



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

12 July 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

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

Warren called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

There was no meeting held in August.

Review Minutes: The minutes for June 14th were reviewed. Marlon moved to approve the minutes. Robin seconded. Aye vote ensued.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Working Group: We are keeping in touch with Aaron Fukada, manager of Tulare Irrigation District, to get a meeting date with the whole district for our LWG activity this year, we need to stay on this.

Tri-Colored Blackbird 2023 Season: Ten contracts were reviewed for payment this season. Robin moved, Scott seconded, to accept the contracts as presented. Aye vote ensued, with exception, Warren abstained the vote.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES:

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Clearances, Ward Canyon, Direct Award, Whisset, Rancheria) – Bob reported that the environmental contractor is working with 11 projects, and writeups should be completed some time in September/October. Work has started at Rancheria but there are a lot of roads to be graded first. Bill Shannon is almost done with the Whisset mastication / thinning / piling. Bob has noted lots of baby Sequoia trees in the areas we're working in.

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Ponderosa) – David and Jeff are fully involved with the two Ponderosa projects (Cal-Fire & USFS). They are very busy marking tree removal areas, as well as monitoring for the listed Sequoia Gooseberry – which happens to be growing quite happily in this area! Jeff is working on logging plans and arranging bidding for tree removal by certified loggers.

Case Mountain, BLM project: David reports the mastication has been completed for now. A modification for more mastication has just been approved and work will restart in September and October.



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Forest Health Task Force: No meeting.

Regional Partner Updates: Bob reports attending the Area IX meeting hosted by Tranquility RCD in the west Fresno area. It was a great meeting with a tour of the Shehadey Dairy.

SGMA: No report today.

CARCD RCPP: Antonia reports 5 site visits are scheduled. Teri is working on the renewal grant application, which includes new requirements and policies for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) plans.

NRCS Updates: Lurana reports five Water Smart grants were given out. The IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) support funding for 20 tractors. NRCS is working on figuring out their ability to assist with disasters.

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: none

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next RCD meeting is scheduled for September 13th in the NRCS Conference room and by Zoom