



**BOARD MINUTES**

Nevada County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - Special Meeting  
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tuesday December 9th, 2025, at 4:00 pm

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 4:02pm by Jim Drew, President. Present: Alana Fowler, Vice President, Reed Hamilton, Valerie Bullard, Briana Bacon, Amanda Rodgers, Haley Coopergard.
  2. **Introductions:** None
  3. **Approval of Agenda:** *Reed Hamilton moved to approve agenda. Alana Fowler second. Approved 3-0*
  4. **Approval of Consent items:**
    - A. Minutes from Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Regular Board Meeting:  
*Alana Fowler moved to approve Minutes. Reed Hamilton Second. Approved 3-0*
  5. **Public Comment:** None
  6. **Correspondence:** Staff distributed article from PublicCEO entitled *Agencies release revised WOTUS proposed rule, open 45-day public comment period*. Discussion regarding the article and whether a public stance should be taken by NCRCD. Board will review and make individual comments if necessary.
- Linda Miller arrived at 4:05PM**
7. **NRCS Report:** Valerie Bullard distributed NRCS Report. Playing catch-up with contract and payments after shutdown. For FY25, they awarded 19 contracts: 14 EQUIP contracts including 11 Forestland, 1 Pasture, 1 Cropland, and 1 Water Conservation, and 5 total CSP Forestland Contracts.  
  
Updates for 2026, they are waiting for National to tell them when the application deadline will be for EQUIP and CSP. Still taking applications but waiting to hear from National. There has been talk about restructuring the planning and ranking process. Talking about reducing the number of fund pools, number of resource concerns and number of payment scenarios. Waiting for more concrete communication on allocation for this year. Have funding until end of September of 2026.  
  
Maddison Easley is back 8 to 10 hours a week until she goes on maternity leave, in middle of January.  
  
Cultural Resources: lost a number of archeologists. The timeline isn't changing – still going to be a year for projects to clear cultural resources. Lost about half of engineering staff. All report to State now. There are estimates that engineering requests have to go through a portal now and it can take up to two years to design. We still have Christy though she is working across three counties now. Exploring using local contracting engineers as well.
  8. **NCRCD Board Reports:** **Alana Fowler** reports that she has been living in the fog, got a bunch of seed planted and replanting a hedgerow. **Reed Hamilton** reported that he did a site visit back in October for Colby McCollum who has 100 acres behind Sierra Star Vineyards. Land is a combination of forest and pastureland. Reed spoke with him about seeding and he was very interested. He also spoke to David Olrich and told him he would get out there and do a site visit soon as

well and talk about the Min-Till Drill. **Linda Miller** reports that she's very busy with lambs. She has 16 lambs - two sets of twin calves and all are doing well. She said that she and Jim Drew have gone to the Micro-Garden Grant recipients. Grass Valley Charter has a lot of work ahead of them but things are looking good. Jim Drew will talk with some of the folks at the high school to see if they can help the garden program. Clear Creek School is also doing well. They have a garden schedule with planned activities on all kinds of topics. Both schools are very appreciative of the financial assistance. **Jim Drew** reported that he and Karen went to Montana to see family. Loved driving through Idaho seeing all the agriculture. His son-in-law has thousands of sheep. It was astounding to see. Jim Drew said that the school visits were great and the folks at Grass Valley Charter really needs help so he's going to reach out to NU Horticulture kids to help. MasterGardeners and Sierra Harvest may have folks to help? Jim offered to take a look at their greenhouse. The potential for their school is crazy between the garden, orchard, and pond. Clear Creek has a smaller space but they look good and have a lot of parental support. Jim suggested that we, as a group, have a follow-up with the programs and find out how they spent the funds, how the programs are performing, so that we can see how the garden programs are progressing.

9. **NCRCD Director and Staff Report:** **Briana Bacon** reported that the numbers in the financials look slightly lower than they should be. With all of the funds being invoiced and property taxes we should be getting an additional \$400,000 by the end of January. We got our Audit back and it was very positive and a great review. After all is said and done, we will be in the positive \$38,000 over budget. In 2026, our focus will be more on education. She presented our award for Conservation of the Year award and plaque from Union Hill School. Briana shared photos of our STRAW project which engaged around 60 kids working on the Dominguez Ranch planting oaks, buckeyes, cottonwood, and willow sprigs, and plant plugs for a total of around 1300 plants. The plants from last season that we watered all summer with a water trough with a 94% survival rate. The documentary is in it's final phase and she will send a link around for people to review and comment.

Amanda Rodgers reported that she's been working on rebuilding the production documents for Farm Day. She is interested in working with the Tahoe/Truckee School District to expand our Farm Day offering to do a day for them in Truckee as well as expand our current Farm Day in September to accommodate more ages here in Grass Valley. She also presented some of the posters that we have to distribute to teachers for Farm Day and at the Fair. She reported that there is a new financial system that the County is rolling out at the first of the year so training will be happening in January. She's optimistic that it's a better system and looks forward to seeing what it will do.

10. **SCHOOL RANCH Report:** Jim Drew reported that there is a lot of stuff going on. There are two portable classrooms out there. Katie Alling is holding a natural resources contest this Friday for Northern California schools. Denise had a big group that moved the cattle handling facilities to a more appropriate location. The beef unit bought four cows from Ron Youngman and one had calved already. Interns are staying busy with wood mill, utilizing scrap material, stacked brush piles – grazing management. They are cranking out a lot of lumber with the lumber mill and it's being used at the schools. Every kid made two sawhorses and are making sheds. Next year the School Ranch will be selling the wood to the schools at a discounted rate to generate income to help offset costs. Same thing with the swine and beef units. All have potential to raise a good amount of income and help pay for Ranch operations. They are looking into artificial insemination for four cows that they have and even embryo transferring. Looking at getting goats but is concerned about the fencing. Also concerned about predators. Looking into all of that. They have done a lot of earth work – got a big pad built for future pavilion. NID meeting is tomorrow. Luke Browning is presenting plan to get more water and partner with them. Putting in a solar pump to help move the water around. One of the ponds has a leak and they are looking at mitigating that issue. Funding for the advisors was from a grant and should be funded through September 2026. Inters will be funded from private grants and funds from Ghidotti Foundation, the County, and others. Luke has applied

for grants as well. Briana Bacon mentioned that they will be planting this week and will be talking to some of the students of taking on monitoring those plants as part of their SAE.

11. **New Business:**

A. New Contracts Review – new County matching grant in the amount of \$20,000 to help 5 to 8 low-income properties with fuel management assistance. The County chose 10 and we chose 8 to assist.

B. Micro-Grant Review – Living Wisdom of Nevada City School – Discussion about their application.

**Jim Drew made a motion to fund \$2,200 Reed Hamilton second. Approved 4-0**

C. Scholarship Request Review – None

D. Staff Requests – Review of RX Fire Protocol – Discussion regarding protocol. It is suggested that we create a form/agreement that the owner, Haley, and Briana sign that says we are not burning, but are not liable. It's a transfer of liability. Owner is lighting the match.

E. Other Review - Anne Solik's retirement date and retirement party – Linda will find out a good idea for a gift for Anne for her retirement.

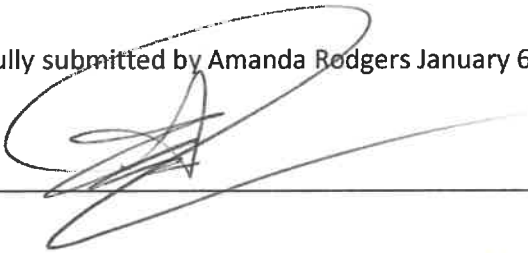
12. **Old Business:**

A. None

13. **Announcements:**

A. Next Regular Board meeting – Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Rodgers January 6th, 2026.



Approved by Board of Directors on 1/13/26



Jim Drew, Chair