



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

13 July 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Walt Bentley, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls

NRCS: Joe Williams, Genett Carstensen, Bonnie Eyestone

UC Extension: Julie Finzel

Attorney: David Kahn

The meeting was called to order by Warren at 12:20 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed for 6/8, Walt moved, Scott seconded, to approve the minutes. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: A revised financial report for 6/8/2016 was presented, and a current financial for 7/12/16 was reviewed. Scott moved, and Walt seconded, to pay the accounts payable as presented.

Presentation: Grant Wagner brought Paige and Elias who attended the Range Camp at Half Moon Bay. Grant says the quality of students who attended was very high. Elias is on track at the Construction/Manufacturing and is very interested in problem solving, seeing Range Camp as a way of learning more about the environment, especially the use of math/trigonometry in managing forests! Paige is in the Environmental Academy, becoming more aware that she ever imagined and now wants to study macro-invertebrates (what Walt does!) She said it was the greatest experience every and everyone she met there were passionate about their jobs

New Business:

SB-88: extraction of water from streams. Warren introduced David Kahn who can answer questions about the requirements of the act. David says there are two parts 1) the consolidation of water, and 2) measures the diversion of water >10 ac of diversion must be reported. Consolidated reporting can come if there is a diversion point. April 1, 2017 is the deadline. This covers surface waters only. Who is the water rights holder? It's being sold as a data collection. Water rights holders (individual growers, or riparian rights, or water districts) should know by now what they are to do. Reported to the State Water Board (appointed). Does it matter how its diverted? Cows, no. Where there's a turnout or pipe. Impounding and temporarily holding but returning? Yes. Electricity producing reports? Yes. The phrase about subterranean river? Lawsuits coming. Livestock ponds? Bottled water companies?

Tree Mortality Task Force

Bob reports that the County of Tulare (Steve Worthley, Board of Supervisors) is heading up the task force – we have the greatest death loss of trees, and it's much bigger than they ever thought. They're talking about hiring someone to manage the project. Hazards to public safety is probably what will be accomplished. Sierra Club needs to be contacted? Bob is telling them the RCD would be able to handle all the contracting.

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Work day in Sequoia National Park: Joe says there is an event. Earth Day celebrating 100 years, a multi-agency work day (NPS, COE) in September to attack Spanish Broom in the Kaweah Watershed, mostly in Three Rivers. The plants are so big they're going to have to be chipped. The Board agrees to lend the chipper and pay Bob to be the operator for that day. Kaweah Commonwealth will be writing articles, Board agreed the RCD should be included as a partner agency.

Updates:

NRCS Archaeologist: Last minute submission paperwork for renewal. Warren instructs that a Board member always be involved in any of these grant submissions.

CA Fish & Wildlife: Two contracts for tri-colored blackbird delay of harvest/delay of access were completed.

SWEEP Projects: Bob says Round 3 is 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: Everything is done for now. Bob needed traffic cones for one of the days because they were so close to a road.

Board would like to look at the cost of replacing the chipper. Bob will gather information.

People's Gardens: Spoke with Chu – working on how to make changes in management of Goathead Garden.

Admin: Teri will produce a year-end financial statement for the next meeting.

NRCS: EQIP update – 144 contracts obligated for \$6 million. Finalizing more soon, will be at about \$9 million by the end of the year. Searching for Rangeland Ecologist.

Joe says they're going to do a "teach the teachers" water workshop at River Ridge in October – 1) RCD attends? 2) RCD sponsor?

Joe attended a meeting of the Tulare county Water Commission. Board thinks it's a good idea for Bob to attend this regular meeting also.

Bonnie reports that she'd like to do a presentation on her work over the last couple years at the September meeting.

Public Comment Period: None

Correspondence: CARCD State Conference info on the table.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m. Next meeting is August 10th

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss