



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

11 January 2023

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Robin Galloway, Scott Powell, Marlon Daly, Johnny Gailey (full board!)

Staff: Teri Van Huss, Antonia Perez, David Witt, Bob Puls, Jeff Gletne

NRCS: Lurana Strong

Cal-Fire: Chief David Shy, Nick Shew

USFS Sierra National Forest: Steve Caracciolo and Lisa Gammell

Guests: Cody Moody, Coleman Nielas, Derek Daly

Warren called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Website: Teri, Warren, and Bob were marketed by a company named Streamline, who specializes in websites for Special Districts. Teri checked them out with the California Special Districts Association, who totally knew who they were, and actually have a link on their website for Streamline. The fee is \$25/month, and from the demonstration Teri was given, their website will be easy for us to use as well. Their customer service promise is to respond within 20 minutes to any request for assistance. Johnny moved to move to this service for all our website needs, Robin seconded. Aye vote ensued. Teri will coordinate.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES:

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Clearances, Ward Canyon, Direct Award, Whisset) – Given it's winter and there's lots of rain, only CEQA work is being done.

Cal-Fire Fuel Break projects (Ponderosa) – Work is on winter hiatus.

Case Mountain, BLM project: BLM will continue burning activities during the winter.

Sequoia National Forest agreements: Steve Caracciolo and Lisa Gammell are here to talk about how the RCD and SNF are planning to work together, especially on projects that cross private lands and FS lands. We have been working with Gretchen Fitzgerald on the planning agreement so far, and Steve and Lisa will be joining the effort now. Their goals for the forest include increasing resilience treatments and restoration. The FS service is actively recruiting partners to increase their capacity to care for the forest.



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Regional Partner Updates – On winter hiatus

SGMA – IT'S RAINING!!! Johnny reports there are many happy folks, looking to store as much water as possible above and under ground. Water districts are billing for water use from last year. There is a question - can groundwater credits be used to help others with cover crops?

CARCD RCPP: Antonia reports there are a couple contracts to modify and the ranking is coming up.

NACD Technical Assistance: Antonia has been extremely busy assisting NRCS with EPA-required documentation for over 400 tractors. The report for the 3rd quarter is complete; she has now met all the CSP goals!

Tri-Colored Blackbird projects: Teri reports 3-year contract with CAFWS has been signed and executed. This provides delay-of-harvest payments for about 600 acres per year.

NRCS Updates: Lurana says there are new MOUs between us, one will cover the work Antonia does. She reports there are two ag engineers now. Round 2 of EQIP is in process. She has been also covering as District Conservationist in Mariposa – their office has flooded!

Public Comments: none

Correspondence: none

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes by Teri Van Huss. The next RCD meeting is scheduled for February 8th in the NRCS Conference room and by Zoom.