



MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:03 pm by President Susan Hoek
Directors present: Susan Hoek, David Barhydt, Patti Kiehl, Janey Powers, and Robert Ingram
Associate Directors present: Darlene Moberg
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Pamela Hertzler

2. **Introductions:** None.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Moved to approve Consent Agenda by David Barhydt. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 3-0.*

Janey Powers arrived at this time.

4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.

5. **Correspondence:** Jan gave an overview of the correspondence that was in the board packet.

Robert Ingram arrived at this time.

6. **President's Report:** Susan stated that the letter we sent to the California Association of Resource Conservation District regarding our suspension of our membership received a response saying they were disappointed that the District was leaving the association as they are committed to helping Resource Conservation Districts. They would like an invitation to come and speak with us. Staff will send Karen Buhr an invitation to speak at the next board meeting. Time will be limited to 20 minutes with questions and answers.

Susan Hoek, Robert Ingram, and Janey Powers' terms on the board are up. The County has mailed applications to all three to re-apply. Janey informed the Board that she will not be re-applying. Susan thanked her and said her time on the Board was greatly appreciated.

7. **Education Committee:** Watershed Camp at Scotts Flat Lake with Nevada Irrigation District was fun. Twelve kids attended. Also:

- Jan gave a PowerPoint presentation on 2015's Farm Day to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The BOS presented the winners of the 2015 Crop Report Art Contest with certificates.
- Jan attended a PG&E safety meeting. About 200 people also attended. They covered checking for lines, calling before you dig, etc. You can speak with them about trees

they want to cut if the tree is important to you. If they still have to take it down, there may be compensation.

- One of our customers broke our pond rake and we purchased a replacement.
- We have a few sponsors for Farm Day and will be providing backpacks for the kids.

8. **Forestry Committee:** Robert reported that the conditions of our forests are so bad, and the conditions are so favorable, that the bark beetles are flourishing. The overall cause of this infestation is mostly mismanagement, not the drought. The State bought 10 air-curtain burners to address the over abundance of materials but they're burning trees in Southern California that are already dead and the beetles have long gone.

Patti reported that according to a new study, beetles may need the fungus that causes the blue stain in beetle-attacked trees. Could killing the fungus possibly curtail or weaken the beetles?

9. **Grassland Committee:** No report.

10. **Weed Management Area Committee (WMAC):** The WMAC is focusing on Musk Thistle and Oblong Euphorbia. The Oblong Euphorbia is very hard to eradicate.

- Empire Mine area has some Gorse.
- Trying to find the extent of the Broom Gall Mite.
- Trying to get nursery's a list of plants to NOT sell, e.g. Dames Rocket and Bouncing Bet (which come in all wildflower seed packets).
- Buffalo Bur was found in Chicago Park.

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

- PBS picked-up our documentary "*Working Lands – a History of Agriculture in Nevada County*". We ordered 125 more DVDs. Sales of the DVDs will cover the cost of copying.
- Bank of the West wants a Resolution from the Board approving the District opening our own checking account
- Next year's Conservation Dinner will be on February 28th and honor Roger Ingram who will be retiring in June 2017. Jason Jackson is working on the slideshow presentation so send us your pictures of Roger.

12. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler reported:

- Federal fiscal year closes September 30, 2016.
- Deferral and Practice Reminder letters have been sent out.
- Fifteen modifications were sent to clients who were out of compliance.
- No more contracts will be made with multiple projects on one contract.
- In FY 2016 the Grass Valley field office obligated 21 new contracts totaling approximately \$521,000.
- Pamela wants to do more outreach and asked for any possibilities. Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Center (SFREC) and the Career Center at Sierra College were suggested.

- The new Soil Conservationist, Josue Gandia-Rivera, is scheduled to start October 1st.
- Pam and Evan Smith will attend a tree mortality seminar given by the Soil and Water Conservation Society.
- NRCS California allocated \$2 million this year for tree mortality practices in EQIP. Anticipating \$5 million next year and Nevada County may be on the list.

13. **Old Business:**

- a. No old business

14. **New Business:**

- a. **Board to adopt amended Conflict of Interest Code: *Robert Ingram moved to adopt the amended Conflict of Interest Code. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.***
- b. **Board discussion and comments in response to the Request for Comments on Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to the County's Agricultural Use Definitions:** County Agricultural Commissioner & Planning Department updates to the County's Land Use & Development Code/Zoning Regulations relating to agriculture and agriculture support uses in unincorporated areas of the County were provided in the Board packet. Items of importance included: encourage agriculture in the County with Certified Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), and Farm Stands; clarify the term "Farm Stand"; identify agricultural lands of importance; and Employee Housing / RV Use and Temporary Occupancies.

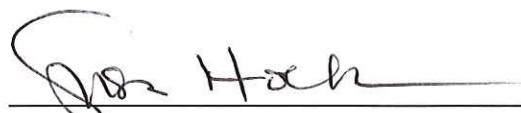
15. **Announcements:** None.

Regular meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson September 20, 2016.



Approved by Board of Directors on 10.11.2016



Susan Hoek, President