



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday July 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:03 pm by Dave Barhydt
Directors present: Dave Barhydt, Patti Kiehl, Jim Drew, Linda Miller
Associate Directors present: Maddison Easley
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson
2. **Introductions:** No introductions were made.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Staff read an e-mail from Becky's Bookkeeping regarding sales tax and other income. Board would like Becky to attend September's Board meeting to educate the Board members on how to interpret the financial reports. Linda Miller mentioned that she used part of the \$500 venue payment from the Conservation Dinner to pay for the port-a-potty rental and the 4-H waitstaff volunteers. Amended Agenda to include discussion of Fire Safe Council's fundraiser event as Item c under New Business. ***Patti Kiehl moved to approve amended Consent Agenda. Second by Jim Drew. Approved 4-0.***
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No Comments.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** Board reports that receiving all articles in one single pdf is preferred. Staff pointed out that we received 4 AVP Questionnaires (all saying great things about Jason) and a "Thank You" e-mail from his most recent visits. Jason seems to be very busy and perhaps overworked. Board expressed desire to talk to Jason for feedback, see if we need to hire additional contractors for the AVP, and talk with NRCS to pursue financial support for Jason's added forestry support.
6. **President's Report:** Dave Barhydt reported that he attended a California Farm Bureau Federation Board meeting in Sacramento with California State Governor Newsome in attendance. The Governor stated he owns three wineries in the state and that he understands how difficult it is to do business in California. He also talked about water issues, fire and forestry, and rural infrastructure issues. Dave felt the meeting was worth attending.

Dave and Laura Barhydt were interviewed by California Bountiful having to do with Monarch butterflies and milkweed. There might also be a little something on television.
7. **Education, Outreach, & Scholarship Committee:** Staff would like to meet with the Education Committee to discuss the types and number of scholarships to be awarded next year. Committee agreed to meet in the near future.

8. **Forestry Committee:** Patti Kiehl reported that the working group for the Wildlife Conservation Board's Forest Conservation Program grant met recently to work out details required for the application. It was decided that we needed a more shovel-ready project before attempting to submit another application. There will be another opportunity to apply in 2020. The working group did come up with an idea to organize several small prescribed fire demonstrations to allow the public to see what's involved. Looking for demonstration areas and hope to start this fall. Staff needs to look into recording each demo and posting to the web.

9. **Grassland Committee:** Maddison Easley informed the Board that the Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI) is requesting proposals from RCDs that want to do a Healthy Soils program. CCI is a privately funded entity so it would be different than a federal grant. CCI works with farmers and ranchers to apply compost on pasture and range, planting cover crops, etc. Similar to EQIP but targeting ag producers. Maddison will send information to staff and Patti Kiehl.

10. **NCRCD Activity Report:** A full written report was included in the Board packet.

SPI has contacted Nevada County RCD in hopes of donating several thousand seedlings that will go to waste if they're not put in the ground soon. Due to the fact that Nevada County isn't in great need for additional trees, the Board suggested that perhaps Placer County or Butte County RCDs may have more of a need at this time. Staff to contact Butte County RCD regarding their tree needs.

The Nevada County Farm Bureau is currently producing their annual Gun Calendar. We will purchase ads in the calendar to support them.

Jim Drew mentioned that it would be good if the RCD could help to find a way to help the Fairgrounds distribute manure produced during fair week. Staff will contact Patrick Eidman, Fairgrounds CEO to get their thoughts and input. Possibly stockpiling on County property somewhere and giving away.

11. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler wasn't available, but left a message stating they funded 30 applications this funding cycle.

12. **Old Business:**

a. **Board discussion and possible action regarding sponsorship of 2 Nevada County Grown events:** Board discussed the reasons to support the Farm Trail Weekend and Bounty of the County events, what amount we spent last year, and what we would get for our sponsorship. ***Patti Kiehl moved to sponsor both the Farm Trail Weekend and Bounty of the County events with \$250 for each. Second by Jim Drew. Approved 4-0.***

b. **Board discussion and possible action on UC ANR's Prescribed Fire Trailer request:** The Forestry Committee workgroup discussed the Prescribed Fire Trailer at their last meeting. The trailer has a big price tag. The general feeling is that once a Nevada County Prescribed Burn Association is formalized, they have someone to maintain the trailer, and a secure place to store it, we can discuss donating items to stock it. Otherwise it's putting the cart before the horse. What would happen to the trailer if the association never forms? Or if it disbands? Will discuss again after the NCPBA is formed.

13. **New Business:**

- a. **Board discussion and possible action regarding PCRCD's request to utilize our Min-Till Drill (MTD) in Placer County:** Dave Barhydt was invited to give a presentation at PCRCD's Board meeting last month on our MTD, how it works, how much it costs, maintenance, etc. PCRCD's Board Chair is interested in purchasing half of our MTD then hiring someone to run it in Placer County. She wanted to know if Dave would be interested in being the operator for PCRCD. The PCRCD Board is unsure of the demand for a MTD in Placer County and would like to see how a MTD program would work before deciding if they want to purchase one of their own. One option would be for PCRCD to buy a share of our MTD and use it in Placer County. A second option would be to increase our rates to compensate for its use in Placer County. There is interest in allowing a Placer County Board member to use the MTD one-time. ***Jim Drew moved to allow PCRCD Board member Patricia Beard a one-time trial use of our Min-Till Drill in Placer County. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 4-0.***
- b. **Board discussion and possible action on Gold Country Community Service's request for equipment donation to Senior Firewood Program:** The board discussed offering a financial contribution to the Senior Firewood Program rather than purchasing any equipment, as there was no money allocated for donations in our 2019/2020 budget. The Board would like to invite GCCS to come to our October Board meeting and discuss this item further. ***Jim Drew moved to donate \$500 to Gold Country Community Services' Senior Firewood Program. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 4-0.***
- c. **Board discussion to support the Fire Safe Council's Red Zone Affair Fundraiser:** The board discussed financially supporting the dinner in the amount of \$250. A motion will be presented at the September board meeting.

14. **Announcements:**

- Farm Bureau Picnic – July 13, 2019
- Nevada County Fair – August 7-11, 2019
- Next Board Meeting – September 10, 2019

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik July 10, 2019.


Approved by Board of Directors on _____



David Barhydt, President

