



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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19 August 2015

## Board Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order by Warren at 12:20 p.m.

**Review minutes:** The minutes were reviewed from 7/8. Walt moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** Financial report for 7/8 was reviewed. Warren moved and Walt seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment, Scott moved, Larry seconded. aye votes (4), nay vote (1). Teri requested \$1,000 for one of the Mtn Home purchases – Walt moved, Scott seconded, to approved this pre-payment with verification to be provided. Aye vote ensued.

The Board discussed and noted that billing methods that create a negative cash flow are outside protocol. In all circumstances where possible, grants must be billed and the invoice paid for payment to be made.

## New Business:

**NRCS Agreement:** Joe Williams presented a request from Curtis Tarver to hold a \$50,000 agreement for cultural resource services, Larry moved, Stan seconded, aye vote ensued.

**Sustainable Groundwater Management Act** – Bob reported on the widespread confusion among all the agencies, except for the Kaweah sub-basin, which is of extreme concern. Cities of Visalia and Tulare, and the Tulare Irrigation District are getting ready to become their own Groundwater Management Agency. After discussion, the Board is still committed to observing the process.

## Updates

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

**Cal-Fire Tulare County Chipper Days** – Bob reports that Poso area got a second round. There are so many chips that they have to be moved out. Bob checked with Cal-Fire if the grant would cover cleanup and it will. Some locals took more for their dirt roads. More discussion on the cost of picking up and hauling chips somewhere. Idea for advertising a free chipping day and have people come with their trucks and trailers.

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CDFA Water Efficiency grants: Still waiting final payment. Stage 3 has closed for proposals.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Neil Clipperton reported to Teri the contract had been signed.

Johnsondale FB: Still waiting to burn piles when the snow comes. There may be chipping also.

People's Garden: Teri reported water restrictions at the garden and a tough time getting through the language barriers with the gardeners to restrict their watering. Chu Vang arranged a community meeting with all the gardeners, bringing in a local Hmong leader to assist in working with them. It was a good meeting with very specific watering times agreed to and everyone is to help make sure we stick to it.

**NRCS:** EQUIP 123 contracts signed for about \$3 Million, another 100 in process, next deadline is Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. The engineering and science dept at COS has completed a 6-week intern process working with Kelly. Two interns did 133 hrs each. One may come back to NRCS after graduation. Looking for a student in business or public affairs as an intern next year for a couple projects.

Bonnie working on cell grazing projects on a couple local ranches. One will be a demonstration project she would like the RCD to visit eventually. She says SRT needs a range drill – ours is available for rent. We will develop a rate system for it.

## **Public Comment Period:**

None.

## **Correspondence:**

Meeting Adjourned at 2:19 p.m. Next meeting is Sept 9th.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss