



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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10 September 2014

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Stan Noble, Scott Powell, Walt Bentley  
Staff: Teri Van Huss  
NRCS: Joe Williams  
Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls  
Guest: Jim Sullins

The meeting was called to order by Scott Powell at 12:15 p.m.

**Review minutes:** The minutes were reviewed from 8/22. Stan moved to approve, Walt seconded. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** Financial report for 9/10 was reviewed. Stan moved and Walt seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment.

## New Business:

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: Teri reported that Urban Tree Foundation has assisted with about 13 applications for farmers in Tulare and Kings Counties. They have not been awarded yet.

LAFCO / Sierra RCD, request for Sphere of Influence change – Bob is following this up and will contact Tulare County LAFCO, probably Allen Ishida, to see what we need to do.

Groundwater Discussion: Jim Sullins talked about the pending Bond legislation, stating that the Farm Bureau, Water Commission, and other agencies have concerns and have been writing letters. Of importance to the RCD, if the Bond is passed, is participating in the prioritization of projects. There are questions like, what will the Federal participation be? There are a lot of dollars for disadvantaged communities. Additional legislation about sustainable watersheds, i.e., for Tulare County, where we cannot balance the groundwater without imports, this could be a problem. The biggest problem is that we don't have enough water for what we're doing. It would be good for an RCD member to be on the local Farm Bureau Water Committee.

Discussion about desalinization, esp. in Southern California. Environmentalists have a problem with what to do with the salts.

County ordinance on exporting groundwater outside the County was debated, but not acted on after realization that there would need be lots of exceptions. A well permit process (normal 200 to 300 permits per year) last year there were 800 permits taken.

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The RCD might want to participate in the County Ag Advisory Committee. Stan brought up issues of well permits and requirements.

Jim has summaries of Farm Bureau opinions that he will share with the Board.

We need to keep this discussion going. Scott used the analogy of how we see the big rock rolling down the mountain toward the car, but maybe we don't have to move the car yet.....

## Updates

Director Training in Fresno. Information was distributed to Board members who couldn't attend.

Weed Management Area – Jim says the WMA treated 300 acres this year. They are at the end of their CDFA grants; he got an extension of his Leading Edge grant held by SRT. Jim is retiring next June and is suggesting that the RCD take it over. Joe Williams is the co-chair and would still be part of it. The RCD is in favor of this idea.

**NRCS:** Joe says California NRCS has \$100 million to spend (\$5 million for T.C. – have 700 applications). Will be hiring another soil conservationist.

## Public Comment Period:

Jim Sullins says that Coop Ext. has hired a Small Farm Advisor who is very good.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss