



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday November 12, 2019 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:04 pm by Dave Barhydt
Directors present: Dave Barhydt, Linda Miller, Patti Kiehl, Robert Ingram, Jim Drew
Associate Directors present: Darlene Moberg
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson, Pamela Hertzler
2. **Introductions:** No introductions.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Patti Kiehl moved to approve Consent Agenda. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No public comments.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** Consensus of the Board members is that the electronic copies of the board packets are working in lieu of hard copy mailed board packets. Patti Kiehl requested to see a draft agenda and minutes a week ahead of meetings.
6. **President's Report:** It's not raining, and grasses have died or are dying. Board President spoke with Rachel Barry with Sierra Harvest and would like the Board to visit an elementary school during a garden tour, tasting, or chef visit. He feels it's something the Board needs to be exposed to. Dave also mentioned his daughter works at Alta Sierra Elementary school and their tastings are the first Tuesday of the month and last up to half an hour. All children work in the garden on Tuesdays. Jim Drew would like to see a schedule of schools and days/times. Sabrina offered to get a schedule and forward to the Board.
7. **Education/Outreach/Scholarship Committee:** The Education Committee met with Linda Melugin, the new Administrator for scholarships at NJUHSD. Linda informed the Board that the application process will be streamlined and online on new software. NCRCD has a deadline of November 28th to turn in our Scholarship information. A formal district-wide community presentation for scholarship recipients will be in April 18th, 2020. Our scholarship awards are for one year only. Scholarship winners can apply again for up to 3 additional years. Scholarships are not automatically renewed. Amount of each award will vary depending on the number of scholarship winners and the type of school to be attended. Trade schools and junior colleges will be considered along with standard 4-year colleges. No more than \$4,000 (cumulatively) in scholarships will be awarded each year.

Jim Drew informed the Board that the Bear River High School Ag Department has been in turmoil since a teacher has been placed on leave. They're trying to get someone in there to

help in the interim. Dan Kemp is being paid as a substitute until the winter break. He and Jim Drew took a week just to clean the place up from the previous leadership. The kids have been struggling for the last three years so now they are looking for someone new to start in January 2020.

8. **Forestry Committee:** Robert Ingram mentioned that he retracted his offer to help with a prescribed burn in Condon Park, citing differences of opinion with Tim Kiser, Grass Valley City Manager – on how the project should be handled.
9. **Grassland Committee:** No report.
10. **NCRC D Activity Report:** A printed "Year in Review" activity report was available on the table.

Patti Kiehl asked for more detail on the "Compost on Rangeland" SFREC seminar mention in report for January of 2019. Sabrina gave an overview of the seminar.

Sabrina informed the Board that our Nevada County 2019/2020 Property Tax Allocation estimate is \$268,000. The bulk of the allocation is secured.

NCRC D is donating a gift basket with DVD's and other items for the Nevada County Farm Bureau's December Annual Dinner auction.

For those who are interested, the latest Food Policy Council Assessment Policy Guide is available on the table as well as the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Capacity Program Assessment Guide.

NCRC D is currently in the planning stages of securing seminars for 2020. Marcoantonio Salazar (NRCS) has generously offered to present a 2-hour Saturday seminar on "Rural Road Maintenance" set for April. Bonnie Bradt has offered to present a seminar on "Monarchs" stating that this may be the last year for Monarchs in California. Master Gardeners may put on a "Soil Building, Compost, and Cover Crops" 3-hour Saturday seminar. We are offering a grant writing workshop presented by SNC. It's an intensive 2-day workshop, 9 am to 3 pm, both days with an additional homework assignment thrown in. Twenty-four people have already signed-up and the class will only take 15. There are so many people who want to attend this workshop that SNC is offering to present a 2nd workshop. We have a location nearby generously donated by our building owner. More seminars are in the planning stage.

Sabrina is researching a potential project that Brad Fowler suggested and felt would be a benefit to Nevada County landowners. The project would be reclamation of mine lands by building soil through composting and grazing. The Board discussed the complexities of the potential project and Sabrina offered to run the idea by Dan Macon and Jeremy James and report at the next meeting. She will e-mail research articles to the Board.

Sabrina mentioned a potential grant from Cal Ag Plate (ag education for K-12). This may be a way to purchase a portable watershed model and/or a soil infiltration model than we can use for public events.

11. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler showed a 5-minute movie on how to use their new automated external defibrillator machine that was recently installed in the office.

NRCS is initiating a new software program for screening and ranking. Probably won't have any funding available until Spring. She's in the process of interviewing 5 students for an intern position available with NRCS in our office, and this student will need housing. If anyone knows of a place available, please let her know. A stipend will be offered.

Molly Nakahara with Sierra Harvest asked Pamela to be on the panel at the 2020 Sustainable Food and Farm Conference in February.

12. **Old Business:**

- A. **Gold Country Community Services to explain the services they offer to the community:** A volunteer from Gold County Community Services was not available to attend the meeting. Sabrina will reach out for attendance in January.

13. **New Business:**

- A. **Board discussion and possible action regarding revising and printing "Invasive Weeds of Western Nevada County" booklet:** Board was presented with quotes for printing and licensing artwork. Discussion centered on content, size of booklet, and quality of artwork. Also discussed recreating a weed booklet that Darlene Moberg had from El Dorado County. Sabrina will contact El Dorado County Noxious Weed Management Group regarding our use of their weed booklet. Dave Barhydt will ask the Nevada County Ag Commissioner if there is anything specific he would like to have in the booklet. All of Nevada County should be included, not just the western half. The Ag Commissioner indicated he may have \$5,000 - \$6,000 to contribute towards the publishing of the booklet. Board decided to form an ad hoc committee to decide on content and details of printing. Ag Commissioner and Annaliese Miller (illustrator) should be included. Ad hoc committee to meet after January Board meeting.

- B. **Board discussion regarding potential NRCS/RCD contract with Jerry Reieux as Forestry Contractor:** Board discussed potential of handling the contract for NRCS contractor vs having NRCS fund Jerry themselves. It was agreed to discuss further with Sharon Nance and report at next board meeting.

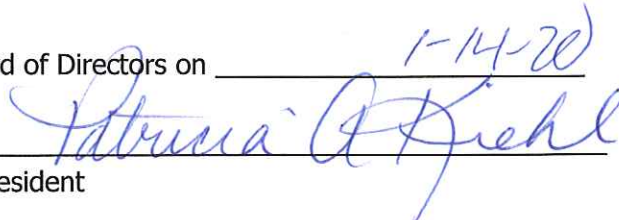
14. **Announcements:** Next board meeting – January 14, 2020.

Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik November 13, 2019.



Approved by Board of Directors on 1-14-20



David Barhydt, President

