



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

9 July 2014

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Stan Noble

Staff: Teri Van Huss

NRCS: Joe Williams

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

Guest: Brian Kempf, Urban Tree Foundation

After lunch the meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings at 12:22 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 6/11, Warren made a correction to the biomass comment that CoGen facilities have closed. Scott moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Financial report for 6/11 was reviewed. Stan moved and Scott 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:

Brian Kempf made a presentation on his experience with using mulch both in urban and ag landscapes. He is enthusiastic about being able to document water conservation, weed control, and other benefits of using mulch in both orchards and row crops. There was discussion about the costs of laying mulch down and the equipment needed to do that. Agreement that this is rather labor intensive. There is also agreement that it is a good thing to chip trees which are downed and leave the chips in place for soil improvement. It also appears that trucking expenses for mulch are a concern.

Toby Horst, of the Sierra RCD passed away. Bob sent a card.

Updates

Bob has been continuing to work the Forest Service system to see about listing the Water Tender for service.

CalFire has asked for a low budget permanent tank, Bob will continue to followup.

At the request of Y/SRC&D, Bob put together a list of our shovel-ready projects for potential chipper funding.

Cal-Fire put out a funding notice for projects, but they have a 50% match requirement.

People's Garden – Teri met with Rick Hander, Director of the Milk Specialties plant, to get the lease renewed for Goathead. He was amenable to continuing the relationship and the lease will need to go through their corporate process. Teri gave him new documents.

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NRCS: EQUIP projects are starting up.

RCD training will be on August 22nd at the USDA Fresno Field Office. Joe will attend also. It would be good for all to attend.

Public Comment Period:

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.
Next meeting will be on August 22, 2014

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss