



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday May 9, 2023, at 4:00 pm

1. **Call to order and Roll Call:** at 6:01 by Jim Drew. Directors present: Linda Miller, Jim Drew, and JoAnn Fites-Kaufman (by phone). Staff present: Briana Bacon and Anne Solik
2. **Introductions:** No Introductions.
3. **Approval of Agenda or Correction of Agenda:** *Jo Ann Fites Kaufman moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Linda Miller; Approved 3-0.*

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes from the April 11, 2023, Regular Board meeting
 - B. Financial Statement for April 2023.
Jo Ann Fites Kaufman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 3-0.
5. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No public comment.
 6. **Correspondence:** Linda Miller presented an announcement for NSAQMD Car grants for districts in Nevada County. Staff will look into the viability.
 7. **NCRCDD Director and Staff Report:** Jo Ann Fites Kaufman reported on her Prescribed Burn Plan Workshop noting that it was well attended by locals and Butte and Placer County RCDs as well. She also reported about being on a recent panel after a controversial film presentation about differing views of forest management. Jim Drew reported on attending the prescribed burn at the Kramer Ranch. He also reported on progress at the mill being used at the Farm School. He also reported that Bear River Placed in the State FFA competition.

Briana Bacon detailed items listed in her presented Director's Report. Highlights included highlights from the Kramer Ranch prescribed fire demonstration, the Food and Farm Conference RCD presentation and booth as well as the composting seminar, and the RCD hosted Prescribed Burn Plan writing seminar and ridge bur with media coverage. May meetings included CalPERS, Nevada County Sustainable Ag Lands Grant, Placer RCD, Amador RCD, a Regional RCD-collaboration meeting, NRCS planning with Regional Advisor, Food & Farm Conference presentation, CDFA/USDA Beginning Farmer workshop, Healy Soils Grant seminar, Red Bud Chapter Climate change, Sierra Harvest Food Policy Council, Farm Bureau Monthly Meeting and a meeting with BYLT future partnership for SALC planning.

Briana also reported on operations including updating health benefits, training and administration, new computers and managing tech support and migration as well as migration of website to a CSDA recommended platform for special districts.

Briana reported on Grants and Revenue including:

- USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant Awarded \$392,542
- Cal-Fire Prevention Grant submitted - \$1,253,994
- Climate Investments submitted and Award letter received \$299,936
- Department of Conservation planning grant \$500,000
- Point Blue Working Lands Conservation Grant, Multiple Projects \$100 Million available.
- CDFA Regional Healthy Soils Block Grant \$2 Million due in May

Briana also talked about her future focus on seminars, events, developing a master calendar, and communication calendar, Education and scholarships as well as a new strategic plan.

Anne reported on the Food & Farm conference booth, the new contractor filling in for AVP while Jason is on vacation, the distribution of the Farm Trail Map, progress on the components of the Ag Tour, planning of the COY dinner for the fall, migration of the website, Range Camp participants and planning for Farm Day.

8. **NRCS Director Report:** No Report.

10. **New Business:**

A. Discussion and possible approval of support for Arete School for their Children's Food Garden. Discussion about providing micro-grants for schools presenting invoices for need projects. **Jo Ann Fites Kaufman moved to create a Micro-Grant program to support all schools with up to \$5,000 for school garden projects. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 3-0.**

9. **Old Business:**

A. Discussion possible decision regarding supporting Chicago Park School: #1 Water for Children's Food Garden \$7,726.56 and #2 Fencing \$39,179. Discussion about the types of fencing that could be used for the project, Jim Drew will present alternatives at the next board meeting in May. **Jo Ann Fites Kaufman moved to support Chicago Park School for \$8,000 to cover the cost of the water Container for the Children's Food Garden. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 3-0**

11. **Announcements:**

Next Regular Board meeting – June 13, 2023 at 6pm.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik May 9, 2023.

Approved by Board of Directors on _____

David Barhydt, Chair