



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

21 May 2014

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Stan Noble, Scott Powell, Walt Bentley
Staff: Teri Van Huss, David Witt (by phone)
NRCS: Joe Williams, Curtis Tarver
Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

After lunch the meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings at 12:20 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 3/12, Stan moved to approve, Walt seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 5/21 was reviewed. Walt moved and Stan seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment, although the invoices billed for the last Ponderosa invoice will be held until payment is received.

New Business:

New director – Board members will approach those they know who will be interested in joining the Board, especially with the Tribe in Springville.

President – the entire Board requested Warren Hutchings to take on being President. He accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer – Stan moved, Walt seconded for Scott Powell to be Secretary/Treasurer. An aye vote ensued.

Updates

David is on the phone for project updates.

Ponderosa – final billing done on existing project, but fuel loads in the area are heavy and more work could be done in the future.

Johnsondale – some of the work is completed; it will be completed this fall by Shannon Bros. with their masticator. This is from RAC funding, and should be completed in 2015. This project has some admin dollars. Because we did the CEQA on the whole project, another funding source could immediately start additional work there.

As for active grants right now, there is only one. The SNC Mtn. Home proposal was denied; while it ranked "very high" SNC decided to fund another project.

David worked with Dave Ernst from the Forest Service about projects funded with Stephenson dollars but that didn't pan out.

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Sequoia Crest – CAL-FIRE wants this area done, and we'd like to stay in touch with them.

There was discussion about potentially doing more chipping projects in Johnsondale, Mtn. Home, neighborhood chipping projects, and Sequoia Crest. We would like to develop a pricing structure for the truck/chipper, plus driver, plus additional crew. There are a lot of variables in this scenario.

NRCS: Joe Williams says the whole USDA Service Center would like to put a placque up in the NRCS office in memory of Tom Daly. Everyone agreed that is a great idea, and the RCD will pay for it.

Joe reports EQIP has 728 applications so far this year. According to Curtis, this NRCS area receives about 45% of the state's allocation. They had three TCBB colonies this year. Staffwise there were two promotions within, plus a new farm bill person has been hired.

Joe is working with a person who does Board training that includes ethics – tentative date is Friday, June 27th, for about three hours.

CDFA is looking at a drought initiative "Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program" which is similar to EQIP but it's ready to move quickly. RCDs may come in as third party vendors.

Sierra RCD wants to give the Tulare County RCD the pieces they have within Tulare County. Joe and David Durham will start working with them to see what is involved.

Public Comment Period: None

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m. Next meeting is June 11th.

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss, Board Clerk