



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

3530 W. Orchard Court ~ Visalia, CA 93277  
Phone: (559) 734- 8732 ext. 3 ~ fax (559) 732-2805

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August 8, 2012

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Mark Davis, Genett Carstensen

USFWS: Scott Frazer

Meeting called to order at 12:45 by Tom.

Not a quorum. Information meeting only.

NRCS Report: Mark report that Chu's replacement will arrive Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. CARCD Regional meeting for the speak off contest is October 19<sup>th</sup>. Bob will attend. There is a class being held on reporting for the Air Board (flyer attached). Genett reported about Controlled traffic in conservation tillage education – decreasing traffic on all aisles to reduce compaction (flyer attached) – also no-till and earth worm education. Mark says there is a consortium forming to study climate change

Elizabeth provided information about a potential 3-year WRP contract for a tricolored BB management plan. Board said yes, bring them the contract when it's ready.

## FIRE SAFE COUNCIL:

CHIP III program. Y/SRC&D asked for background info on areas where we could go in and chip in the foothills communities. Bob has provided information on Sequoia Crest, Ponderosa, and Heartland to start, also Johnsondale, are possibilities. Our fee is \$2,000/day. As soon as money is in we will start.

## PEOPLE'S GARDENS

Kara reported that she met with the Scott Bailey, the new regional manager of CalWater last Friday. He has experience with gardens in other communities. She asked for assistance with a discounted rate; he is interested in partnering with us, and will look at a discount. We have submitted various small grants to local banks, will submit a Rotary Foundation grant. We will also submit to Wells Fargo and will need Y/S RC&D to do that for us. Has started a contact with 4H for both assistance with work projects and \$1,000 grant program. We have a contact in the Leslie St. neighborhood who is organizing the neighborhood, and getting the neighbors into plots. Tulare County Nutrition Collaborative is looking for a fiscal agent for large grants for regional

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programs, with Tom's encouragement Kara will bring their mission information so we would make sure it's a good match.

## **Project Updates:**

Mtn Home has started, advances for Mtn Home and Ponderosa have just been received. Johnsondale and Sequoia Crest have signed contracts also. SNC is still being negotiated for Mtn Home.

## **California Foothills Legacy Area – Scott Frazer**

The planning process is still going on to complete a plan that would open Conservation Easement (CE) funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. USFWS is interested because of waterfowl habitat enhancement. Nationally, FWS has maintained CEs in the middle of the nation. The issue here has been funding the CEs, and FWS could bring new funding sources to the table. They need to complete the project plan and environmental document by the end of this year. The process has been slower than originally thought because of the controversy the CE process has stirred up. Now they are doing outreach to figure out how to best approach ranchers' concerns. Bob expressed questions about how priorities could happen for properties close to Federal land to create corridors – Scott says, yes, those linking properties are very important. The process will follow normal USFWS CE steps, as in their water fowl CEs. Over time, a protected rangeland could actually show a gain in value because it's protected, and even eventually be equal in value to unprotected lands.

Possibility for the RCD to assist with community meetings, especially including livestock operators.

Financial Report: No official report today – no bank statement yet for July, and until this morning it was unknown if the advances David ordered for Mtn. Home and Ponderosa had arrived. They were in the mail at the NRCS offices, it was thought they would be ACH's. Board approves a distribution from the County funds for \$3,000.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Board member search. We will write a letter to the Tribe regarding the long relationship between our agencies and see if they would like to nominate someone.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next meeting is September 1, 2012

Respectfully submitted,  
Teri Van Huss