



## **MINUTES**

Nevada County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting  
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:00 pm by President Susan Hoek  
Directors present: Susan Hoek, David Barhydt, Patti Kiehl, Janey Powers  
Associate Directors present: Darlene Moberg, Linda Miller  
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Evan Smith
2. **Introductions:**
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Moved to approve Consent Agenda with corrections to Minutes by David Barhydt. Second by Janey Powers. Approved 4-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence:** No report.
6. **President's Report:** Susan Hoek and Janey Powers thanked staff for a successful Conservation Dinner event.
7. **Agritourism Committee** – Jan reported some of the small farmers in the area were asked how they felt about the topic. There were multiple issues brought up. Susan Hoek said at some point the Ag Commissioner's office is going to re-issue the survey. There will be a round-table discussion with the Economic Resource Council and other concerned groups this Friday at 3:30 pm in the Remembrance Room of the Grass Valley Veteran's Building.
8. **Education Committee** – Patti Kiehl, Linda Miller and Jan met with Peggy Davidson and Neysa King at Nevada Irrigation District (NID) to talk about a partnership with the RCD on a "Science Camp". NID wants to start slow with a one day event then move to a week-long camp in following years. They decided to change the name to "Watershed Camp". Susan suggested they should make it for 9-10 year old students so the 11-12 year olds could still go to the Point Reyes Science Camp.  
Farm Day is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
9. **Forestry Committee:** Patti Kiehl is taking pictures of trees to see if her predictions will come true in a few months regarding the bark beetle issue. Jan reported that she, Patti, Jason Jackson, and Robert Ingram had a meeting with Board of Supervisors Ed Scofield and Dan Miller to discuss the bark beetle issue and what the County could do to solicit funds from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through its Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP).

10. **Grassland Committee:** Susan said the rain has been excellent for pastures. Last year's clipping at the Sierra Foothills Research and Extension Center (SFREC) was 300 lbs. This year to date it's 600 lbs. Penn Valley received 6" of rain and Grass Valley received 8" during the last storm(s).

11. **Weed Management Committee:** Darlene Moberg reported Skeleton Weed is out of hand in Bear Valley. Caltrans said that 80% of trees in California are dead. State Parks reported they're waiting to see what the gall mite will do to Scotch Broom. Weed Day is June 16<sup>th</sup> at Boca Reservoir. Truckee is going after Gypsy daisy and Toad flax and Foresthill in Placer County is going after star thistle.

12. **NCRCD Activity Report:** Jan Blake provided a full written report in the board packet. Jan thanked the Board for their support on the documentary and dinner. She, Patti, Linda, and Debby Totoonchie with Nevada County Farm Bureau all attended a Centennial Reservoir presentation at Sierra College. There is another meeting scheduled for tomorrow night and on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sierra Foothills Research & Extension Center invited the District to their event to talk about who we are and what we offer.

The Nevada County Board of Realtors invited Jan speak to the association during their upcoming "Country Days" event about the District and other topics like rangeland management, forest fuels reduction, water runoff elimination, soils retention, etc. The event is June 2<sup>nd</sup> and she and Jason Jackson will attend.

Range Camp is coming up; letters to educators went out last week.

We are partnering with NID on two irrigation workshops: April 16<sup>th</sup> at Susan Hoek's; and on April 15<sup>th</sup> in Placer County.

13. **NRCS Activity Report:** The NRCS office is currently without a District Conservationist (DC). The temporary DC is Dwane Coffee from Elk Grove. Evan Smith reported that they have funded 6 projects this year.

14. **Old Business:**

- a. **Discussion regarding a new program within the Advisory Visit Program to assist Nevada County landowners with tree issues, specifically bark beetles:** Discussed during the Forestry Committee report.

15. **New Business:**

- a. **Discussion regarding a project on "Where Does Your Food Come From" – partnering with Nevada County Grown and the Ag Commissioner to video individual farmers/ranchers and post to various websites:** After general discussion, it was agreed that staff would continue looking into this project.
- b. **Discussion and approval of Garden Tool Project for local grade schools:** This would be for local schools' on-site garden projects. The RCD would sponsor their projects by providing garden tools for vegetable gardens. Darlene reported that the Nevada Union High School FFA students will be going to Scotten Elementary School to work with the children and their greenhouse. Staff to continue to look into this project.

- c. **Board approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NCRCD and NID:** The District is partnering with Nevada Irrigation District (NID), along with Rare Earth and Four Seasons, regarding a mulch give-away to educate the community on the multiple benefits of mulch on water conservation. **David Barhydt moved to approve the MOU. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 4-0.**
- d. **Board approval of Letter of Support for NID grant request:** NID is applying for a grant from Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Scotts Flat Fire Fuel Treatment Project Phase III. They have asked for a letter of support supporting NID's work. **Patti Kiehl moved to approve the letter of support. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 4-0.**
- e. **Board discussion and approval of NCRCD setting up a PayPal account for purchases:** In order for the District to receive payment for products (like the video) via credit card would be through PayPal. The County must approve any new payment method and they have considered allowing the use of PayPal for all the Special Districts. Susan Hoek recommended speaking with Debby Totoonchie Nevada County Farm Bureau on using PayPal for an organization and setting it up on our website. Tabled until next meeting.
- f. **Board approval of the NCRCD supporting the Centennial Reservoir project and provide requested support to NID:** There was discussion regarding whether the Board should go on record as supporting it. It was tabled until next meeting.
- g. **Board approval of the NCRCD supporting the Board of Supervisors position to allow only indoor growing of medicinal marijuana plants:** Both Grass Valley and Nevada City have their own ordinances. It was pointed out that we are in a Federal office, and adopted Exhibit K into our Policies, Procedures, & Personnel Manual which prohibits the District from working with marijuana growers. **Janey Powers moved to write a letter explaining our reasons for agreeing with the Board of Supervisors and include a copy of Exhibit K from our manual. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 4-0.**

16. **Announcements:** None.

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson March 28, 2016, edited by Jan Blake.

  
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Approved by Board of Directors on 4/12/16

  
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Susan Hoek, President