

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 17, 2018
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Alvernaz, Ben Felt, Beth Nall, and Kim Gallagher

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jay Dee Garr, Gil Ramos, Tom Hickok

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Amy Gibbons

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director, John Loudon-Colusa County Board of Supervisors, Liz Harper-CCRCD, Emily Harmon-CCRCD, Anastacia Allen-Assistant Ag Commissioner

Ben Felt, CCRCD President called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 including his recent trip to Nashville for the annual National Association of Counties conference.

Harmon gave a report on activities of the Colusa Field Office prepared by Wendy Krehbiel. She reported on the projects and type of practices that have been approved for funding under the Farm Bill. Contracts awarded total \$1,094,380 for Colusa County.

Anastacia Allen introduced herself and gave a report on current activities at the Colusa AG Department which includes the winding down of pesticide application for rice, current field walks for crop certification, hiring of seasonal help, working on 2017 Colusa County Crop Report. She is new to the County and still getting to know the County and crops.

Turner presented the board with the plaque from Golden State Risk Management Association declaring the CCRCD as Accredited with Excellence as a participant of the 2017/2018 Risk Management Accreditation Program (RMAP). The district also received a cash reimbursement of insurance costs amounting to \$324.80.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nall to approve the June 19, 2018 minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Gallagher and passed with 4 ayes, 0 noes, and 3 absent (Garr, Ramos, Hickok).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The directors received a balance sheet for the period of June 20-July 17, 2018. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1,400; petty cash account \$68.30; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$50,957.18; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$10,401.71; DOC Fund (032027) has a balance of \$6,820.72 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The board was presented with two (2) claims to be paid in July. Emily Harmon in the amount of \$85.14 and Liz Harper in the amount of \$87.48. Both claims were for travel expenses associated with the Carbon Farming workshop they attended in Escudero on June 26th and 27th. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Nall to approve the financial report and two claims as submitted. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 noes, and 3 absent (Ramos, Garr, Hickok)

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

A discussion was opened concerning possible new project ideas and opportunities for the CCRCD. Turner gave an update on a few items the CCRCD had previously worked on which included the Superintendent of Schools Farm 2 School grant being awarded, CARCD's Wildlife Conservation Board's pre-proposal application was not selected for a full proposal, and it is unknown the outcome of the CCRCD's CARCD Outreach Proposal to create a video. She announced some form of the

Watershed Coordinator grant program is coming back soon and the Community Alliance of Family Farmers (CAFF) responded to Turner's November email and there will be a call next week with CCRCD staff to discuss potential sites in Colusa County for CAFF's almond orchard cover crops program.

Turner provided elections filing paperwork to Alvernaz and Felt. Hickok is also up for re-election but absent at the meeting. She presented Resolution # 2018-1 requesting election consolidation and defining tied vote protocol. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Nall to adopt Resolution #20018-1. A rollcall vote was called, Nall-Aye, Garr-Absent, Gallagher-Aye, Ramos-Absent, Felt-Aye, Alvernaz-Aye, and Hickok-Absent. The Resolution was adopted herein with a majority vote of 4 ayes and 3 absent. Felt and Alvernaz also signed paperwork to authorize Turner to file election documents on their behalf.

Turner reported that she has received paperwork to complete a new Cooperative Agreement with the NRCS. The CCRCD will serve as the administrator of the agreement that will include both Colusa and Glenn County RCDs. The total agreement is for \$150,000 for a total of 3 years. The CCRCD will receive an administrative fee and the remainder will allow about \$24,500 per RCD each year for 3 years. A motion was made by Nall and seconded by Gallagher to approve this agreement when paperwork is completed and authorize the appropriate signatures on any documents necessary to consummate the agreement. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 noes, and 3 absent (Ramos, Garr, Hickok)

Turner and Harper gave a report on the recent phone call they had with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). A pending fee for service agreement is being created for the CCRCD to assist TNC with landowner outreach for their shorebird and groundwater recharge project in defined areas north and south of the City of Colusa. The project will not include rice. TNC is attempting to include areas around Arbuckle that are in most need of groundwater recharge. TNC will reimburse landowners for pumping costs, water cost, groundwork and flooding with occur during post-harvest critical times for shorebirds. Reimbursement rates will be computed by TNC, be transparent and the same for all participants. The Board expressed concerns about getting landowners to participate due to the strict conditions of the grant.

CCRCD REPORTS:

Turner, Harmon and Harper provided a written and verbal summary of the activities associated with the CCRCD projects during the past month. They reviewed the tasks not previously discussed during the meeting.

- **Department of Conservation Capacity Building Funding;** Staff attended the last Colusa County Grown meeting. Harper will work a few hours at home each month on the CCRCD's Facebook page. Turner presented the board with a letter and revised scope of work for the project to adjust for the hiring and training of the new Assistant Executive Director. A motion was made by Nall and seconded by Gallagher to approve the letter and modifications as recommend by Turner. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 0 noes, and 3absent (Ramos, Garr, Hickok). Turner stated she is working on the quarterly report and invoice that is due by the end of July.
- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** Harper will be working under the NRCS agreement for 100% of her hours until September 31st or such time it is determined that all the remaining budget will be expended. Harper and Harmon gave a report summarizing the tasks they have been completing for the NRCS under the agreement. NRCS and CCRCD staff determined that we should continue our efforts to focus energy on improving soil health in Colusa County.
- **HSP Technical Assistance Program:** Turner stated she completed a stop payment request for the check issued by the State Controller on May 22, 2018 for the September 2017 invoice that was never received. She stated the May 2018 invoice was paid in full.

CCRCD Report Items:

Turner reported that photography is being gather for the new website, she'll need to update the project narratives, and staff with receive website management training from SiteHatchery, Inc. She asked for ideas of possible community and agency members to provide testimonials for our website. The board provided some recommendations in addition to those suggested by Turner. Staff will follow-up on contacting them.

Harper and Harmon gave a report on the Carbon Farming workshop they attended on June 27th in Pescadero. They felt it was very worthwhile and brought back some ideas the CCRCD can work on locally.

Harper gave a safety meeting on Health Illness Prevention to board and staff.

During miscellaneous staff and director reports Felt inquired if any work had been completed on a new salary and benefit rate schedule for the CCRCD. Turner stated staff did not have time to gather information from surrounding RCDs. Felt also inquired about outcome from the Board of Supervisor's agenda item to request the inclusion of Elgin Mines in the Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Plan's Brownfield Project. Turner reported the Supervisors approved sending the request to the appropriate authorities. She said there could be possible fee for service opportunities when implementation funds are received to help with erosion control plantings. Nall reported on the Davis Ranch tour and how impressed she was with the conservation work that the Davis family has implemented along with their farming operation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm by President Ben Felt. The next regular monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at the CIP Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD