



Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

May 8, 2013

Board Meeting Minutes

Directors Present: Tom Daly, Stan Noble, Warren Hutchings, Scott Powell

Staff: Teri Van Huss

Fire Safe Council: Bob Puls

NRCS: Elizabeth Palmer

CAFWS: Krista Tomlinson

Meeting called to order at 12:44 by Tom Daly

Review minutes: The minutes were reviewed from 4/10/13, Warren moved to approve, Stan seconded. Aye vote ensued.

Financial Report: Teri presented a check run report through May 3rd that includes an Accounts Payable list for approval, and a list of Accounts Receivable, thus giving a total cash update. Warren moved, Scott seconded, the financial report be approved. Aye vote ensued.

New Business

2013 Envirothon – did not hear from Grant Wagner about the Envirothon.

Project Updates

CAFWS Grazing Program: Krista reports that the State Auditor doesn't quite approve of the way the grazing and ag leases were set up. The Yolo RCD currently holds ag leases and was going to be the first one to be approved for grazing leases but now there are questions. In the meantime most of the currently operating agreements have been stopped. She is hoping this will settle soon, but in the meantime she is hoping to make some educational partnerships about grazing and some cows or sheep may be able to get on the land to reduce thatch. Comment from Tom Daly that the RCD will remain in contact with CAFWS to continue to assist in this important issue.

Weed Management Area: Jim Sullins got a new grant to have the cost-share program be funded for yellow star-thistle this year and next year. This year they'll have 80 property owners who participated, about 400 acres treated. The NFWF grant partnership Leading Edge project with SRT that is aimed at stopping the YST at 1,500' has come through and he can now hire a coordinator. The equipment is working well. He met with RMA and is working on County transportation issues for controlling clean mining procedures, especially for gravel. Arundo is still also an issue.

Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

Project updates were given by Bob and Teri based on communication with David.

- Ponderosa Fuel Break project – Shannon Bros. will start soon.
- SNC Mtn Home Project – Masticator is on the project and running. The fuel break projects will be going for the next six months.
- Fire Safe Council – Bob is putting together a Meet & Greet with CALFIRE and foothills ranchers is scheduled for May 17th- he is distributing a flyer.
- Board Director search. Still looking for someone.

Correspondence: None.

NRCS Report: TCBB has five potential contracts – Elizabeth has been monitoring and the wind storm has redistributed the nesting areas, but should still be successful. There are some dairies that haven't signed up or don't know about the program. Elizabeth commented that even though this is just a migratory bird, it is a species that is endemic to California and probably worth all this effort. The wetland restoration programs are working to increase habitat so the TCBB will go there, and the plan is to plant triticale to attract the birds. The National Conservation Corps team came to Alpaugh to plant a bunch.

Joe is not here today to answer questions about EQIP practices or the program.

Elizabeth only works with conservation easements on vernal pool lands. Applications for the three reserve programs have been closed.

Public Comment Period: No public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next meeting is June 12th, 2013

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Van Huss