



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

February 18, 2014

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Warren Hutchings, Stan Noble

Staff: Teri Van Huss

NRCS:

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: David Shy, Jim Kral (CALFIRE)

Meeting called to order at 12:25 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 1/8, Warren moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 2/18 was reviewed. Stan moved and seconded to approve the financials. Stan moves and Scott seconded to approve the FYE 6/2012 and 6/2013 audit presented at the last meeting.

New Business:

Jim Kral – project is being evaluated by CAL-FIRE, COE, and USFWS, to determine scope, dewatering, etc. He says this time of year is the best time to work with the ponds. Any funding now should be used for design, etc. Joe Williams says Bobby Kamansky met with Kelly, the ag engineer, and NRCS will help with the design and engineering work. Jim says this has been an interesting case study because of all the agencies involved, both local and federal. Scott asked Jim if the HQ pond would be involved, and he responded that the FS will take care of it. Jim would like to see off-channel water holes throughout the Forest (Mtn. Home). The County staff put together a proposal, using Jim's language, to get before RMA-CEQA staff.

OHV – Bob went to the 2-day conference in Ontario. There is \$2 million for OHV recreation projects. Lots of cities and counties are interested. Bob talked to Sequoia, who wants to do it themselves, and CALFIRE has no plans.

Updates

SNC Mtn Home, Prop 40 Mtn are completed, invoiced, and mostly paid. The only outstanding receivable is the retention of \$35,000 from SNC and it was approved in December so should be arriving any time.

Ponderosa – Bill Shannon was paid and the grant invoiced for last year. It will be completed this spring.

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Johnsondale – Teri reported communication with the Forest Service to ascertain the status of the added amounts. Of the three or four pieces being added, only one is still not pinned down yet, but it should be soon. The new total is around \$147,000. An invoice was submitted for just over \$27,000 in January, which includes chipper time.

People’s Gardens: Teri reported all waterline problems have been fixed at Goathead. The neighbor, Sammy Lee, has requested use of the very back corner out to about 60’ for his bamboo and will use his own water. The Board’s input was that would be no problem, especially because that is the section where we snagged coat hangars and lead pipe with the rotoator so now we won’t be working there!

Teri also reported being asked to attend a meeting last Monday night at the new Garden Club of Three Rivers. In telling the story of the RCD, there may be opportunities to include this group in wildfire education.

Fire Safe Council: No meeting this month. Bob is talking to David Shy about SRA funding he has for specific projects already identified in each unit. These will be highly visible projects to show local landowners how their SRA fees are being used and be part of the local plan to be ready when funding is available. We will get maps to David about landowners we know about that have been associated with our projects.

NRCS: Joe says he has a lot of brushing projects that could be part of CAL-FIRE’s plan. There are two more weeks of EQIP and \$25 million for drought relief, plus they’re working with Rural Development who has \$100 million. He has 50% cost share for water development in the foothills, and then later in the valley. Also, Julie Finzel has her livestock show in Porterville on Feb. 27th.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment Period: None

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 12th.

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss