



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

18 November 2014

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Scott Powell, Walt Bentley, Warren Hutchings
Staff: Teri Van Huss, David Witt
NRCS: Genett Carstensen
Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls
Guest: David Shy, CALFIRE

The meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings, 12:22 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 10/8. Walt moved to approve, Scott seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 11/18 was reviewed. Walt moved and Scott seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment.

New Business:

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: The second round of applications closed on Nov. 10th. There were 15 grants submitted by Brian Kempf and Tyson Carroll (local mulch experts) for Tulare and Kings County ag producers.

CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grants – Javier Aguirre presented a concept paper to create a small farm incubator on his property in Woodlake, with the idea that the RCD be the fiscal agent. The RCD has endorsed Javier to submit this concept proposal. Teri also is considering submitting a concept proposal for the People’s Gardens program.

CARCD state conference: Overall Warren says he recommends every director should attend this conference. What he saw was that while we have done a good job as an RCD but we are in the middle in terms of size compared to the other 99 RCDs in the state. Many others have several full-time staff members. Next year the conference is at Tanaya Resort. He found it to be a really good experience. Most RCDs are like us in not having support from a tax base.

Updates

People’s Garden Program – Teri reported on progress being made with new partners and sustaining dollars coming in. Recently there have been two work days at Goathead Garden with 22 volunteers, young and strong, helping us with digging up Bermuda grass patches and creating the last 10 rows in the back.

Johnsondale FB – David and Bob have been up to the project doing flagging in preparation for any future funding. David is preparing for pile burning this winter. Bill Shannon will be masticating also. The water tender will be used also for pile burning.

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CalFire concept proposals – David submitted 10 proposals. All the RCD equipment figures large in assisting these projects. David Shy presented the good news that about 350 proposals have been submitted totaling about \$60M – there is about \$9M available. In looking forward to 2015 and potential new projects, we have hopes for mountain streams coming out of Proposition 1A.

NRCS: Joe reports EQIP will be different this year, instead of a hard deadline, it will be a revolving application process. Conservation planning will be necessary for each producer before they apply to EQIP. NRCS nationwide is pushing school health; the local group is looking for farmers that will run demonstration fields on soil quality – no-till, mulching, cover cropping. Walt will assist in that effort.

Public Comment Period:

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 17th, 2014, one week later than usual.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss