



# Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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11 March 2015

## Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings, Walt Bentley, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss, David Witt

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Genett Carstensen, Joe Williams, Bonnie Eystone, Bradley, Mike Higgins, Roger Tompkins

Guest: Sarah Campe SNC, Wendell Gilgert, Point Blue Conservation Science, Gay and Jim Ver Steeg

The meeting was called to order by Warren Hutchings, 12:15 p.m.

**Review minutes:** The minutes were reviewed from 2/18. Stan moved to approve, Walt seconded. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** Financial report for 3/10 was reviewed. Walt moved and Stan seconded to approve the financials. The accounts payable list is approved for payment.

## New Business:

**GRAP:** Letters are being written by the Board. Joe says maps and figures are being collected for data involving the scope of this issue. Also, Warren reported that all three contacts Stan and Bob had contacted with no answer, have now responded to him.

CDFA Water Efficiency grants: Email from Karen Buhr that there are 30 to 45 projects to be inspected by the end of May. These projects are complete but we need clarification on how an MIL could actually work. Joe Williams will have two ag engineering students from COS, who, along with Bob Puls, could assist with getting this work done.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Neal Clipperton reported to Teri that the contract for TCBB should be in the mail, it's not been received yet.

Concept proposal for Farming and Ranching Solutions – Our concept proposal was rejected.

SNC call for public input on grant program – Sarah says our previously submitted Mtn Home proposal would also be a good match with the new grant funding. Sarah will track the developing grant process to see how it goes. March 19<sup>th</sup> is the presentation of the grant guidelines in the BOS chambers.

## Updates

Johnsondale FB – David is finishing up the project with the existing budget and time schedule.

CalFire concept proposals – David has not heard about any of the concept proposals.

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Meeting updates: Bob spoke with Steve Haze about their North Fork BioMass plant project. Because of differences in road infrastructure between there and our local forests, it is a difficult project to replicate here (roads are narrower here). Wrote a letter of support for the Goliath project. Bob has become aware of an effort of EPA to up the minimum ozone levels so high as to eliminate controlled burning. Sarah says there is a high-level push to avoid this happening. Bob also spoke with Citrus Mutual who says there will be regional groups formed to work with the water districts to coordinate ground water pumping – the RCD will be involved in the local group.

Weed Management Area – Jim is not here. There still needs to be a discussion about how the WMA will continue forward after he retires.

**NRCS:** None today.

**Public Comment Period:** Wendall Gilgert made a powerpoint presentation about Point Blue's Rangeland Watershed Initiative – founded in 1965 as Point Reyes Bird Observatory and currently with 140 seasonal and full-time staff, Point Blue works with issues of climate change. Rangeland Watershed Initiative – Increase water, carbon, wildlife and economic productivity on CA rangelands. The answer is a prescribed grazing regimen that keeps "cowpan" from happening and thus more rain goes into the ground. Point Blue encourages Leopoldian Land Steward (Aldo Leopold) methods. If the birds are there, the soil is healthy. Bonnie is now in the local NRCS office to help bring this scientific effort to this area. Goal is biodiversity. They are the land doctors. Data collected by Point Blue is batched and made anonymous; landowner info is not distributed.

**Correspondence:**

Publications from the CSDA.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:14 p.m. Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss