

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 26, 2017
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bob Alvernaz, Ben Felt, Beth Nall, Jay Dee Garr, and Gil Ramos

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kim Gallagher, Tom Hickok

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: None

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

Ben Felt, CCRCD President called the meeting to order at 5:25 pm in the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room, 100 Sunrise Blvd., and Colusa, CA.

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

Wendy Krehbiel gave an update on current staffing and program applications in the NRCS Colusa Field Office. Krehbiel is now officially the new District Conservationist and hiring a new Soil Conservationist for the Colusa office is a state priority. She stated that fifteen applications for Farm Bill program assistance were received totally \$340,000 or averaging \$22,685. per plan.

John Loudon reported on the county's efforts currently underway to determine what conditions cannabis growing, if any, should be allowed in the unincorporated area of the county. Loudon is researching the pros and cons of allowing cultivation after California's legalization goes in to effect in 2018. He will report his findings back to the full board in the future for consideration. There will be a Farm Bureau membership only forum held next Monday to ascertain farmer's desire to grow cannabis and answer questions anonymously. The CCRCD recommended that a county wide meeting be held in the near future so information can be obtained from the general farming population and not just a selected few.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ramos to approve the June 21, 2017 minutes with one minor correction. The motion was seconded by Garr and passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Hickok & Gallagher).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The directors received a balance sheet for the period of June 21-July 25, 2017. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1207.12; petty cash account \$89.33 (including outstanding deposit); CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$28,027.39; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$9,081.20; Upper Stony Fuel Treatment (032031) \$0; Specialty Crop Block Grant (032026) \$5,373.19; and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The board was presented with two (2) claims for approval: Petty Cash in the amount of \$10.67 and US Bank for CalCard expenses in the amount of \$553.48. A motion was made by Nall and seconded by Ramos to approve the financial report as submitted and two claims. The motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Hickok & Gallagher).

The Board discussed paying CARCD membership fees and donation to Conservation Strategies Group. Nall moved and Ramos seconded to make the same contribution to both as prior year, \$301 to CARCD and \$275 to the CSG. The motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Hickok & Gallagher).

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Disposal of the CCRCD's outdated Trimble GPS system including software was discussed. Turner explained that Jack Alderson had used the device until the NRCS purchased their own. Alderson had told her the software was no longer being updated. She looked up offerings for the device on E-bay and the model was listed with an asking price in the \$10-\$600 range. A motion was made by Felt and seconded by Alvernaz to remove the unit and software from the CCRCD's asset list. The motion passed with 5 ayes, 0 noes, and 2 absent (Hickok & Gallagher). The board instructed Turner to offer to Alderson, if he doesn't want it she can dispose in any acceptable manner.

Turner advised the board she has obtained two bids for assistance redesigning the CCRCD's website and moving to WordPress. She advised the board it is hard to compare the bids because Jackie or she do not know what everything means. Turner is waiting for replies to questions sent to one of the submitters and Turner will seek a third bid to meet the CCRCD's bidding requirements.

Turner announced the Filter took the lead in submitting a proposal to CDFA for funding to hold landowner application workshops for the Healthy Soils Program. CCRCD Staff will hold three workshops, two in Colusa County and one in Yuba City because at least one workshop had to be held in a disadvantaged community as defined by the Communities Environmental Health Screening tool. The amount of \$5,000 was applied for which was the highest grant amount available. The proposals selected are scheduled be announced this week.

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-Specialty Crop Project:** The grant has ended, all reports and final invoice have been submitted and approved for payment along with 10% retention from last invoice. Filter and Turner have distributed a large number of the Food Guides. All funds awarded were utilized including additional salary for Turner to complete the final report. Additional information could be requested in the next few months.
- **Forest Service Cooperative Agreement:** Evans would like to hold an ULSIA meeting on September 16th to discuss the landowner requirements associated with the prescribed burn that might take place in the fall after the CCRCD's grant has expired. Turner requested an invoice from Evans for his work over the past months and asked him to see if there will be a bill from the Burn Boss. Turner advised the board she is planning on billing out any remaining funds at the end of the project as additional overhead that was approved but not invoiced during the grant.
- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** Filtler is working on several hedgerow and cover cop plans, making courtesy calls to landowners, assisted with landowner outreach, performed dry matter calculations of cover crop samples and has attended additional training events.

- **Department of Conservation Capacity Building Funding;** Filter is starting to work on a presentation about the CCRCD and putting together a list of entities to present to. She has also researched funding opportunities and worked at increasing the CCRCD's social media presence.
- **SWEEP Evaluations:** Turner reported the CCRCD is fully contracted to begin completing SWEEP evaluations upon notification by CDFA that landowners are ready. Filter will go in the field with NRCS to increase her skills associated with area of evaluations.

Turner gave the board a copy of the corrected 2017/2018 CCRCD budget. When the county went to post the approved 17/18 budget it was discovered that the total Miscellaneous Project budget column did not populate correctly from the detailed project level. Turner requested the board to discard the prior budget copy received on June 21, 2017.

Turner stated the date for the CARCD Sacramento Valley Fall meeting to be hosted by the CCRCD would need to be held on October 17th to utilize the Williams Community Center and avoid conflicting events. She stated the CCRCD would need to sign a contract and name the center as additionally insured on our insurance policy. The board did not identify a conflict with that date.

Turner announced she is assisting with the 2017 CARCD Conference being held in Sacramento. The board was questioned if they supported holding legislative tours during the conference. No members were interested in attending legislative tours and the general consensus was it is better to focus on the conference activities.

Felt and Turner gave a short report on the recent Colusa County Grown meeting held on July 18th. It was a successful meeting with a good speaker and turnout. The group would like to meet quarterly with the next meeting planned for September 19th.

Felt brought up the idea of moving the meetings back to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The 3rd Wednesday hasn't been working well for Turner due to the need to address work generated from the meeting in a timely fashion and she doesn't normally work on Thursdays. The other concern is the lack of availability of the conference room and the group is outgrowing Felt's small office conference room. It was the consensus of the Board that Turner should check the availability of the conference room on the 3rd Tuesday and place as an action item on the next agenda.

The board discussed going ahead with planning the dinner for Jack Alderson after he returns from his trip. We could have it at Louis Cairo's after an upcoming board meeting. Turner will check on this.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm by President Ben Felt. The next regular monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 on Wednesday, August 16th in the conference room at the Colusa Industrial Park, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD