



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

8 June 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Larry Schwankl, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls

NRCS: Joe Williams, Genett Carstensen, Chu Vang, Bonnie Eyestone

SCE: Terry Sandberg, Forester

The meeting was called to order by Warren at 12:25 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed for 5/10, Larry moved, Scott seconded, to approve the minutes. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 6/8/2016 was reviewed. Board noted problems with the report. Will be revisited.

New Business:

Tree Mortality Task Force

Joe Williams updated the Board on the NRCS agreement for a Registered Professional Forester to work on forest plans for NRCS. It is close to being completed and submitted. Discussion ensued on the various ways the Forester will be utilized with the NRCS practices. Terry Sandberg offered wisdom on the value of this effort.

Sierra Reforestation: Terry Sandberg, a Forester who works for SCE, says growing trees could be a great idea, with seedlings ready for Fall 2017. Says there are sometimes small windows of time and weather to plant, but that fall is the best time. He thinks we could find a small piece of land, that we should concentrate on Ponderosa, getting seed from the state seedbank, utilize a RPF for site prep, timing issues, etc. The only nurseries that produce are Forest Service ones, perhaps one RCD up north, and one from Wyuca(?). The state used to have nurseries but they are all shut down. Jim Kral has contacted him to work on growing seedlings, so he believes there is a need and a good opportunity. He is leaving info on source materials. SCE sells seedlings at 20 cents / \$200/thousand (this being half price and only to cover costs). He says there might be an empty nursery shade house somewhere that could be used. Where he is, he sows seed in March and plants in October. \$150/lb for seed, 12,000 seeds per lb from Moran Nursery at Davis. Water pH has to be monitored and we have to be careful. Question about climate change and a change in variety – Forest Service has not talked to him about this; what they are talking up is planting up higher in altitude. Bonnie says that plants themselves, particularly conifers, are already “going” up the hill themselves. The forest is “resetting” – Terry says the understory is doing well, but not the over story. Walt asked about beetles and drought – Terry says the beetles are actually native, perhaps we need to really think about what’s happening, and let more nature take its course. Terry emphasized that what this is about is creating locally-adapted and appropriate seed / plants that are good for the environment.

Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

Updates:

CA Fish & Wildlife: Two TCBB agreements were received from Project Manager Neil Clipperton: 1) John Hultgren, Le Grand, CA for 30 acres, total \$720, for restricting cattle grazing during the nesting period, and 2) Stan Pura, San Benito County, CA, for deferred harvest of 20 acres of wheat, total \$12,582.20. Walt moved, Larry seconded to approve them, Warren signed. Contracts will be sent to the landowners, then forwarded to CAF&W.

SWEEP Projects: Bob says Round 3 is almost done. There are a couple folks who may go beyond. Round 4 has been awarded and Bob will start on that this fall.

Chipper Days: Bob says he did a day at Doyle Springs, chipping lots of brush, moved up to Ponderosa and spent four days chipping piles. The chipper needs a hydraulic line and sharpened blades, the local folks are very happy. Johnsondale will start next week with Bill Shannon's crews doing the work.

People's Gardens: Warren has concerns about Goathead and it being able to stand on its own, financially, for the lease, and for insurance. He would like to see a plan in place to transition the garden to being self sufficient - Chu suggests a \$30 deposit, and perhaps an annual fee. Water is really only an expense during the summer.

Admin: Fiscal year-end approaching at 6/30. Warren mentioned we need to find another Board member.

NRCS: Conservation Planning meeting – a conservation planning course will be given by NRCS/coalitions for RCDs to become certified in being ones can sign off on the plans. Some coalitions are doing their own training. The Coalitions are also talking about having maybe a web-based training so people could self-certify. EQIP has one more "batching" period for ranking and screening. 130 contracts signed for \$5.5 million.

Public Comment Period:

Correspondence: Lots of email correspondence is on the table.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m. Next meeting is July 13th.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss