



MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:02 pm by President Susan Hoek
Directors present: Susan Hoek, David Barhydt, Robert Ingram, Janey Powers
Associate Directors present: Linda Miller, Darlene Moberg
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Pamela Hertzler
2. **Introductions:** None.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Amended Agenda to include Item 14 C under Old Business – Board to Discuss CARCD Membership and to move Item 13 NRCS Activity Report to beginning of Agenda. ***Moved to approve Amended Agenda and May 2016 Board Minutes by Robert Ingram. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 4-0. Moved to approve May 2016 Financials by David Barhydt. Second by Janey Powers. Approved 4-0.***
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence:** Lots of Advisory Visit Program surveys have been turned in. The Bear River High School FFA Ag Mechanics team won the State Title and are going to finals in Indianapolis in October. Nevada Irrigation District has gathered over 5000 butane canisters at Rollins Lake. Robert Ingram spoke to the Board of Supervisors about bark beetles, inspected trees at the Fairgrounds for bark beetle, and will be a featured speaker on the Ag Tour.
6. **President's Report:** No report.
7. **Agritourism Committee** – No one has heard anything from any of our contacts. Susan Hoek and Terry Jochim will meet with Supervisor Ed Scofield to discuss this topic. Everyone needs to talk to their Supervisor and get your neighbor's and relatives to do the same. There are two openings on the Agricultural Advisory Commission.
8. **Education Committee** – We had a full house for the Monarch Butterflies and Milkweed seminar. Bonnie Bradt is a wonderful speaker – one of the best we've had. The Northern California Bats seminar is next up. We haven't heard from Jim Pelton with NID regarding the Watershed Camp. Ninety-six people have signed up for the Ag Tour so far.

9. **Forestry Committee:** We are seeing evidence of a Cedar tree beetle kill. They are dying in clumps from the Cedar Bark Beetle. It starts in the branches and moves to the center. Robert Ingram went to a site with Jason Jackson to inspect one of these sites.

Regarding the removal of multiple trees on your property, California has a really "clean" mechanism for exemptions permits. Timber Harvest Plans (THPs), however, are a nightmare, but there is a 5 day turn around for the emergency exemption permits. In incorporated cities, you have to get permits from both the city and the state.

The overwintering population of bark beetles has killed the trees we see now with their young are emerging now. Their population will be 30 or 40 times from last winter. The woodpeckers are doing their job but they can't keep up with the population; it's reached epidemic levels. It's a natural response to an unnatural situation. Fire is necessary, beetles are necessary. Both things are just a response to what humans have done, or not done. The liability is so great in California even Sierra Pacific Industries isn't burning on their property. They are going to plant through the slash and cross their fingers.

10. **Grassland Committee:** The US Forest Service is coming out with a Forest Plan revision with more funding for Sierra, Inyo, and Sequoia counties so far. Tahoe National Forest is the most political of all the national forests because of Lake Tahoe, Interstate 80, and the urban/wildlife interface. They are the least likely to do anything with their forest.

It has been a tremendous feed year. Susan has put up over a 1,000 more bales of hay than normal and the clover has been really heavy.

Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Center is offering a Field Day on Medusa Head on July 28th.

11. **Weed Management Committee:** No one attended the meeting today in Tahoe. All the topics related to the Tahoe Basin.

12. **NCRCD Activity Report:** Jan Blake provided a full written report in the board packet.

- She sent a detailed letter on May 13th updating the board on previously discussed issues.
- Food Hub - Debbie Gibbs said the request from last month was for a grant request and our participation was not needed at this time as we missed the grant period. They don't know if they got the grant yet. If they do get it, Janey Powers said that the Food Hub will need approximately \$10,000 for things not covered by the grant (e.g. remodeling the building and purchasing computers). As this project moves forward, we can ask Debbie to attend a meeting at that time to find out what their needs are.
- Where your food comes from project- is now a theme for the fair. Staff created a banner, "Kick it Up! For Your Local Ag Producers" and will create banners for 18 ag producers who have websites. Each banner will tell a little about who they are and have a QR Code so people can use their smart phones to check out each website.
- PayPal - Due to an error, we found vulnerability in the accounting system. We won't be able to connect directly with the County's bank account; however, we will set up our

own checking account so we can still sell through PayPal. We'll only keep the \$100 minimum balance in it.

- The documentary was completed and then formatted wrong on the DVD's; we recalled all the ones sold or distributed and made new ones. We are interviewing Luke Browning, Matthew Shapiro, and Sweet Roots.
- CIMIS denied our request for a station at the Miller Ranch; too many trees. Trees must be more than 250 yards from the station.
- Farm Day 2016 signups are going great!
- The Min-Till drill is out right now; out for about 185 acres. It's holding up pretty well. Dave modified it to not plant small seed because someone put large seed in the small seed box.
- Susan and Jan attended the Nevada County Landmark Commission meeting. The Landmark Commission has been working on giving the Niesen's a plaque for 3 years. Susan and Jan suggested putting up an area sign instead of individual signs for each ranch.
- Condon Park is complete and the mis-marked tree sign has been moved to the correct location. Will still have a commitment for maintenance until 2018. This year the city mowed our section of the park.
- Hazardous Vegetation Abatement – The County has approved an ordinance on Hazardous Vegetation Abatement. It requires vegetation removal along public roadways and private roadways and leaves the regulation to fire department Battalion Chiefs.

13. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pam Hertzler reported things are going smoothly. Also she is on deadline for contract review.

The deadline for Batch Period 5 is this Friday. They will have 5 Forestry and 4 Range contracts, and obligated 2 in batch period 4.

They haven't interviewed for the Soil Conservationist position yet, maybe next week or so. They are hoping to have the Soil Conservationist by the end of the summer.

Placer and El Dorado Counties are getting Tree Mortality help. NRCS staff are gearing up in case we get it in Nevada County.

Went to a meeting with Jennifer Johnson, the new District Conservationist in Auburn, to get on the same page regarding procedures with the Farm Bill Assistant.

14. **Old Business:**

- a. **Update and discussion regarding \$5 seminar fee and status of the Wildlife Fund:** After some discussion, it was decided that if the speaker of the seminar is affiliated with a non-profit organization the money collected will go to the speaker for the group. If the speaker isn't with a non-profit, the money goes into our Wildlife Fund. The Wildlife Fund pays for the nesting boxes, federal and state permit fees for the bird specimen collection, as well as the enclosures for the specimens. All advertising for seminars will continue to say "cost".

- b. **Update on the "Garden Tool" project:** The Board originally approved buying mini-tools for school's garden projects. We were approached by a teacher who suggested we fund the actual building of the boxes or the supply of the plants. It was suggested to have the FFA students grow the starts in the schools' green houses. We need more input from teachers before a decision can be made. Staff to put this item back on the Agenda in October.
- c. **Board to discuss CARCD Membership:** The initial report from CARCD indicated that they were active on our behalf on a state level (lobbying). We received a list of legislation supported (noting that a lot of these aren't applicable to our County) and a document for conformation to CARCD standards. We've recently heard from another RCD who wants other RCDs in our region to start another committee regarding regional issues. She agrees that the CARCD does not address foothill issues. Her RCD will not be paying the \$4,000 dues this year. This topic has been debated by the Board for the last 15 to 20 years. If we decide to quit our membership, we should send them a letter stating why. **David Barhydt moves to not pay our dues and to submit a letter to CARCD stating why. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 4-0.** Jan to draft the letter and Susan is to proof read and then sign.

15. **New Business:**

- a. **Board approval of 2016/2017 NCRCD Budget:** Staff went through the budget with the Board. There were no changes requested. **Robert Ingram moves to accept the budget as is. Second by Janey Powers. Approved 4-0.**

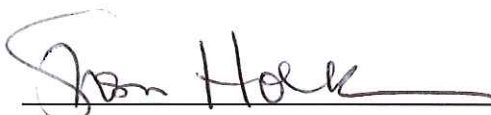
16. **Announcements:** Both Janey Powers and Patti Kiehl will not be able to attend next month's Board Meeting.

Regular meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson June 29, 2016.



Approved by Board of Directors on 7/12/16



Susan Hoek, President