

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

May 15, 2018
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Alvernaz, Ben Felt, Jay Dee Garr, Gil Ramos, and Kim Gallagher

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Tom Hickok, Beth Nall

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jim LaGrande

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director, John Loudon-Colusa County Board of Supervisors, Wendy Krehbiel-DC, Colusa NRCS

Ben Felt, CCRCD President called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm at the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

John Loudon reported on the current activities of the Colusa County Board of Supervisors. He stated there will be a public meeting for input concerning whether to allow commercial cannabis cultivation in the unincorporated portions of Colusa County on May 21st at 6:00 pm. He urged the public to attend.

Wendy Krehbiel reported on the activities of the NRCS in the Colusa Field Office. She explained the impact of not having a State Archeologist is having on getting applications through in a timely manner. She stated the Colusa NRCS will be utilizing the Engineer housed by the Glenn County RCD to help with projects in Colusa County, but Ha will remain the primary Engineer for the office. NRCS is currently working on batching period three which includes irrigation and rangeland stock watering practices among others. The Colusa NRCS Biologist, Ben Martin is working at RCPP (which has run out in the new year) and plans for declining species.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Alvernaz to approve the April 17, 2018 minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Gallagher and passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Hickok and Nall).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The directors received a balance sheet for the period of April 17-May 14, 2018. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1,400; petty cash account \$95.52; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$60,060.93; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$9,454.20; DOC Fund (032027) has a balance of \$2,102.91 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The board was presented with two (2) claims; Petty Cash in the amount of \$4.48 and Turner mileage claim in the amount of \$28.34. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Garr to approve the financial report and two claims as submitted. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstained (Alvernaz, due to conflict with Turner claim) and 2 absent (Hickok and Nall)

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Turner gave an update on the Natural Resource Coordinator hiring process. She stated three applicants were selected to be interviewed on May 4th. After discussion a unanimous decision was made by the interview panel to extend a conditional job offer to Emily Harmon. She has experience working with NRCS, data collection, monitoring, a BS degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management and a AS degree in Agriculture Science. She's graduating this week from the University of Nevada and will be moving back to Northern California where she has family. She is scheduled to start work on May 22nd with approval from the CCRCD Board. A motion was made by Ramos and seconded by Garr to approve the hiring of Emily Harmon and direct Felt to sign the employment contract. The motion passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes and 2 Absent (Nall and Hickok). Felt was agreeable to allowing the CCRCD to rent his Verizon hotspot to allow the employee internet access on her personal computer until she has federal clearance.

Turner presented her plan to hire an Assistant Executive Director (AED) to train under her for the next six months prior until her retirement. The group reviewed the draft job description that Turner had included in the meeting packets. She informed the group that NRCS will allow the district to invoice two employee's hours under the current agreement expiring on September 30, 2018. During this period the AED will work 50% of a full time equivalent (FTE). The AED will work approximately 14 hours a week under the NRCS agreement and 6 hours a week under the DOC grant. Turner provided the board with a written copy of her hiring plan that included a time schedule and salary funding sources. She had a target date for the AED to start work near June 16 which is the beginning of the July pay period and start of the 18/19 fiscal year. After much discussion a motion was made by Gallagher to approve the AED Job description and hiring plan, and grant the interview panel hiring authority. The motion was seconded by Garr and passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain and 2 absent (Hickok and Nall).

Turner advised the group that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has received grant funding to pay incentives to growers to provide flooding field for water bird habitat and groundwater recharge. The project includes lands north and south of the city of Colusa identified as disadvantaged communities under the guidelines of Prop 1 funding. TNC is also working with the Colusa County Groundwater Commission. TNC would like the CCRCD to assist with landowner outreach and willing to explore potential reimbursement to the CCRCD for associated staff time. The CCRCD board supported this fee for service opportunity.

Turner advised the board they needed to make an addition to the Personnel Policy to reflect new employees will begin to earn the Additional Pay benefit after three months of continual employment. This had always been the procedure for the Health Insurance stipend that was eliminated and replaced with Additional Pay but was not reflected in the written policy manual. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Ramos to approve this edition to the Employee Handbook. The motion passed with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent (Nall and Hickok).

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.

- **Department of Conservation Capacity Building Funding;** Turner talked with partners, reviewed potential grant opportunities, submitted CARCD outreach proposal, attended Durable Collaboration, toured potential sites, discussed potential projects with NRCS, attended CCG meeting, posted information on the CCG website, contacts with Orv's Farm Market and vendor event, notified potential CCG vendors. Submitted Quarterly report and invoice to DOC.

- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** NRCS has been invoiced through the April pay period and all payments have been received from NRCS. Efforts were completed to hire the new NRC to fulfill required tasks in the agreement.
- **HSP Technical Assistance Program:** Still no payment for Sept 2017 invoice has been made. Turner supplied more information to CDFA and remains in constant contact with CDFA to investigation. 2018 has been invoiced and Final Report submitted for just under \$1,000. Three producers assisted by Filter submitted applications.
- **SWEEP Evaluations:** All SWEEP invoices have been paid and are up to date. One project remains under the contract for site verification. Turner contacted the landowner to see if he will be finished by May 31st. He said it was totally dependent on the irrigation company installing the equipment in a timely fashion. If the project is not completed by the end of May the CDFA will verify the work instead of the CCRCD.

Turner announced that the CCRCD's new website is near completion and Turner will need to start supplying information. She has obtained a user name and password to go into the site and look at the progress.

Turner advised the group that the Westside Sacramento IRWMP has contacted her on the status of the project they submitted many years ago concerning tamarisk removal along Bear Creek. She advised the project was still a concept idea but unaware of the desires of the new property owner. She instructed IRWMP staff to leave the project on the list for the time being.

Turner reported she and Krehbiel put together a mini proposal to the CARCD Community Outreach Fund 2018. The funding would provide for the creation of video clips demonstrating how to collect baseline natural resource data to determine practices needed and how to monitor the effectiveness of implemented management practices.

Turner gave a report on the Durable Collaboration retreat she attended on May 8th in Orland. She stated there are possibilities to identify a mutually beneficial project that the whole group can work on together. Even more doable would be working with neighboring RCDs and sharing resources. She will have a conversation with Yolo County RCD soon.

Turner advised the group that the CCRCD will be included in a CARCD partnership proposal that is being submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board. The proposal is directed at Climate Change and reducing the impact on wildlife. The CCRCD portion will provide landowner outreach and staff training related to carbon farming, hedgerows, soil health and other practices they address the issue. She stated she requested \$20,000 but since that time asked that her ask amount to be doubled to \$40,000.

Turner announced the Davis Home Ranch is being nominated to receive the Leopold Conservation Award and the CCRCD was asked to submit a letter of support. The group wholeheartedly agreed that DHR would make an outstanding recipient of the award.

Turner advised the group the Stephen McCord from McCord Environmental, Inc. is managing the Brownfield Project to help mitigate mercury in the Cache and Putah Creek watersheds. He has contacted the CCRCD about a site in Colusa County in need of cleanup. He is seeking support from Colusa County to

assist an interested landowner at Elgin Mine. He has asked for a meeting with the CCRCD, landowner and Colusa County Supervisor in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm by President Ben Felt. The next regular monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the CIP Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD