



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday September 13, 2022, at 4:00 pm

1. **Call to order:** at 4:02 pm by Jim Drew. Directors present: Jim Drew, Linda Miller, and by Zoom: Reed Hamilton, JoAnn Fites-Kaufman, Dave Barhydt. Associate present: Alana Fowler
Staff present: Sandy Jacobson, Anne Solik
2. **Introductions:** Pamela Hertzler (NRCS), Tony Romero, Agricultural Biologist, Nevada County Ag Commissioner's Office
3. **Approval of Agenda or Correction of Agenda:** *Hamilton moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Fites-Kaufman; Approved 5-0.*
4. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Fites-Kaufman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Hamilton; Approved 5-0.*
 - A. Minutes from the August 9, 2022, Regular Board meeting
 - B. Financial Statement for July 2022
5. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No Comments.
6. **Correspondence:** Articles included in the board package, as well as a letter about our compensation reports, this was addressed and reported. Jacobson informed the Board of a Public Records request from "Transparent California for a report on actual earnings for the past 3 years.
7. **NCRCRD President's Report:** Dave Barhydt reported that he may be home from the hospital in the following week. Dave also talked about how he felt that it was very important to attend the "Plan for Water" NID meetings and he'd like some commitment for the board/staff to attend. Jacobson added that she will send out a schedule to the group.
8. **Education/Scholarship Committee:** Miller talked about contacting the High School to the new Scholarship Director, and Solik mentioned she had already paid one student and was waiting for contact information as well as class schedule from two other eligible students and still waiting for the high school to respond. Drew mentioned that the Sawmill had been delivered and set up to the School Ranch and that a huge supply of logs had been already delivered.
9. **Grant Report:** Fites-Kaufman reported that she has been working very hard, with classroom and presentation work on CalFire Instructor's Course. Jacobson put together a summary grant report (on table) including primarily funding for prescribed fire for private landowners due October 7, the Community Wildfire Grant, funding for a project manager to

do site visits for prescribed burn including plans and permits and physically being there for the Burn. She also mentioned she wrote an article for the Union on the history of Prescribed Burn interviewing locals about historical burns. She is working on a grant for a full time (8mos) or for a year – Rx fire manager. There is another much larger grant possibly partnering with Sierra Nevada Conservancy. They work with partnerships, so our participation could be possible. Focusing on an area needing 30 % fuel treatment. We've already been approved for the next phase, stating that the RCD can choose to be a full partner (a 9-month position). Calfire will soon be having grants coming open, and she was looking for the non-competitive funding, perhaps having prescribed burns. Fites-Kaufman also mentioned this training would qualify her as a "Burn Boss Instructor". Not huge grants, but possibly a position for one forester eventually. She asks the board if 1. They are willing to apply for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant solely, or partner with the Fire Safe Council and/or 2. Prescribed Fire Burns grants to fund local burns, together they could form one full time position. She also stated that she is committed to mentor and supervise the position moving forward. ***Hamilton moved to authorize submitting to commit to the Yuba Watershed Grants on behalf of the Resource Conservation District moving forward and/or partnering on the Community Wildfire Defense with the US Forest Service Grant, Miller Second. Approved 5-0.***

10. **NCRCD Staff Report:** A written report was included in the board package. Staff focused on Farm Day coming up September 14.
11. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler, District Conservationist – reported on the current project obligations with NRCS as well as the possibility of funding more contracts before the end of the year. She also noted that NRCS will be having several demonstrations for the Farm Day Event. Pamela also reported that a visit from the Area Office would be coming to Grass Valley to perform a spot-check on the office compliance for civil rights. All board members will need to sign this report by September 28, 2022. Pamela also reported that her staff will have several stations for the upcoming Farm Day event.
11. **Old Business:**
 - A. Review and consider plans to relocate and checkout system for Min-Till-Drill. ***Hamilton agreed to review the current policies and recommend changes for the Board to consider at a later date.***
12. **Closed Session Entered 4:56 pm. - Outcome: Board authorized making an offer to a candidate for District Manager. End Closed Session 5:35 pm.**
12. **New Business:**
 - A. Employee Handbook, Sandy Jacobson talked about the many modifications needed for the Personnel Policies & Procedures manual.
 - B. **Employee Benefits – Future Retirement & Health.** Sandy Jacobson delivered a report on CalPERS retirement costs and plan to move forward with or without CalPERS benefits. Discussion about what to offer for future District Manager, Hamilton added that Flexibility to choose should be offered.
 - C. **Goals and Objectives.** Tabled for a future meeting.

13. **Announcements:** Next board meeting – October 11, 2022, 4pm unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik September 13, 2022.

Approved by Board of Directors on _____

Jim Drew, Vice-Chair