



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday November 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 6:00 pm by President Robert Ingram
Directors present: Dave Barhydt, Linda Miller, Patti Kiehl, Jim Drew, Robert Ingram
Associate Directors present: Darlene Moberg, Maddison Easley
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson
Guests: Debbie Gibbs
2. **Introductions:** Debbie Gibbs, Advisor from Nevada County Grown
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Jim Drew moved to amend Agenda by adding discussion and approval of scholarship program as New Business Item 13 'f'. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0. Jim Drew moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** None.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** Received a letter from SFREC thanking the RCD for their support of Beef & Range Field Day. There were extra articles on the table.
6. **President's Report:** Robert Ingram and Sabrina Nicholson will be attending a Community Wildfire Prevention Stakeholder's meeting on December 7th, 2018 put on by the County.
7. **Education & Outreach Committee:** Jim Drew stated that the committee was working with Sabrina Nicholson and Kimala de Sena to layout the provisions for one \$1,000 scholarship, renewable up to 4 years, to Nevada County high school seniors, with a GPA of 3.0 or better, in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and/or conservation. A worksheet outlining the provisions of the scholarship was passed out. Patti Kiehl recommended that we change "Fire Fighting" to "Fire Fighting/Fire Science". Sabrina Nicholson added that students will be required to write an essay describing what they hope to accomplish with their degree. Robert suggested naming the scholarship "The Nevada County Resource Conservation District Scholarship".
8. **Forestry Committee:** No report.
9. **Grassland Committee:** Dave Barhydt commented that we desperately need rain. There's no grass. Maddison Easley informed the Board that 3 out of the 4 students the RCD had sponsored for Range Camp placed in the top 5 of all participants and two are invited to attend all expenses paid to an upcoming National Society for Range Management Conference in

Minnesota. One student (Lydia from Forest Charter) will write a paper on "Grazing as A Tool for Fire Prevention" and give a presentation (Maddison Easley will work with her on this).

10. **NCRCD Activity Report:** The District's report on The Year in Review was included in the Board packets.

SDMRA sent us an award for not having a workman's comp or liability claim for the past 5 consecutive years.

The Brown Act had a new amendment requiring we have a special, prominently displayed place for the agenda on our home page titled "CURRENT BOARD AGENDA" and replaced only when a new agenda is available. Past agendas, approved minutes, reports, financials, yearly audit, and pension data are also now available on our website.

R&B (technical services) have raised their rates by \$5 an hour for services, and adding \$1 to the monthly website hosting.

Staff will be participating in a teleconference from the Water Board – "Agricultural Lands Regulatory Program" teleconference December 3rd, 10:30 – 12 am.

PNSSNS put on a Soil Erosion Certification Workshop in which we were hoping to partner, but things didn't work out. Elisa Nobile with Placer County RCD wants to partner with us on another class soon which we plan to participate in.

Staff plans to host a free community movie screening of a documentary titled "Wilder than Wild" on March 6th, 5:30 pm with a Q&A session and literature handouts.

Staff is currently planning for 2019's Conservation Dinner (which will be our 75th anniversary) to take place June 21, 2019 at Miller's Pond.

Together with other Nevada County organizations, the county is asking for participation in a meeting December 7th to talk about resources and support for SB 901. There is \$200 million a year in grant funds available for 5 years for forest health and fire prevention. Sabrina Nicholson and Robert Ingram are planning to attend.

An e-mail was forwarded to staff from Debbie Gibbs regarding the Old Airport Master Plan – a 102-acre area. Ideas on what to do with the property were submitted to Nevada City which narrowed the number down to six. NCRCD suggested possibly turning the "untouched forest" are into a demonstration of healthy forest practices.

The Grand Jury sent out a survey that we filled out and submitted. Copies of the survey are on table.

Jim Drew requested that we look into a rodent control device and making it available to landowners like we do the Min-Till Drill. Sabrina offered two models. Board decided to table and discuss in 2019.

CARCD is working with the American Forestry Foundation on a project and sent a notice that they are looking for RPF's for hire.

11. **NRCS Activity Report:** Report is on the table.

12. **Old Business:** No Report.

13. **New Business:**

- a. **Board discussion and approval to reimburse RCD Board members who attended Nevada County Farm Bureau's Annual Membership Dinner:** Discussed and decided to not reimburse.
- b. **Board approval of contract extension with David Barhydt for the Min-Till Drill:** *Jim Drew moved to approve renewing the Min-Till Drill contract with David Barhydt. Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 5-0.*
- c. **Board discussion of cash reserves (requested by Auditors):** Board discussed the cash reserves, previous grants, alternate funding sources, and options to avoid pulling from reserves. One option is to cut down overhead, there could be a reduction of projects or salary, but we're not able to reduce the amounts of the large ticket items such as insurance and CalPERS. Patti Kiehl wanted to attend the December 7th meeting with the County. Board decided to discuss this topic after the December 7th meeting, but we should be cautious of spending down our reserves.
- d. **Board discussion of CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant:** Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing this grant. It was decided that without maintenance, it was not a worthwhile project.
- e. **Board discussion of CAL FIRE's CCI Forest Health grant program:** Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of pursuing this grant too. It was decided that the benefits could be weighed after the December 7th meeting and discussed in the new year.
- f. **Board discussion of NCRCD Scholarship:** *Jim Drew moved to approve a high school scholarship sponsored by the Nevada County Resource Conservation District in the amount of \$1,000 for a 2019 graduate. Second by Dave Barhydt. Approved 5-0.*

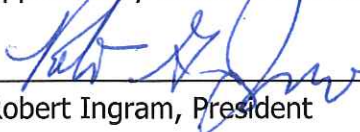
14. **Announcements:** No announcements.

Regular board meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik, November 14, 2018.



Approved by Board of Directors on 1-15-19



Robert Ingram, President