



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Wednesday January 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:08 pm by Robert Ingram
Directors present: Robert Ingram, David Barhydt, Patti Kiehl, Jim Drew, Linda Miller
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson, Evan Smith,
2. **Introductions:** No Introductions were made.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Patti Kiehl mentioned that there may have been a misunderstanding about the wording for the scholarship vote in November. She wasn't sure if we had voted for it to be automatically renewable. Jim Drew said that we had approved the scholarship for one year and that the recipient would have to apply to renew, and that it was not automatic.

Linda Miller arrived 6:15

Jim Drew moved to approve Consent Agenda. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.

4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No public comments.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** No comments.
6. **President's Report:** Robert Ingram stated that 2019 will be the year of austerity for the RCD. We need to stay tighter on the budget and watch expenses.
7. **Education & Outreach Committee:** Jim Drew mentioned that the Speak-off Contest is coming up in February and that we could reduce the award amounts. Dave Barhydt and Jim Drew discussed how to help raise awareness of the competition.

Maddison Easley and Sabrina Nicholson arrived 6:25

After further discussion, Jim will pursue Speak-off contestants and the District will uphold award amounts from 2018 (1st Place: \$250; 2nd Place: \$150).

8. **Forestry Committee:** Robert Ingram stated that CDF's \$200 million-a-year-for-5-years grant is for fuel-re-distribution (dropping fuel on the ground) and is against his belief of reducing and removing fuels. Patti Kiehl mentioned that she sat in with Sabrina Nicholson on CDF's Forest Health Grant Quantification Methodology webinar and stated how complicated and overwhelming the process was. She also mentioned that maintenance was a component of the grant.

Maddison Easley said she'd be willing to share the name of the technical contractor Placer County uses for the technical side of their grants. Robert mentioned that he also had contacts for contractors for that aspect of the grants. Sabrina said that she would like to still work on the process for grants for 2020.

9. **Grassland Committee:** Dave Barhydt talked about concerns of invasive noxious weeds, including smut grass. He is going to use the Min-Till drill to sow cereal ryegrass in an attempt to combat the invasive weeds. Details to come.

10. **NCRCD Activity Report:** The grand jury report was received; ethics training is coming up Feb. 12th; Sabrina Nicholson, Kelly Weintraub, and Maddison Easley attended the 2018 Rangeland Summit meeting – the information wasn't conclusive but will be shared. If the Board decides to pursue grants in the future, Sabrina would like to take an introductory CEQA training class. The least expensive one found was offered by SDRMA for \$150 and is March 6th.

Sabrina contacted CalPERS to see if it was possible for NCRCD to opt out of CalPERS and move to either a 401(k) or IRA. It is possible, but because we have an employee who retired through CalPERS, we would have to leave approximately \$332,000 in CalPERS to cover the retiree. The Board agreed that for now we will stay with the CalPERS program.

We received the final cost numbers from Placer County RCD for the Soil Erosion Self-Certification Workshop we co-sponsored. Our amount due was proportional to the number of attendees from Nevada County – approximately 20%. Placer County RCD offered to bear the entire cost of the workshop, but the Board agreed that NCRCD's portion would be paid as previously promised.

11. **NRCS Activity Report:** A written NRCS Activity Report was on the table. NRCS, despite the furlough, is open for business but not taking new applications at this time. A new farm bill has been passed, but details and new application forms will not be available until after the furlough. Old contracts will still be paid. A new District Conservationist (DC), Chris Robbins, has been chosen for the Auburn field office and will start February 4th. Pam will be acting DC for Auburn in the interim. Curtis Tarver has moved to Area 4 and Sharon Nance will be his replacement for our area.

12. **Old Business:** No old business.

13. **New Business:**

- a. **Board nomination and selection of 2019 Board President & Vice-President:** ***Robert Ingram nominated Dave Barhydt as Board President (second is not required). Approved 5-0.*** Robert was concerned that if both the President and the Vice President were unable to attend a Board meeting that there wouldn't be anyone to run the meeting. He mentioned that perhaps a Board Secretary should be voted in. After some discussion, it was decided to forego the nomination of a Board Secretary in lieu of simply appointing a spokesperson at the meeting as needed.

Linda Miller nominated Patti Kiehl for Vice President; Patti Kiehl nominated Jim Drew for Vice President. There was much discussion. ***Linda nominated Patti Kiehl as Board Vice President. Approved 5-0.***

b. **Board Committee member assignments:** Linda Miller asked Maddison Easley to join the Education Committee. Maddison agreed. All other Committee Member assignments stay the same.

c. **Board discussion and possible action regarding replacing district vehicle:** Jim Drew suggested that if we decide to purchase another district vehicle, that we contact the county and purchase a surplus vehicle. Dave Barhydt stated that he does not like the fact we lost money on the vehicle. After discussion about cost, use, and mileage, it was decided to reimburse staff for mileage on their personal vehicles rather than purchase another vehicle. ***Jim Drew moved to reimburse staff for office related mileage at IRS rates. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0.***

14. **Announcements:** Next Board meeting, **February 12, @ 3pm** to accommodate those needing to attend the Ethics Training at the Rood Center taking place at 6pm.

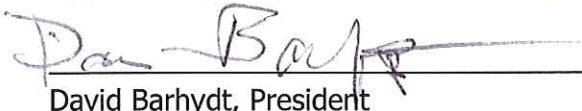
Robert Ingram stated that if we decide to pursue grants in the future, he would not support any grant or fuel-reduction projects that didn't have a maintenance component. He feels we should be on the side of nature and plant physiology. Wind-driven events kill people and burn-up things. The more fuel on the ground, the harder wildfire is to stop.

Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik January 15, 2019.



Approved by Board of Directors on 2/12/19



David Barhydt, President