



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: (559) 734- 8732 ext. 3 ~ fax (559) 732-2805

October 10, 2012

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Warren Hutchings, Stan Noble

Staff: Teri Van Huss

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Mark Davis, Genett Carstensen

DF&G: Erin Tennant

Public: Two attendees who did not give their names

Meeting called to order at 12:37 by Tom.

Review minutes from 9/12/12 Stan moved, Tom seconded for approval. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Teri presented a check run report through October 10th that included an Accounts Payable list for approval, and a list of Accounts Receivable, thus giving a total cash update. Also presented was an Excess Project Revenue report for the fiscal year ending 6/30/12, listing the three grants that contained administrative and chipper revenues that need to be reclassified as general funds. Tom Daly moved to approve the fiscal report, as well as approve the request to move the money from completed projects, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

New Business: There is no new business at this time.

Project Updates

Fuel Break Projects: Bob reported, after meeting David in the field, that Mountain Home FB completed 100 acres, 180 acres left to do. SNC Mtn Home paperwork is still coming in for signature on contract. Ponderosa FB – CEQA is done and will be starting in November. Johnsondale is set to go with the funding we have to start with, and then as additional funding comes in, we'll increase. Sequoia Crest CEQA on the Wishon Drainage is coming together.

Y/S RC&D CHIP program – Bob – met with Mountain Home Camp to assist with this CHIP program. CDF is also going to bring a chipper and the 17-person Mtn Home Camp crew will work both of them. Mostly piled already.

CA DF&G grazing, update – Erin – Krista has said it's time to move forward. She is meeting with David at Allensworth to look at their properties (a section mostly) they

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want to fence. CEQA is done and in final review within the Department. Cane Break is high on their priority list, Krista has completed a memo on the public comments, and it could start soon. Erin reminded the Board to be sure to call them with any questions.

IRWMP: Bob sent info out to the Board about what the IRWMP group is doing. The "entity" will be looking for a way to sustain itself, and seems to be looking to the nongovernment entities to fund it. The County of Tulare has distanced themselves from this process and continues with their own valley-floor IRWMP. Bob's recommendation is that we not continue with this process as it is currently structured. We are driven by the economics and we see the current process as cumbersome and time consuming. We have no stable financial base that could contribute to the process. DWR is also saying that any contractor will have to operate in arrears in spite of how long payment could occur. Tom moved, Warren seconded, aye vote ensued to rescind our participation in the current IRWMP process. Letters will be sent to the IRWMP group and DWR.

People's Gardens – Kara has completed several \$5,000 level proposals, one has been answered with no. Will hear about F2S soon. Goathead has been accepted as community service site by the Hi-4H – once a month. Hedgerow has been installed by Genett and her husband. The public area being gardened is full of greens.

Weed Management Area – Jim Sullins cannot come, no one is working for him right now.

Fire Safe Council, Bob Puls – The Urban Tree Foundation has requested assistance with goat contacts for the City of Visalia – Bob will work with them on contact information. Bob will be up at Mtn Home at the Forestry Challenge tomorrow.

Board Director search – still need to write letter. Contact Mr. Coyle (check on name – does agenda stuff) for help with nominations or advertising Board vacancies.

Correspondence: Award from SDRMA.

NRCS Report: Teresa Nells, newly hired from Wisconsin, who has been with NRCS almost two years was introduced to the Board. EQIP applications are going great guns right now. Y/S RC&D meeting is tomorrow in Clovis.

Public Comment Period: Tom Wehri joined us from CARCD and Placer County RCD. He is visiting the RCDs in the state, we are the 88th one he has visited on this round. As President of the CARCD he said he would be willing to visit everyone if he could check in with each Board, what they're doing and where they are going, and what can CARCD do for us.

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As background info, the RCD partners are NRCS and CA Dept of Conservation, with no compensation from the state. Oversight now is done under CARCD (501c3) working with all the other state committees. Only half the RCDs have tax base support. CARCD works with NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) on the Farm Bill.

Tom's look at what's happening in the state. Conservation Districts are going to start being approached by a lot of agencies assist with project implementation utilizing partnerships. We have authority to implement but little funding base. In Region IX there are 21 districts and only 8 are active – in other words, this is a prime ag area without a lot of RCD representation.

Tom provided a copy of the Conservation Pivot Conversation Project that looks at a new vision for land conservation in the 21st Century with the emphasis on identifying the effects of climate change.

State meeting – reconfiguring the regions based on his recent experiences. Says RCDs need to get more involved in the ag part of conservation.

Tom's Bottom line – how can we strengthen RCDs? The next Board president is probably an almond farmer from the Valley.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Next meeting is November 14th, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss