



MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:01 pm by President Susan Hoek
Directors present: Jim Drew, David Barhydt, Susan Hoek, Robert Ingram, Patti Kiehl
Associate Directors present: Maddison Easley, Darlene Moberg, Linda Miller
Staff present: Jan Blake, Sabrina Nicholson, Pamela Hertzler (NRCS)
Guests: Curtis Tarver (NRCS), Jason Jackson
2. **Introductions:** Maddison Easley and Curtis Tarver were introduced.
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Robert Ingram moved to approve Consent Agenda. Second by Jim Drew. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** Jim Drew, Karen Henderson, and the Fowler family were honored at this year's Nevada County Fair. Roger Ingram sent us a postcard thanking us for a "wonderful Conservation Dinner held in my honor". He used the group photo we took at the end of the dinner. The Nevada County Planning Dept. sent us information letting us know that someone who grows pot wants to be included in the Williamson Act.
6. **President's Report:** No report.
7. **Education & Outreach Committee:** Farm Day is next week and we have 695 kids signed up! We paid for the Nevada County Farm Bureau's 100 year anniversary bookmark cards. We need to come up with parameters for our own Speak-Off contest. Maddison Easley offered to help Jim Drew get going on the Speak-Off.
8. **Forestry Committee:** Incense Cedar bark beetles are still munching along; some flagging of pines. The wet winter could have lowered their numbers. Hardwoods are cutting their losses from the hot summer. There is a Gray Pine bark beetle; it may be related to the Ponderosa Pine beetle. Woodpeckers and spiders are flourishing. Tim Kiser (City of Grass Valley) has been promoted to City Engineer, therefore the project he started with Robert Ingram at Condon Park is on hold.

9. **Grassland Committee**: Waiting for it to rain. SFREC is testing different perennial species of grasses on rangeland. It was too hot even for the irrigated pastures. The Dallas grass came out ahead of time.

10. **Weed Management Area**: There have been several historic occurrences in western Nevada County of woolly distaff thistle, but the only known active sites are near Malakoff. Dan Lubin with State Parks is monitoring and treating as needed. It's possible it's being spread by out-of-the-area fire trucks.

11. **Healthy Soils Project**: Elisa Noble with Placer County RCD asked us to partner with them on the Healthy Soils Project. They are applying for a grant to implement soil health demonstration plots using minimum tillage as a primary conservation practice. It applies to landowners in the foothills interested in having, managing, and establishing better vegetative soil cover for many purposes: soil erosion, livestock, horse forage, manure management, water retention, invasive weeds, etc. They're looking for local ranchers to allow test plots on dryland pastures of different types of seeds, tillages, etc. Ms. Noble hired Maddison Easley for one year to do this test study. ***David Barhydt moved to support the Placer County RCD with this Healthy Soils Project. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 5-0.***

12. **NCRC Activity Report**: Part II of our documentary is ready and PBS has already picked it up. Would like to rent the Del Oro theater to premier it coupled with a book signing by Maria Brower whose book on our historic families will be published by then. Our 2018 calendar is almost ready. Jan needs help getting the panels up the day before Farm Day. Sierra Pacific Foundation, Nevada County Farm Bureau, and Builders & Consumers are sponsors. Nevada County Rancher magazine is coming out in October. Cindy Fake has a new Forestry & Fire Advisor – Kate Wilkin. Emerson Austin Stoner's great-granddaughter brought us more of his collection: butterflies, insects, stomach contents, and reptiles. As our collection has greatly increased in number, Jan would like to make an "Emerson Austin Stoner Nature Center" display to show it all off. Teachers could schedule an appointment for their classes to come in and view it.

13. **NRCS Activity Report**: A written report was provided by Pamela Hertzler. Cake was served to celebrate the NRCS' success in obligating over \$1 million dollars in contracts in her first year. Curtis Tarver, Assistant California State Conservationist for Field Operations Area 3, praised Pam for her good work and talked about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the Chief's Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership.

14. **Old Business**:

- a. **Nevada County Fairgrounds Lion's Lake project update**: The project is moving forward. Jan met with Tim Robinson, Robert Ingram, Jason Jackson, Rea Calender, Patrick Eidman and Sean at the site to discuss the project. Phase I would lower the pond, clear from the shore into the pond about 27 feet, get rid of most of the cattails, and redefine the edges (with rock in places to control erosion). Phase II would include partnering with local businesses and organizations to plant more

trees, add benches, generally make it prettier. We would make a temporary settling pond right next to the lake. Once everything has settled, Rare Earth would come and remove it. Nevada Irrigation District has offered to partner with us on this project.

15. **New Business:**

- a. **Board approval of Maddison Easley as Associate Director:** Maddison introduced herself to those who didn't know her. ***Jim Drew moved to approve Maddison Easley as an Associate Director. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.***
- b. **Board approval of contract extension with Jason Jackson:** General discussion of the Advisory Visit Program. ***Robert Ingram moved to renew Jason Jackson's contract for 2 years. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.***
- c. **Board approval of fee increase for office cleaning service (Sweeping Beauties):** General discussion. ***Robert Ingram moved to increase the pay rate for Sweeping Beauties to \$75 per week. Second by Jim Drew. Approved 5-0.***
- d. **Board discussion regarding employee evaluations:** (Closed Session).

15. **Announcements:** None.

Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Beginning of Closed Session at 7:29 pm.

End of Closed Session at 7:50 pm.

Return to regular board meeting at 7:50 pm.


Robert Ingram moved to approve Jan Blake as Executive Director of Projects at \$31.65 per hour; Sabrina Nicholson as District Manager at \$55,620 salary; and Anne Solik as Administrative Assistant at \$20.00 per hour. Second by David Barhydt. Approved 5-0.

Board meeting ended at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sabrina Nicholson October 5, 2017.



Approved by Board of Directors on 11/14/17



Susan Hoek, President