



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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18 February 2015

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings, Walt Bentley, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, David Witt

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Genett Carstensen, Joe Williams

Guest: Javier Aguirre, Sarah Campe SNC

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

**Review minutes:** The minutes were reviewed from 1/14. Walt moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** Financial report for 2/17 was reviewed. Stan moved and Walt seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment. Teri read a letter from SDRMA that said for the sixth year in a row there will be no increases in insurance premiums.

## New Business:

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: There has been no contact from SWEEP or CARCD regarding inspections for these projects.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Neal Clipperton reported to Teri that the contract for TCBB should be in the mail.

Concept proposal for Farming and Ranching Solutions – Javier reported he contacted many agencies to look for partners on this \$750,000 projects. No one would commit. He also contacted the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, leaving messages for all five of them. Steve Worthley did respond, promised a contact but it did not happen. Javier had to drop the project. The Board encouraged Javier to keep trying with other projects.

SNC call for public input on grant program – Sarah says the first round of these Prop 1 grants, about \$12 million(?) will all be for forests – fuel programs, biomass programs, etc. On March 19<sup>th</sup> is a public hearing in Visalia at the Board of Supervisors. SNC is working hard to find out about ALL monies coming into the Sierra Nevada so they could potentially match other grant programs.

## Updates

Johnsondale FB – David was on the project site this morning. Bill Shannon's crew is masticating; there are a couple piles that will need to be chipped. The local folks are really pleased and wished we could do more in the area. Correction to previous minutes: there is 128 acres affected, about 50 acres are being treated.

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CalFire concept proposals – David completed 8 proposals, Warren met him in Bakersfield to sign them, and they were submitted. David Shy said we should find out in the first week of March.

Meeting updates: Bob said we made comments to the Hume Lake grooming project that were appreciated.

Weed Management Area – discussion about the spraying equipment coming.

Board member search. Walt would like to talk to Larry Schwengel. We need to talk to someone at the Tribe in Springville.

GRAP – Warren called the local Board for information, was given the same three names that Stan got, and he has not gotten any calls back. They suggest we write a letter, especially ask the Cattlemen's Association to be part of the process.

**NRCS:** Joe has been working with GRAP at the NRCS State level.

## **Public Comment Period:**

Javier Aguirre presented an idea for a Small Farm Development proposal and asked the RCD to be a fiscal agent, they agreed.

Teri reported that our physical location will change in about a month. Our host, the Urban Tree Foundation, is purchasing a building at 1512 W. Mineral King. It will be a big improvement.

## **Correspondence:**

Publications from the CSDA.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss