



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

17 December 2014

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Scott Powell, Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings

Staff: Teri Van Huss

NRCS: Genett Carstensen, Joe Williams

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

Guest: David Shy, CALFIRE

Guest: Sarah Campe, SNC

Guest: Erin Tennant, CAF&W

Guest: Jim Sullins, UC Extension/WMA

The meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings, 12:19 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 11/18. Stan moved to approve, Scott seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 12/17 was reviewed. Scott moved and Stan seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment.

New Business:

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: Teri reported that for the second round of grants, the Levels 4 and 5 drought requirements were dropped; there were about 300 proposals submitted. Notices should be received soon.

CDFA Specialty Crop Block Grants – Teri reported that Javier Aguirre wrote the concept proposal and sketched out a budget; they both worked on the submittal. A copy is enclosed with the Board packet.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Teri reported on conversations with the Sacramento office regarding their interest in contracting with the RCD for additional Tri-colored Blackbird silage delay projects. The notes on the conversation are in the Board packet. They are considering a contract for \$150,000 and will submit contract language for the Board's review probably in January.

Updates

Johnsondale FB – Teri reported for David that Bill Shannon has been out with the masticator and we are still attempting to locate the additional funding that might be available while he is still out there. The project will be completed in February with pile burning.

CalFire concept proposals – David Shy reported on the review process for the 15 proposals we turned in under the SRA funding. We also had two under the greenhouse gas funding. David says there were so many proposals they are establishing criteria to trim the number; fortunately

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the RCD's efforts follow all the potential benefits and project CALFIRE is looking for. He reports the SRA program may renew.

California Dept of Fish and Game – Erin came to give a report on the status of the grazing lease program they want to do with us. She says there is a new set of guidelines for these projects, as well as a program with Humboldt RCD that's given them some experience and a lease template, and so they are getting much closer to be ready to start with a lease, choosing a property near Porterville to start. She will keep us updated.

People's Garden Programs – Teri reported that public meetings, because they are normally held on the 4th Friday, are on hiatus until the end of January. Meantime, with the rain providing water for the gardens, not much work (other than weeding) is necessary at this time.

Weed Management Area – Jim Sullins reported that he'll be meeting with Sequoia Riverlands on the existing YST grant. With his retirement coming soon he's looking for ways to keep the main YST Control Program going forward. His experience is that the full fee of \$45 to \$65/acre is too high for private landowners, so it's always better to have grants that keep the LO price down to \$15/acre. The program treats about 300 acres/year at a cost of \$30,000. The RCD is interested in carrying this forward, suggesting the Board of Supervisors be contacted.

NRCS: There was much discussion about the listing of the TCBB and its effect on existing silage delay programs and how landowners might be affected by the listing. Joe reported on meetings with the Farm Bureau on the issues and all agreed that we'll have to wait until F&W releases some guidelines.

Public Comment Period:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Sarah Campe: Sarah introduced herself to the Board, she is basically replacing Bobby Kamansky as a regional coordinator. She says SNC will have some Prop 84 funds for fuel breaks and there will be public meetings in March for input.

Correspondence:

Julie Finzel sent us information on the Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP). A regulatory strategy is being developed to address water quality impacts related to livestock grazing. The Board is interested in being involved – Scott and Jim Sullins and Bob Puls will work together and aim to attend the meetings being held in January.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting will be on January 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss