



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

September 11, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Tom Daly, Stan Noble

Staff: David Witt and Teri Van Huss

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Genett Carstensen, Mike Higgins, Joe Williams

Guests: Julie Finzler, Scott Frazer USFWS

Meeting called to order at 12:38 p.m.

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 8/14/13, Stan moved to approve, Warren seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Teri presented a check run report through September 11th that includes an Accounts Payable list for approval and a list of Accounts Receivable, thus giving a total cash update. There was discussion about handling the next advance from SNC, which was requested in July and has yet to arrive, and deal appropriately with a contractor's invoice received two weeks ago with an amount higher than the advance and being able to pay it within 30 days. Stan moved, Warren seconded, for the financial report be approved. Aye vote ensued.

New Business:

2013 Range Camp – Picture of Drew and Fareen presented to the Board. Discussion about Monache's desire to attend the Forestry Challenge again this year.

Project Updates

TCBB – One payment of about \$323 remaining, contract is now complete through NRCS. Scott Frazer says this year is their triennial TCBB census, and there is data that TCBB is in decline and there might be a lawsuit for listing. There are insights about why, but the rangeland census' are in decline and it's troubling. Also, there is no new money to keep creating marshland to get them off the dairies; this increases the chances for lawsuit for listing. Habitat reduction and adapting to triticale is not working out well; however, the WRP marshland is starting to attract colonies. Every alternative seems to be too expensive and the funding has pretty much disappeared, especially with the sequester.

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Project updates – David gave updates on all the projects:

- SNC Mtn Home Project & Prop 40 Mtn Home – over 600 acres together will be cleared. Masticator contractor does good work but is hard to work with about payments. We think that David Shy has submitted all our paperwork for invoicing and another advance but he's not sure and we need to followup with the Sacramento office. SNC project should be completed soon and looks really good.
- Ponderosa Fuel Break project – Shannon Bros. will continue in October on the last 50 acres.
- Sequoia Crest – Brian has completed the CEQA docs and the project has been invoiced (archaeological report and Environmental Checklist). CAL-FIRE will take care of CEQA. This project is now reading for funding.
- Johnsondale RAC – originally asked for \$150,000, we got \$36,000, but we are in line to get more funding to increase this project. We want to leave this project open through the end date of 2015, but will invoice this as we go. Chipper use is a match on this grant. Bill Shannon and David will not be paid until January.
- CHIPP at Johnsondale – This is separate from the RAC and funds the chipper.

David talked about new projects for next year – Ponderosa, Sequoia Crest, and maybe Homestead Forest could go next year, but right now he's not seeing much.

People's Gardens – Teri report the fall season is approaching and we are getting people in from the waiting list. There will be a work day on Saturday the 21st to create more rows.

Weed Management Area – the sprayer was cleaned up and delivered to Century 21. The RCD should write a letter of donation to the group in 3R.

FSC: Today is the first official meeting of the FSC after this meeting. Bob wrote a letter of appreciation for the South Fort bridge opening.

NRCS: Joe introduced their new Ag Engineer – Kelly Kraft

Genett gave info on the Precision Irrigation & Conservation Agriculture Farm and Field Station Tour, tomorrow, Sept 12th, at the UC West Side Research and Extension Center in Five Points. A lot of people are expected to attend, including Warren, who will report at the next meeting.

Correspondence:

Public Comment Period: Scott Frazer reports that he attended the Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 1 to submit a letter of opposition to the Legacy Area citing loss

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of local control over land uses. Most publics approved of the Legacy Area because it identified areas where people are already interested. Comments on the Draft EIR are due by Sunday the 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.
Next meeting is October 9, 2013

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss