



## **MINUTES**

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

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:00 pm by President Susan Hoek  
Directors present: Susan Hoek, Patti Kiehl, David Barhydt, Janey Powers, Robert Ingram  
Associate Directors present: Linda Miller, Darlene Moberg  
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Paul Lake  
Guests: Jason Jackson
2. **Introductions:**
3. **Approval of amended Consent Agenda:** *Moved to approve amended Consent Agenda by David Barhydt. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** Jason Jackson supplied a written breakdown of the statistics for his Advisory Visit Program (AVP) to the Board and discussed how the program was going. Paul Lake reported that if it wasn't for Jason, the AVP clients probably wouldn't get any help because the NRCS probably wouldn't be able to get to them. Jason said he would like to continue with the program.
5. **Correspondence:** We received a thank you letter from Nevada County Farm Bureau for our sponsorship of their 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner. Notice that Assemblyman Brian Dahle will be hosting a town hall meeting from 1:30 – 3:30 at the Nevada City Elks Lodge on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Janey Powers would like staff to leave out editorials from the Board packets.
6. **President's Report:** Susan Hoek welcomed Patti Kiehl to the Board. Susan asked for new topics for committees. Janey Powers submitted Agritourism, but had concerns regarding the insurance liability legal ramifications. Jan Blake informed the Board that Chris Flores, the Nevada County Ag Commissioner, is currently working with the Bierwagen's and the RCD on an Agritourism project. Their idea is not to make it an open, county-wide program like Apple Hill, but more like the Garden Tour with specific sites selected and tickets sold. Chris Flores is already about half way there. Janey thought maybe we should consider doing it both ways. The new committees and members selected were:
  - 1) Agritoursim Committee (Janey Powers, Linda Miller)
  - 2) Education Committee (Linda Miller, Jan Blake)
  - 3) Forestry Committee (Robert Ingram, Patti Kiehl)
  - 4) Grassland Committee (David Barhydt, Susan Hoek)
  - 5) Weed Management Committee (Darlene Moberg)

7. **Nevada County Resource Conservation District Activity Report** – Jan Blake provided a full written report in the board packet. Main topics were:

- We have 14 Barn Calendars left out of 200
- Jan attended CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition (statement of purpose) and she and Susan will attend the Rangeland Summit on 1/22
- Condon Park interpretive signs should be installed soon
- Jan is a new board member of Nevada County Farm Bureau and is on 3 committees
- We will be placing an ad in Nevada County Grown's Farm Guide
- Sabrina, Jan, and Susan attended the Sustainable Food and Farm Conference
- Jan attended the Melody Oaks Mutual Irrigation Company year-end board meeting at their request and gave updates on the RCD
- Jan will be attending the SFREC Natural Resource Management and Conservation in the Sierra Foothills forum
- Jan is judging the oral presentations for the Natural Resource contest hosted by NU FFA
- NID has asked the RCD to partner on 3 projects so far this year: two irrigation workshops and a mulch giveaway
- Jan went to the Board of Supervisors meeting regarding Restrictions on Marijuana Cultivation-packed room and foyer
- We are planning the seminars: Forest Raptors, CA Drought, Tree Triage, Pond Management, Monarch Butterflies, Bats, Mulch Giveaway, Irrigation workshops
- 2nd Annual Farm Day is underway. Sent the flyer to all principals and already received two sign-ups. Date is September 22nd
- New signature sheet for board members to sign for warrants
- Purchased two new tires for the District vehicle - low tire pressure light continuously on - \$407.50
- Planning on a new computer for Sabrina which is a budgeted item
- Grand Jury has called Jan in again

Jan has an idea for a new project. It would be similar to our AVP but we would send out an RPF to talk to landowners about their trees and bark beetles. Paul Lake said that the Feds are starting another tree mortality program, but it's a small amount – only about \$500,000. Patti Kiehl wants to know why we would have to send out an RPF rather than an arborist or someone else. After discussion, it was determined that it doesn't have to be an RPF but forestry work would be done by a forester. Janey Powers said that it might be a conflict of interest if the RPF were to offer their services after the consultation. Robert Ingram offered to be the RPF to start the program off for a year, as he is retired and doesn't have a side business in this field. This will be on next month's Agenda.

8. **Natural Resources Conservation Service Activity Report** – Paul Lake reported that he has accepted a position in the country of Palau. His estimated date of departure is not set yet, but looks to be around March 1<sup>st</sup>. He apologized for upsetting the office again. Since Mike Brenner from the Auburn office has retired, the NRCS plans to "fly" both positions soon. The engineer position will be posted tomorrow. The engineer will still be stationed in Auburn, but will come to Nevada County when needed. The Soil Conservationist position has yet to be flown. Evan is helping out in Redland and Chris Davis has taken the roaming Planner position out of Elk Grove. The Grass Valley office has signed two contracts in the last two batching periods (both forestry). Paul expects to hear sometime this month whether or not the Joint Chiefs proposal was funded. He will be in Maui from this Wednesday through the end of the month.

9. **Old Business:**

None

10. **New Business:**

a. **Discussion regarding \$5 fee for seminars / workshops:** We've recently started selling merchandise; e.g., t-shirts, books, etc. We've always called it donations but we found out from our bookkeeper that we can't call it that. A donation is you give us money and you get nothing in return. We also call our seminar fees "donations" because the Madelyn Helling Library doesn't allow fees to be charged. So we either have to stop having seminars at Madelyn Helling, stop charging for seminars, or come up with another idea. After general discussion it was decided to put a jar on the table with a sign that says "Donations Accepted". Janey Powers suggested that the donations could go to the non-profit groups who are giving the seminars, but not to professionals as they are getting free advertising for their business. **Janey Powers moved to give donations collected at seminars to the non-profit presenter/group after each seminar. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 5-0.**

b. **Discussion and approval regarding Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** The purpose of this group is to establish Nevada / Placer Weed Management Area and define the terms and conditions under which they will cooperate and coordinate activities necessary to prevent introduction, establishment, and spread of harmful non-native invasive weeds in Nevada and Placer Counties. By signing the new MOU we are saying that we agree to help in any way we can with their objective. **Robert Ingram moved to sign the Weed Management Area's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.**

11. **Announcements:** Robert Ingram announced that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors wants a presentation on bark beetles from Robert and the RCD sometime in the next two months. Robert is working with staff on a PowerPoint presentation towards that end.

Regular meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson January 15, 2016.

  
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Approved by Board of Directors on 3/8/16

  
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Susan Hoek, President