



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

13 September 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Johnny Gailey, Scott Powell, Robin Galloway
Staff: Teri Van Huss, Antonia Perez, Bob Puls, David Witt
NRCS: Lurana Strong
Guests: Cody Moody, Bob Nunziato, Rick Hyde

Warren called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

There was no meeting held in August.

Review Minutes: The minutes for July 12th were reviewed. Robin moved to approve the minutes. Johnny seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financials were presented for July/Sept. Robin moved to approve them, Scott seconded. Aye vote ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

Federal Excess Property Program: Resolution to receive surplus equipment. Bob explained the federal program for acquiring surplus equipment, which would very much help us get equipment, such as graders, dozers, etc. to support our fuel reduction programs. Scott moved and Johnny seconded to approve this application. An Aye vote ensued. The Board decided to list Bob Puls, Scott Powell, and Warren Hutchings as approved purchasers.

Plumas Contracts at Case Mountain: David Witt explained that Plumas Corporation has offered us a subcontract from their Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant doing work at Case Mountain. Our task is to provide a shovel-ready implementation plan for 2000 acres of private and public lands within and around the Case Mountain grove complex and the total is \$75,000. Scott moved to approve this contract, Johnny seconded. Aye vote ensued.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES:

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Clearances, Ward Canyon, Direct Award, Whisset, Rancheria) – Bob reported that the environmental contractor is continuing work 11 projects, and writeups should be completed some time in September/October. Work continues at Rancheria. Bill Shannon is almost done with the Whisset mastication / thinning / piling.

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Ponderosa) – David came from the RAC meeting at the Forest Service office. He and Jeff are still working at Ponderosa – the layout is mostly completed and the Forest Service is still working on NEPA for the archaeological sites.



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

Case Mountain, BLM project: David reports there is far more Gooseberries than expected. There is a need for more consultation with Fish and Wildlife regarding the Pacific fisher, owls, and wolves. Mastication will start up again in a few weeks.

Forest Health Task Force: Bob reports the next meeting is in October.

Regional Partner Updates: The CARCD convention is being held in Sacramento in November.

SGMA: Our Local Working Group meeting along with the Kaweah Water Conservation District has been scheduled – September 27th at 9:00 a.m. We will be attending and presenting along with NRCS / Lurana.

CARCD RCPP: Antonia continues to work under their funding until the NACD grant is hopefully renewed. CARCD offered us additional funding that was unused by other groups.

NRCS Updates: Lurana reports the fiscal year is almost over – we are still the largest office in the state. She reported 60 American Farmland Trust applications through the San Joaquin RCPP. The first EQIP deadline for the next year is December 9th.

Public Comments: Bob reports the trailer that hauls the Green Climber needs repair. We will be purchasing two Mules for the Direct Award, and he needs to purchase covering for equipment stored outdoors.

Correspondence: We were informed that the USDA SWEEP proposal was not funded.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next RCD meeting is scheduled for October 11th in the NRCS Conference room and by Zoom