



## BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - Special Meeting  
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tuesday April 14th, 2026, at :00 pm

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** at 3pm Jim Drew, President, Alana Fowler, Vice-President, Reed Hamilton, Robert Ingram, Briana Bacon, Amanda Rodgers.
2. **Introductions:** None
3. **Approval of Agenda:**  
*Alana moved to approve Reed seconded. Motion carried 3/0*
4. **Approval of Consent items:**
  - A. Minutes from Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Regular Board Meeting – Reed moved to approve with corrections. Alana seconded. Motion carried 3/0.
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Correspondence:** Amanda Rodgers distributed Special District packets. She also distributed letter from LAFCO regarding property taxes. Discussion followed. A STOP NID flyer from Farm Bureau was distributed and discussion followed. It was mentioned that as an agency, we cannot submit protest letters. Briana mentioned that she got a call from Rich Johansen and he would like to have NCRCD distribute up to \$50k of seed mix for ranchers and farmers that will help with erosion control.
7. **NRCS Report:** *Valerie Bullard was not present.*
8. **NCRCD Board Reports:** **Alana Fowler** reported that due to knee surgery she has had to lay low. Her kids are helping out on the farm. She says she thinks they're done calving, they are almost done kidding. **Reed Hamilton** reported that he was invited to the California Agro Forestry Network meeting at UC Davis. He said they are compiling a list of site that could be visited. Robert Ingram commented that Agro Forestry is "sketchy", because you can't predict what the value of lumber will be 25 years down the road. Reed also reported that he did a burn on his property with Haley. It was a small burn and it was done so fast – 1 hour to burn needles and oak leaves. **Jim Drew** reported that he completed two rows of his vineyard and called in his guy to complete the job. The vines are now looking good. He went to Montana to deliver a couple project lambs. Jim also reported that on Friday he taking Ms. Cicogni's Animal Science and Animal Physiology class to University of Nevada in Reno. There was discussion regarding sources of wood for the Ranch.  
  
**Katie Alling** reported that she took 25 kids to Los Angeles for six days and visited Universal Studios. Their new van's a/c wasn't working so she took the old van and did fine. The new van's issue may be rodent related. The ground squirrels are the issue with the van and ground squirrels, rats and mice are the greenhouse issue. She also reported that she took students on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to Shasta College where there was a forestry contest. Her group placed third, but very close to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place scores. Next week, she is taking her team that won last fall, to the Champion event at Camp Sylvester next week. In the beginning of May, Ag Mechanics, Floral Design, and Forestry Team are going to State finals. Their awards ceremony is on May 14<sup>th</sup> along with their scholarship presentations. Also, on Thursday, Katie is taking her three Forestry classes out to the ranch to spend about 20 minutes with each class on the Ranch looking at the mill and work on measurements including scaling a log, then working on board

cuts. Katie mentioned that she would like to have Haley come out to the high school and teach the students about prescribed fire.

9. **SCHOOL RANCH Report:** **Jim Drew** reported that NID completed the repair on the crossing at the ditch at the Ranch. Water is now in the ditch but we're not filling the pond right away. There was a sale at the Fairgrounds on Sunday. The goats didn't sell however all but one pig sold from the Ranch, and it sold today. It was exciting for him to see the enthusiasm from the bidders for the Ranch pigs. People recognize that they are good stock. Jim spoke to Rick, who thinks that their average is between \$700 and \$800 per pig and that's very good. All those funds go back into the Ranch. Jim reported to Katie that the Ranch is all set up for Thursday's visit. Briana added that Congressman Kevin Keiley has earmarked a few million dollars in his bill in support for the District Ranch's expansion projects.

10. **NCRC Director and Staff Report:** **Briana Bacon** reported that Haley received a direct email from someone at the Watershead Institute who has additional money for prescribed fire and PBAs and heard about the good work that has been happening at the RCD and gave Haley the opportunity to present a budget for \$185,000 to keep the PBA going. The Institute is presenting a select group of half a dozen organizations that are doing work for the PBA, to the Depart of Conservation for funding. If successful, Haley would get another \$185,000 to stay on beyond the end of her current grant, which ends in June. This would start July 1<sup>st</sup> and go for 15 months on training the PBA for burns. Haley would manage and help them get their infrastructure together. Nate is doing well and put in for a multi-million dollar pre-proposal for a forest health grant with the Forest Service and we're waiting to hear back from CalFIRE. City of Grass Valley is actively writing a grant with Sierran Nevada Conservancy and listed us as project manager partner for a 250-acre project. There is a Healty Soils Block Grant that Amador RCD is applying for \$4m, and another that Placer RCD is applying for \$4m that would cover projects in nine counites. They are so impressed with Charlie that they want him to run technical assistance for all nine counties. Briana reported that Katie Alling's Board appointment has been approved through Sierra County, so now we will wait for our local Board of Supervisors to approve you as well. Progress! Briana was asked to put in a proposal to the Economic Development Department for \$28,000 for Agro Tourism Research grant. Also, this week we have a SALC meeting at the Grange for the first part and then the Youth Leadership Group will be meeting at the District Ranch in the afternoon. Our new bookkeeper is fully in place now and working on new reports. Documentary is really close to being finished. Citizens Academy is going well. **Amanda Rodgers** shared the new Annual Report. She also shared the certificates that she made for each scholarship recipient. She said that the playing cards designs are done and need proofing. They should be done in time for Farm Day, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Truckee Farm Day is going well. Working with Kat is going very well. Katie said that we have five FFA students that have signed up so far and more will sign up in the coming days. Ellen van Noy was suggested as a driver for some, if not all the students. Amanda has been working on adding video to the website and on the newsletter headers and finishing the Prescribed Fire Guide and Living in the Foothills Guide redesigns.

#### 11. **New Business:**

A. New Contracts Review – None

B. Micro-Grant Review – None

C. Scholarship Request Review – Owen Mello \$1000, Kale Turnage \$1000, James Strong \$1000, Hannah Ross \$1000, Dakota Graham \$1000, Meadow Denty \$750

D. Staff Requests –

i. Two RCD offices are open in Suite 2. Sierra Harvest is interested in renting both rooms. We are currently charging \$175/month per room. Due to increased costs, we would like to begin charging \$200/room per room at the beginning of the new year. Discussion followed.

**Reed moved to approve Sierra Harvest renting two rooms. Alana seconded. Approved 3/0**

ii. Nate Alcorn is asking for a hardship advance of his vacation time.

**Alana moved Reed seconded Approved 3/0**

E. Other Review – Reviewing the new reports from Quickbooks. We are still refining the reports but in looking where we are currently, we're in good shape. We still have about \$400,000 that we're due to get in before the end of the year. The reports will be refined for future meetings.

12. **Old Business:**

A. None

13. **Announcements:**

A. Next Regular Board meeting – ***Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at 3PM*** \*Note the time change\*

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Rodgers May 8th, 2026.

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Approved by Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_\_

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Jim Drew, Chair