



MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:01 pm by Robert Ingram
Directors present: Robert Ingram, Jim Drew, Patti Kiehl, Susan Hoek, David Barhydt
Associate Director present: Linda Miller, Maddison Easley, Darlene Moberg
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson, Jan Blake
2. **Introductions:** No introductions were made.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Robert Ingram moved to approve Consent Agenda. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 3-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** No comments.
6. **President's Report:** No report.
7. **Education & Outreach Committee:** Committee met came up with 2 potential events and 5-7 seminars. Event 1: Fire Ecology. We're working out how to present this - best methods for clearing, what it's going to take to keep your insurance, etc. A Saturday event, should be 3-4 hours. Event 2: NID Watershed Tour. We're waiting for January to firm up plans with NID and determine a date based on weather impact.
Madison Easley arrived
Seminar 1: Kate Wilkins - Where Fire is Working
Seminar 2: Kelly Weintraub - Wildlife Habitat
Seminar 3: Foothill Fibers Guild – Exploring Natural Fibers (a slide show and demonstration similar to the one at Farm Day)
Seminar 4: Amy Pharis – What to do with Your Small/Hobby Farm
Seminar 5: Corky Quirk – All About Bats
Seminar 6: Chris Bierwagen(?) - Fruit Trees
Seminar 7: Creature Catchers(?) – Pesky Animal Exclusion (rats, moles, deer, skunks, raccoons, bears, etc.)
8. **Forestry Committee:** Working on the idea of protecting your family and property from fire. Someone needs to talk about habitat, wildlife population dynamics, how forests change over time in different stages of development, and how wind and slope are factors.

Susan Hoek, Darlene Moberg, and David Barhydt arrive

9. **Grassland Committee:** Talked about "grass germination". More details at next meeting about the reseeding progression with the rain. The Cannabis Alliance wants to form a committee to "protect ag lands" - meeting Monday the 20th at 11:30 am – details of meeting location etc. to follow. Talk about how to protect land and property owner's rights. There is the possibility of regulation with a one-acre cap on growing cannabis. Sierra Harvest will attend. Jonathan Mark from the Cannabis Alliance will discuss how to discuss the topic openly and have creative out-of-the-box solutions to protect ag. We don't have to support it – but California has legalized it so we have to address it. Things are changing. Yuba County is now trying to address the cannabis issue. Nevada County is stuck because it put the topic on the ballot. Jim Drew brought up the monarch butterfly issue that will have an impact on grazing - regulating certain corridors for milkweed habitat. The boards wants information from Nevada County Farm Bureau. There may be funds available for certain types of plant growth. **Handouts were made and distributed to board.** It's possible that NRCS could take the lead to address Monarch habitat.

10. **NCRC D Activity Report:** A full written report was provided in the board packet. Estimated property tax allocation for 2017/2018 (\$241,619) – 55% in December, 40% in April, and 5% in June. The Plant Give Away will be April 25th. Offering showy milkweed, vine maple, and Pacific Coast hybrid iris. Sierra Pacific Industries is donating 250 each of conifer species Staff attended "Fire in our Community" meeting in Rough and Ready with about 150 people attending. Speakers included Joann Drummond with CalFire, Pamela Hertzler with NRCS, and others. Many handouts were distributed, and information was offered our website. We toured the Lobo and Cascade fires with Yuba County NRCS, Dan Macon, and Kate Wilkins, UCCE Natural Resource Advisor. They took pictures of re-growth and will keep us updated with the progression. The Conservation Dinner is tentatively set for March 6th. Still searching out venues - Grass Valley Elks not returning calls. NID Watershed Tour - firming up plans in January. Working Lands Part II is out - discussion will follow for how to handle release.

11. **NRCS Activity Report:** A written report was provided by Pamela Hertzler.

12. **Old Business:**

- a. **Condon Park Project:** The maintenance portion of our contract ends December of 2018. We were unaware that the City of Grass Valley (City) hasn't been mowing the area, until we received a call. We re-hired MM Reforestation to clear the area again. They did a beautiful job. Considering an MOU with the City for future maintenance care. We have a lot invested in the project – too much to just let go now. Looking into possibly having goats clear the area.
- b. **Lion's Lake project update:** The project is moving forward. It was decided not to dredge and drain, rather manicure and redefine the edges, put in boulders and riprap - more of a beautification project than restoration. Jerry Karnow is working on permits with Tim Robinson, but because of the fires, Robinson has been too busy to work on project. It was suggested that the ugly diesel pump be moved or replaced. Valley Pump in Yuba County knew all about it. They previously worked on the pond. They suggest getting rid of the old pump, get a new pump, and put it in

the existing pump house. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District said it should be no problem to get a grant to take care of that.

15. **New Business:**

- a. **Discussion and approval of Documentary II and book release event:** We have the DVDs and the book is being released Nov 27th, but the Del Oro Theater is booked until January. Board discussed whether or not to sell the DVDs before the Premier viewing. PBS has said that it will pick up the movie, but it may take 3 months or so before broadcast. Discussion of other venues, possibly Nevada Union, the Love Building, etc. We're hoping to have the impact of holiday sales, supported by upcoming holiday ad in the paper. ***Susan Hoek moved to approve the sale of DVDs, calendars, and books before the premier event. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.***
- c. **Discuss NOI to Adopt a Negative Declaration for Agritourism Ordinance Amendment Project:** General discussion of the NOI to adopt a negative declaration for Agritourism Ordinance Amendment. Susan Hoek recommended that we back the findings because the amendment was well written and is a good place to start. Inviting comments until November 27th. ***Jim Drew moved to support the amendment as written. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.***
- d. **Discussion of upcoming board member changes:** General discussion. Susan Hoek to step-down and become an associate member and recommend Linda Miller become a full board member.
- e. **Discuss purchase of new design software:** General discussion of "Cloud Software" versions of Adobe PhotoShop and In-Design programs. ***Susan Hoek moved to approve purchase of monthly subscription of In-Design software. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.***

15. **Announcements:** None.

Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik November 14, 2017.



Approved by Board of Directors on 1.9.18



Susan Hoek, President