



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday February 11, 2025, at 4:00 pm

1. **Call to order and Roll Call:** at 4:00 by Jim Drew, President. Directors present: Jim Drew, JoAnn FitesKaufman, Linda Miller, Alana Fowler and Reed Hamilton. Staff present: Briana Bacon and Anne Solik.
2. **Introductions:** from Ready Nevada County OES.
5. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):**

Alex Keeble-Toll, Interim OES Director and Alessandra Zambrano, County Wildfire Coordinator presented "Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Executive Summary" and partnership request. ***Approval and Signatures of support to presented at next meeting.***

3. **Approval of Agenda or Correction of Agenda:** ***JoAnn FitesKaufman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Linda Miller Approved 5-0.***

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes from the January 2025, Regular Board meeting
- B. Financial Statement for January 2025.

JoAnn FitesKaufman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Reed Hamilton. Approved 5-0

6. **Correspondence:** Form 700's passed around the table.
7. **NRCS Director Report:** Valerie Bullard, NRCS District Conservationist reported that with the new administration there have been several office changes. All staff required to be in office in person every day, there is a hiring freeze (all Federal Government offices), all current and all job offers have been revoked. She also reported that without clarity, all DEI contracts canceled, any inflation reduction climate change contracts canceled and all IRA projects are on hold including Point Blue, RCD, and all contractors.
8. **NCRCD Board Report:** JoAnn FitesKaufman reported on her visit to Kevin Keily's office to report on the importance of RCD's Prescribed Burn Program funding. JoAnn also reported that she recently held a very successful class with high attendance, co hosted with Zeno Action, Master Arborist. She also noted that she is working with Nate planning a Prescribed burn on Olala Ranch. Linda Miller reported on ranch progress with all the rain, and hoping for more lambs. Alana reported on her farm progress noting that she recently landed a contract with Three Forks. Reed Hamilton reported on research for a compost spreader (2 and 4 yards) as well as Bio-Char and Bio-Burners. Robert Ingram commented

that he is pleased that "Burning" is finally being recognized. Jim reported on progress with his property and lambs.

- 9. **NCRCD Staff Report:** Briana Bacon reported on the financial status after a week of the new Administration pausing all grants, status unknown at this time. In preparation of possibly not receiving the awarded grants, a new budget was presented to keep office personnel in place until June. Many programs to be paused and creative thinking needed to move forward with others. A more formal budget will be presented at the March meeting for a vote.
- 10. **Ranch School Report:** Jim Drew reported on the Ranch School Workday recently held for clean up and a drone project by Katie Alling.

11. **New Business:**

A. Discussion and possible approval of equipment purchase for STRAW (Point Blue) Grant. Discussion about the parameters of the grant and the strategic move to rent Grant funded equipment rather than purchasing equipment. **Tabled for Special Meeting February 21.**

B. Discussion and possible approval of 2022 Strategic Plan. Discussion about Strategic plans and the possibility of posting the 2022 version until the 2025 version is completed. **Tabled for March Board Meeting.**

C. Discussion of possible modified annual budget. Discussion moving Micro-grant and Scholarship payouts from "714 Committed Funds – Board Restricted Other" to "710 – Checking – Unassigned Funds" for the interim while Government Freeze leaving NCRCD unable to invoice for current grant work that has been completed. **Tabled for Special Meeting February 21.**

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

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik February 12, 2025.



Approved by Board of Directors on 3-11-2025



Jim Drew, Chair