



MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 5:59 pm by President Susan Hoek
Directors present: Susan Hoek, Patti Kiehl, Robert Ingram, David Barhydt, Janey Powers
Associate Directors present: Darlene Moberg, Linda Miller
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Evan Smith
Guests: Jim Drew
2. **Introductions:** Introduced Jim Drew to everyone.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Moved to approve Consent Agenda by Robert Ingram. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence:** Thank You note from Gale Pyleman and 2 Advisory Visit Program questionnaires.
6. **President's Report:** Susan Hoek stated that the District will not take a stand on the Centennial Reservoir project due to the fact that we receive tax dollars from the County. She spoke with Board of Supervisor Hank Weston and County Council.
7. **Agritourism Committee** – Janey Powers and Susan Hoek attended a meeting that included Chris Flores and many others. There are many different angles to this topic. Some people want an Ag Tour that's like the Home Tour or Garden Tour; others want the zoning relaxed or to be able to sell products in a tour. There were questions about liability insurance. A survey had been developed and sent out, but without public input. The County doesn't want to bring the public in too soon. A lot of groups are involved – not just us. The Chambers of Commerce will be key players. Looking for more direction from the Board of Supervisors. We'll have to wait and see.
8. **Education Committee** – Linda Miller and Jan Blake met with Jim Pelton and Neysa King with Nevada Irrigation District (NID) at the Scotts Flat Lake ditchtender's house regarding Watershed Camp. NID wanted to touch base with us about how they were moving forward. They're planning to set up a type of museum at the house and have parents drop off their kids for the day, have some activities there, maybe hikes and other things so they're not sitting for long periods of time. They're building an open-air pole barn at the lake. Liability insurance might be expensive, but NID would be responsible for that. As partners, they'd like us to attend and to advertize. So far it's set up as one day in June and one day in July. There is no charge.

The Mulch Magic Giveaway was very popular with the public. NID was out of vouchers in two days. We were out in about one week's time.

9. **Forestry Committee:** Robert Ingram reviewed the signs at Condon Park and noticed that one of the signs needs to be moved. He'd like to add a few more signs: Red Bud, English Walnut, etc. The Board of Supervisors asked Robert for a PowerPoint presentation on bark beetles in the next month and he has his "Tree Triage – Know the Signs and Symptoms of Unhealthy Trees" seminar on May 5th. He will gather various tree rounds for the Ag Tour and for use in the office. Robert will be one of the speakers at the Ag Tour.

10. **Grassland Committee:** Grass is growing really well. Rumor has it that NID may be opening up their properties to grazing again. Grass clippings at the Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Center (SFREC) showed they were at 660 lbs. to date – as opposed to last year's total which came up to around 300 lbs. A significant difference.

11. **Weed Management Committee:** Had a person e-mail us a picture asking us to identify something growing on Scotch Broom. It turned out to be the Broom Gall Mite. The mite will kill established broom, but not the seeds. Note: Home Depot is now selling Scotch Broom plants.

12. **NCRCD Activity Report:** Jan Blake provided a full written report in the board packet. The Condon Park project is finished. One tree sign needs to be moved to a different location. It would be nice to add more plant species signs to what is already there. Jan will get a quote for the additional signs.

The Economic Resource Council's (ERC's) meeting had speakers from 4 different states talking about how they brought revenue into their counties. Their ideas didn't seem applicable or were obvious. Agriculture wasn't really included. Geared more toward technology.

Farm Day: Karen Henderson is working on things. The theme is "Seeds for Life". We bought little backpacks as a giveaway for the kids. Myra Davies-Easley wants to put in an activity booklet called, "Mr. Beefman". Coming up with ideas for other things to put in too. Karen would like the kids to visit more stations this year. Will be for 2nd and 3rd graders only.

Jan has been asked to speak at the Board of Realtors event (for realtors only). Jason Jackson will go with her. She will also speak with a representative of the Nevada County Landmark Commission to give them information on historical ranches/farms.

Rem Scherzinger with NID was the speaker at our Drought and Centennial Reservoir seminar. He was a wonderful speaker. There were some very emotional attendees and he gave very good responses. He showed how complex the whole system is and also talked about mercury and sediment removal.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) gave us several thousand lower-elevation Ponderosa pine seedlings to give away. We did that for a few days, but couldn't give enough away so SPI took the remainder back.

The theme for this year's fair is "Kick it Up!". Don't know how we'll incorporate that in our display yet. Any ideas are appreciated.

CARCD conference call: They want more money to help pull other RCDs up to their standards. We are already up to standards. Staff to add possibility of cancelling membership to next months' agenda. Jan will contact them before next meeting to ask what they have done for us.

Museum: Jan learned that the Nevada County Fairgrounds is considering tearing down a group of buildings outside the gates but still on Fairgrounds property. She contacted them and they are now considering allowing us to use the building(s) to house our museum.

13. **NRCS Activity Report:** The NRCS office is currently without a District Conservationist (DC). The temporary DC, Dwane Coffee from Elk Grove, provided a written report.

14. **Old Business:**

- a. **Update on potential project "Where Your Food Comes From":** Staff has contacted a few places regarding interest, but haven't received a response yet.
- b. **Update on potential project "Garden Tool Sponsorship":** Tabled to next month.
- c. **Update on NCRCD PayPal account:** Our PayPal account is ready to go. We've ordered a card reader so we can take credit cards as payment when they walk into the office. Many *many* thanks to Debby Totoonchie with Nevada County Farm Bureau for her invaluable assistance in setting up the account.

15. **New Business:**

- a. **Board approval of Jim Drew as NCRCD Associate Director:** Mr. Drew was introduced to those few who didn't already know him. He's willing to help out the District in almost any way needed. His background is in education – both children and adults. *David Barhydt moved to approve Jim Drew as a new Associate Director. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.*
- b. **Board approval of "Working Lands Part II" documentary:** A brief background of how the original documentary came to be. Part II would likely show what the diversification of agriculture in Nevada County will look like. The proposal for Part II came from Matthew Gottschalk, but David Nicholson will still be involved. Board members wanted to look more closely at a script and which families would be in Part II. They want to know what they can do to make it better. Robert Ingram moved to proceed with the project. No second to that motion. *Robert Ingram moved to table this until the next Board meeting. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.*
- c. **Range Camp application review and selection:** No applications were received. Board members felt this should be pushed harder at the schools. Considering reaching out to 4-H groups.
- d. **Board approval of Nevada County Farm Bureau Ag Tour Sponsorship to include participation of staff and Board members:** The District has partnered with the Nevada County Farm Bureau for the past 3 years. This year the tour will include Mountain Bounty Farm, Sierra Pacific Industries, lunch and a "show" at the Browning Ranch, and a vineyard. Last year we donated \$900 for buses and paid for staff and Board members to attend. The buses this year will be air conditioned and more spacious. *David Barhydt moved to pay for the buses and for staff and Board members to attend, not to exceed \$1,200.* There was more discussion. *David Barhydt amended his motion to pay for buses and staff/Board member attendance not exceed \$1,500. Approved 5-0.*
- e. **Annual Staff Reviews:** Closed session.

16. **Announcements:** None.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm
Closed Session began at 8:15 pm.
Closed Session ended at 8:46 pm.

Regular meeting restarted at 8:47 pm.


**Robert Ingram moved for a salary increase to \$45,760 for Sabrina Nicholson.
Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.**

Regular meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson April 27, 2016.



Approved by Board of Directors on 5/10/16



Susan Hoek, President