



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 622-0378 ~ fax (559) 636-3277

14 October 2015

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Walt Bentley, Scott Powell, Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings, Larry Schwankl
Staff: David Witt, Teri Van Huss
Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls
NRCS: Joe Williams, Genett Carstensen

The meeting was called to order by Warren at 12:25 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 9/9. A couple corrections were made on dates shown for the previous meetings. Scott moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 10/14/15 was reviewed. Larry moved and Walt seconded to approve the financials. Aye vote ensued.

New Business:

Potential Projects: David referred to our CWPP in what would work for new projects given the funding available. There is work to do in Sequoia Crest and also Doyle Springs and Mountain Home and the folks are on-board already – he will keep working on creating opportunities. The CEQA work for Sequoia Crest is already done. Funding options are SNC, Forest Service, or Cal-Fire. David will 'shop' for the best grant he can identify. David is also interested in the Balch Park project through the County. The Board is in favor.

Planning Session: Joe talked to the Board about having a strategic planning meeting with NRCS to come up with a work plan that fulfills any gaps in what we do, and what kinds of things we could do together. Plan is for having this session on December 16th, and will have the regular meeting at the same time – noon to 5:00.

Sustainable Groundwater Management – Warren went to a meeting in Kings County, and they are trying to get some rules in place – the Farm Bureau and the Kings River Conservation District are pro-active. The RCD Board members agreed to keep attending the meetings in their areas. Scott would like to invite all the parties to attend an RCD meeting – this is a good idea. Bob and Scott will put a list together.

Updates:

Chipper Days: David reports working at Sequoia Crest, Doyle Springs, and Ponderosa. There are four more projects. Contacts will be finalized in 30 days, the work must be completed by April 2016.

SWEEP – The third round of grants have been awarded – 52 projects with both carbon sequestration / greenhouse gases. Bob says we will probably inspect half of them.

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Johnsondale FB: David says there is work done this past year that we haven't billed so he is trying to figure out how we're going to structure the work schedule around the occasional awards of new funds.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Neil Clipperton has approved the contract for a farmer in San Benito County, we will sign first, then send it to Neil, who will sign and then send it to the farmer.

NRCS: The Edison workshop on irrigation was terrific and included mulching tractors. The EQIP has wrapped up with 284 contracts (#1 in the State) for \$9.7 million out of 600 application. The new year now starts.

Public Comment Period:

Correspondence:

Meeting Adjourned at 1:52 p.m. Next meeting is November 4th.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss