

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 16, 2018
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Alvernaz, Ben Felt, Jay Dee Garr (arrived at 5:10), Gil Ramos, Beth Nall (arrived at 5:40), Tom Hickok and Kim Gallagher

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: George Green

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director, Wendy Krehbiel-Colusa NRCS

Ben Felt, CCRCD President called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm at the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

Wendy Krehbiel from the NRCS Colusa Field Office District Conservationist reported that 8 applications were submitted in the 1st batching period of the new fiscal year totally over one million dollars. Practices included pipe installation, range and pasture management, and underground irrigation. The office should know in about two weeks which applicants were funded.

Turner announced the CCRD received a copy of a Use Permit application to extract gravel from the bed of Stony Creek submitted by Colusa County Public Works. The Stony Creek Gravel Extraction Project application included an Initial Biological Inventory prepared by LSA. The objective of the project is to improve the channel flow characteristics of the creek to protect adjacent lands and the highway bridge and obtain construction material. The board determined that a comment to the County Planning Department was not necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Alvernaz to approve the December 19, 2017 minutes with one corrections identified by Ramos. The motion was seconded by Ramos and passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Garr and Nall).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The directors received a balance sheet for the period of December 18, 2017 through January 15, 2018. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1400; petty cash account \$100; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$55,194.27; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$5,596.16; Upper Stony Fuel Treatment (032031) \$0; Specialty Crop Block Grant (032026) \$646.06; DOC Fund (032027) has a balance of \$6,269.23 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The board was presented with one (1) claim and one other expense for approval: CalCard in the amount of \$561.43 and an invoice from Family Water Alliance for 2018 membership dues (will pay by check). A motion was made by Ramos and seconded by Hickok to approve the financial report, claim and payment of FWA dues as submitted. The motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Garr and Nall).

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Elections of 2018 CCRCD Officers was moved to later in the agenda to allow time for Nall and Garr to arrive.

The group discussed possible future conservation projects that could take place in Colusa County. Krehbiel stated that there was a possible streambank erosion in the foothills near Sites, projects to promote hedgerows and water quality. Another suggestion from Green included addressing medusahead in the rangelands. Turner stated there continues to be more conservation related grant funding, but the RCD needs to have locally driven projects they can apply for funding to address.

Having all directors present a motion was made by Gallagher to nominate and re-elect Felt as Board President and Nall as Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Alvernaz and passed with 7 Ayes, 0 Noes and 0 Absent. Garr moved that Turner be re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Nall and passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent and 1 Abstaining (Alvernaz).

Turner presented the board with copies of the CCRCD's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 prepared by Larry Bain, CPA. Each director also received a letter from the auditor to the board. In the Auditor's opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and fund information of the CCRCD.

A sign-up schedule was passed around for the 2018 Colusa Farm Show (February 6-8) to staff the CCRCD's exhibit. This year's exhibit will be about educating the public about Resource Conservation Districts. There will also be a RCD/NRCS/FSA 101 workshop on Tuesday between 1:00 and 1:45.

The 17/18 CCRCD Mid-Year Budget Review was tabled until the February meeting.

Turner announced she has signed up Filter to attend the two-day CARCD 2018 Advocacy Academy. It will be held in Sacramento in March 2018. Turner stated she will also enroll Filter in the Communications Academy to be held later in the year.

Turner discussed the two bids received from website designers. She stated staff felt both designers did a good job with the sample websites sent to them. Turner stated staff was unable to recommend one firm over the other due to not fully understanding all elements of the work to be completed. Turner stated that one individual was more punctual in responding to emails then the other that there is a history with. Turner stated that the software needed to manage the existing website is no longer allowed to be installed on NRCS computers. Filter is due to receive a new computer in the next couple of weeks and Turner has already received one. There are concerns about losing information on the existing website once staff is unable to administer the website. After much discussion a motion was made by Nall to approve the bid from Jason Cox subject to staff and directors doing some additional investigating. The motion was seconded by Alvernaz and passed with 7 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent.

Turner provided information to the board on the 2018 Water Supply and Water Quality Act bond currently in the works. There was a request for the CCRCD to formally support the bond and a recommendation from CARCD to hold off pledging support until more information is known. The bond included specific language that included funds for RCDs and Watershed Coordinators. The Directors requested additional information

be emailed to them and to wait to make a decision about supporting, opposing or not taking a position until a later date.

CCRCD REPORTS:

Turner provided a written summary of the activities associated with the CCRCD projects during the past month. She reviewed the tasks not previously discussed during the meeting.

- **Colusa County Grown:** Staff continues to assist the CCG program by attending meetings, promoting the program, helping with the Facebook page and website. Checking email daily Monday-Thursday. Membership renewal information was sent out and are coming in. Story submitted to Pioneer about CCG for Farm Show tabloid, Premier Mushroom grant written and received to pay stipends to presenters at membership meetings.
- **Department of Conservation Capacity Building Funding:** Filter is still working on the CCRCD presentation, bi-annual newsletter and possibility of forming Soil Health Hub in our region. Staff is researching future project grant opportunities. Turner is starting to work on Durable Collaboration efforts, visit a potential project site with major streambank erosion, starting to plan Farm Show exhibit on RCDs and workshop to be held during the Farm Show. Working on website redesign plan. The first invoice has been paid by DOC.
- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** Filter continues to work with NRCS in the field and office work towards her conservation planner certification. Has completed first plan and submitted to NRCS for approval. Turner makes sure invoices are sent and paid.
- **HSP Workshop Assistance:** Still waiting on invoice to be paid by CDFA.
- **SWEEP Evaluations:** Eleven sites have been verified and documents submitted to CDFA. One more site visit is scheduled for January 23rd. Filter is making a point of asking landowners about 7 additional natural resource concerns they have for possible future projects. The first three invoices have been paid totaling \$18,000. A fourth invoice was submitted last week.

Agenda items V.(B) CARCD Sac Valley Fall Meeting and V. (C) CARCD Conference were left on the agenda from December 2017 in error.

A discussion was held concerning the ability for Colusa County Grown members using the logo on cannabis and conflicts that would have with the groups association with the CCRCD close partnership with the federal government and the fact that CCG was designed to promote food and fiber. It was decided to contemplate this situation further before limiting the use of the logo.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm by President Ben Felt. The next regular monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 on Tuesday, February 20th at the CIP Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD