Updates:

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

**Cal-Fire Projects updates:** Bob still has the chipper and Green Climber working in the Badger area clearing 200 feet each side of the road.

**RCPP:** Antonia reported that Alex Hepler and NRCS are encouraging us to finish sending out the postcard to the rest of Tulare County. As it is an existing effort, she was instructed to go ahead in order to help NRCS get as many applications in the pipeline as quickly as possible.

**NRCS Updates:** None

**Public Comment Period:** None

**Correspondence:** none

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020