



## Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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

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14 September 2016

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

Directors Present: Warren Hutchings, Walt Bentley, Scott Powell, Larry Schwankl  
Staff: Teri Van Huss, Bob Puls  
NRCS: Genett Carstensen, Kelli Woods  
Presenter: David DeGroot, 4Creeks, Inc.  
Guest: Michael Tharp, R.L. Schafer and Associates

The meeting was called to order by Warren at 12:10 p.m.

David DeGroot offered a presentation and power point on SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act). David introduced this as a water quantity law, not a water quality law. The state wants local regulation. The law applies only to identified groundwater basins. High priority areas (like the San Joaquin Valley) must abide by this law first, then others will comply. There are identified sub-basins which have to run their area on their own, as well as cooperate regionally. At the state level, California Dept. of Water Resources is in charge of technical issues with the GSAs (groundwater sustainability agencies) and their GSPs (groundwater sustainability plans). The State Water Control Board steps in when it's a legal issue. There is much information at the state level through DWR's website ([groundwater.ca.gov](http://groundwater.ca.gov)) and locally through the Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance ([tularelakebasin.com/alliance/](http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/)) whose meetings Bob Puls attends on behalf of the RCD.

**Review minutes:** The minutes were reviewed for 8/10, Walt moved, Scott seconded, to approve the minutes. Aye vote ensued.

**Financial Report:** A check run was presented for the past month, showing all checks written and all deposits made, with an ending bank balance of \$113,222.77. Accounts receivable include payroll billings, and invoices for Johnsondale and for work done by the water tender, totaling \$30,120.26. Payables include project management invoices and contractor payments totaling \$7,437.86. Walt moved, and Scott seconded, to pay all the payables except the contractor payment for Johnsondale because payment has not yet been received. Aye vote ensued.

### ❖ **Updates**

**Workday in Three Rivers:** Joe reports a collaboration of NPS, COE, SCE, and the community of Three Rivers on Saturday, Sept 25 to fight Spanish Broom. Several other invasive species are present on the Kaweah Drainage – tamarisk, etc. Bob Puls will bring the RCD's chipper to assist with the effort.

**Tree Mortality Task Force:** Bob reported on the CARCD proposal to USDA for 10 counties through the RCDs for \$2.5 million and NRCS \$7.5 million. The proposal requires a 1:1 match plus known partnerships to be present and working, and required

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a letter of support and estimation of what monies will already be spent in the next three years. Tulare County, through the Board of Supervisors, will provide a letter. This proposal will be submitted Sept 19<sup>th</sup> for a scheduled award early next year.

**SWEEP Projects:** Bob says Round 4 is ongoing – we have 26 projects, he has completed two of them.

**Fire Activities – Water Tender:** Bob reported that Cal-Fire brought the water tender out for 2.5 days on the Tule fire. His new relief person is a recently retired Cal-Fire battalion chief who had a most excellent time.

**Johnsondale FB:** Teri reports payment has probably been made but it's electronic and we'll not know until we get the bank statement for September.

**People's Garden:** Roger Thompkins from NRCS built a prototype raised bed, 4' x 4', that can be raised and lowered for wheelchair / walker access and he and Thomas installed it in the front row at Goathead. We are working to find a person to practice with it.

**Administrative – Conflict of Interest Policy biennial review** – At the request of the County Board of Supervisors, our Conflict of Interest Policy was reviewed. The Board determined that there have been no substantial changes in our organizational structure, no positions eliminated or renamed, no new positions added, and no substantial changes in duties or responsibilities for any position has occurred. Scott moved, and Walt seconded to respond to the County that no amendment is required. Teri is directed to complete the form and send to the County.

**NRCS Updates.** Joe says Robert has now moved on and he is down by two employees. Wrapping up EQIP – 206 contracts, about \$9 million. This office is perhaps top in the nation in EQIP contracts. They will be implementing much more conservation planning, and quality is more important than quantity. Healthy Soil initiative is picking up in California, and NRCS is working on the cost share. This needs to gain traction in the Valley.

**Public Comment Period:** none

**Correspondence:** none

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m. Next meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully submitted, Teri Van Huss