



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

10 June 2015

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Walt Bentley, Larry Schwankl
Staff: David Witt, Teri Van Huss
Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls
NRCS: Genett Carstensen
Guests: Gary Adest, Barbara Brydoff

The meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings, 12:15 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 5/13. Walt moved to approve, Larry seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 6/9 was reviewed. Warren moved and Walt seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment.

New Business:

CARCD Region 9

Joe Williams report there is a new Treasurer for region 9. CARCD annual conference is in November at Tenaya – they need local RCDs to participate in organizing the conference. CARCD is working on the Tiers (assessment) for funding sources – we need to make sure we're up to snuff. Get new info from the website. We need to do our own assessment. Joe talked to Julie Finzel – still looking for Range Camp students.

Updates

CARCD Annual Conference – sign Walt and Larry up to receive emails from CARCD.

Cal-Fire Tulare County Chipper Days – David reported on the project so far – there are more CEQA requirements than we expected. We will be chipping in several places with Bob, our chipper and truck, going either on-site or doing piles along the road. We have 40 total days of chipping. We have submitted a Notice of Exemption, David Shy has approved it, so it should be good.

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: Bob reported Round 1 projects are almost completed. All projects must be completed by June 30th. Warren reported attending the workshop for Round 3 – the carbon footprint savings is now just as important as saving water. Reduction of electricity is hugely important.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Neil Clipperton reported to Teri that the contract is still being reviewed.

Johnsondale FB: Chipping left to do, and probably burning this fall.

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People's Garden: There has been continued interest from the community in providing seniors living in Assisted Living facilities to work in on-site gardens, Teri continues to work with them, particularly focusing on winter gardening. Chu Vang, NRCS Soil Conservationist has been called in again to help find someone who speaks Hmong that can actually manage Goathead Garden, Lurana will arrange a meeting, and Chu has someone local in mind. The influence of our public meetings is being borne out in that Selp Help Enterprises will be building gardens with their new developments. We will continue to consult with that effort, especially since the Urban Tree Foundation will be designing all their landscapes.

Meeting updates: Bob reported on the last Y/S RC&D meeting. Learned from their experience of being a fiscal agent for an IRWMP - getting paid is a rough issue.

NRCS:

Genett report a new funding phase this next week, with the next one in July; funds will be coming in from other states who have excess. Benefits to this new process, as opposed to awarding EQIP once a year, should include the ability to visit producers more often. Now producers can apply online.

Public Comment Period:

Gary Adest has a 700-acre cattle ranch on the North Fork of the Tule, saving it from single-home development, put a CE on it and the last 15 years figured out how to pay for it. It's time for it to function as a demonstration ranch. Just formed a 501(c)3, River Ridge Foundation. There is lots of opportunity in the habitat of the "Middle Watershed". On June 29th, here at NRCS, there will be planning for a stream-bed restoration training to be held later this year. The instructor will be invited from the Quivera Coalition (New Mexico). They want to create leadership on changing water use rights in a different way to conserve water and use it in better ways. They want to change flood irrigation of pastures to overhead sprinklers.

Correspondence:

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00s p.m. Next meeting is July 8th.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss