BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday September 8th, 2026, at 4:00 pm

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** at 4pm Jim Drew, President, Alana Fowler, Vice-President, Reed Hamilton, Katie Alling Staff present: Briana Bacon, Amanda Rodgers, Charlie McIntosh
2. **Introductions:** Diego Camacho from NRCS
3. **Approval of Agenda:**
   Katie Alling moved to approve Reed Hamilton seconded. Motion carried 4/0
4. **Approval of Consent items:**
   A. Minutes from Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
   Reed Hamilton moved to approve with corrections. Alana Fowler seconded. Motion carried 4/0.
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Correspondence:** **Amanda Rodgers** distributed correspondence including a letter from Craig Thomas expressing his thoughts on the Working Lands III, History of Forestry and Fire documentary. Discussion followed. Jim Drew commended the staff and Board for putting together an outstanding documentary of our forest's history. Amanda Rodgers distributed information about an online auction for local properties that have been foreclosed upon.

Linda Miller joined the meeting at 4:08PM

7. **NRCS Report:** **Diego Comacho** reported about what they will have completed this fiscal year ending in September from this field office including Equip selections (81 acres total). Regenerative Pilot Program for one project (8 acres). Six (6) CSP awards in total. Natural Forest (114 acres). Crop lands totaled $41,000 in support. Local working group meeting took place on August 31st. Discussion followed.

   Charlie McIntosh gave a shortened presentation of the results of the survey that he worked on with NRCS. Discussion followed.

8. **NCRCD Board Reports:** **Alana Fowler** reported that she has been fixing irrigation due to a pinecone issue and doing split watering over 20 acres. The Fair was good. **Katie Alling** reported that they had a good Fair and have started school. They have been doing football games on Friday nights. They have the FFA drive-thru BBQ coming up on Oct 6th with ticket sales closing on the 17th of September. Their Booster dinner is on Saturday. Their Green Hen BBQ (new families to FFA) is tomorrow night. She is getting ready to take her class to the Forestry Challenge at the end of September. She had 7 students that earned their American Degree this year. Katie Alling found out that she has been nominated and awarded the Honorary American Degree. **Linda Miller** reported that the lamb kids did well at the Fair. Saide Williams got the Nevada County Bred and Fed award. Some kids were first or second in their class and in the champion run. Discussion followed about next year's Fair in July and the additional days. **Jim Drew** reported that his grandkids also had lambs at the Fair. He hasn't heard the totals from the auction yet, but the numbers were substantial for both the animals and the Ag Mechanics items. Jim Drew also reported that he went to the latest NID meeting. Discussion followed. **Reed Hamilton** reported that he missed the Fair because he has been hiking and camping in the Sierra. He came home and has been harvesting 5lbs of figs a day from his tree. Reed had an interesting exercise he was reporting to the National Ag and Forestry and Group on

the differences between the House versions of the Farm Bill proposals versus the Senate. They are borrowing money from EQUIP to fund these programs. One is a State Assistance Program for healthy soils. Over 10 years it would remove $786m from EQUIP. They also talked about a Healthy Forest Conservation Easement Program that they scrapped and created a new one that will borrow funds from dedicated funding. House version appears to be better than the Senate version.

9. **District Ranch Report:** **Jim Drew** reported that the Ranch is going well. They have goats and chickens and a garden that Ellen van Noy has been taking care of. He had a woman visit a while back that offered help and Jim Drew mentioned they need a tractor. She donated funds so they bought a 24hp Kubota tractor with a rototiller attachment, front-end loader and a scraper, with a quick-change attachment (on the way). It's a smaller tractor so the kids can use it for many applications all over the ranch. Luke Browning has ascended to the Assistant Superintendent of High School District. The Ranch has hired Becky Browning to take Luke's place at the Ranch. Discussion followed. Ellen van Noy is staying. Rick Latrell goes out twice a day to check on things and works with Jason, helping him manage the ranch. Jim Drew commended and congratulated Katie Alling for also winning (County-wide) Teacher of the Year award. Katie Alling mentioned they had two classes at the Ranch. Currently they are teaching Introduction to Animal Industry and Animal Anatomy. Students are being bussed in from both schools. Jim Drew mentioned that they are working on a permanent bathroom. Jim thanked Reed Hamilton for donating a generator to the Ranch.

10. **NCRCD Director and Staff Report:** **Amanda Rodgers** handed out the monthly reports and explained that we have changed the process of providing the reports. Instead of printing the reports at the beginning of the month before the County has reconciled and closed their books, we will present the previous month's reports after the County has reconciled, but before we have reconciled. The "final" version will be available by the end of the following month. That will give us a clearer picture of where we stand. Discussion followed. Jim Drew commented that the reports are much easier to read and follow. Amanda Rodgers mentioned that the next step is meeting with the team to determine if we can design Quickbooks to do the reporting we need so that we can stop paying for the $15k annual subscription that we currently pay for Amplifund (Euna). The Fair was really good for RCD this year. The playing cards were a huge hit. Amanda Rodgers was asked by KNCO 830AM to do a weekly radio show on whatever topic she wants to talk about so she suggested that we call it Nevada County Ag Hour. Plans for the show are underway. The show will probably kick off in January 2027. Farm Day is looking good. Discussion followed. COY awardee was discussed and agreed upon and that award will be presented at the Farm Bureau dinner in October. Amanda Rodgers handed out the new Prescribed Fire Guide.

Briana Bacon reported that the SALC plan is done and that the Board of Supervisors is so happy that it's going on Consent next week. We're done a year early. We are wrapping in October and we're hoping to get notified in November or December that we've been awarded the next round and will begin in January. Briana handed out a letter from a lawyer that was received last week regarding the Donner Summit project. The work was awarded to Acton Arboriculture and this letter is rebutting our decision process. Briana sent all the information to our lawyers, and they will be back next week to review and discuss next steps. Discussion followed. Briana will send an update in an email. An emergency meeting will have to be called next week to award the contract after we hear from our council and we will contact the board once we are ready to set that meeting.

11. **New Business:**

A. New Contracts Review –

i. Donner Summit Fuels Reduction project – additional PG&E grant funding. This is an additional $80k the Donner Summit Project to accomplish 41 linear miles.

Alana Fowler moved Reed seconded. Motion carried 5/0

B. Micro-Grant Review – There are five applicants this year. Linda Miller, Reed Hamilton, and Jim Drew received a packet of the schools that have applied. With the new process, the team will visit the schools before the awarding process. Discussion followed.

C. Scholarship Request Review - None

D. Staff Requests – None

E. Other Review

12. **Old Business:**

A. Executive Director Review – CLOSED SESSION

Session Re-Opened: Motion to approve the 5% increase for the Executive Director for this fiscal year to be effective retroactively to July 1, 2026. Motion approved 5/0

13. **Announcements:**

A. Next Regular Board meeting – ***Tuesday, October 13th 4pm***

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Rodgers October 7th, 2026.

Approved by Board of Directors on 10/8/24

Jim Drew, Chair