

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

October 3, 2018
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jay Dee Garr, Gil Ramos

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jim LaGrande, George Green

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director, Liz Harper-CCRCD, Ben Martin-NRCS, Alyssa (Lisa) Lindman-Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Ben Felt, CCRCD President called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

Ben Martin from the NRCS gave a report on activities of the Colusa Field Office. The NRCS fiscal year ended on September 30th. Martin reported the new Farm Bill has not been signed yet and if it isn't signed in three months it will revert back to the 1950's Farm Bill. NRCS is hiring a lot of new employees; the Colusa Field Office will have a new Soil Conservationist starting mid-November and may get a new engineer. There is emergency catastrophic fire funding available for distribution on November 1st.

Lisa Lindman reported that she had participated in the Sacramento River Clean-Up day sponsored by Premier Mushroom. She also stated that Yuba County RCD is in the process of being rebuilt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nall to approve the September 18, 2018 after fixing a couple of typos. The motion was seconded by Gallagher and passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes and 2 absent (Ramos, Garr)

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Directors received a balance sheet for the period of September 18 – October 1, 2018. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1,350.00; petty cash account \$82.64; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$43,331.17; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$11,875.60; DOC Fund (032027) has a balance of \$8,432.06 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The Board was presented with three (3) claims to be paid in October. Petty Cash in the amount of \$67.36, U.S. Bank CalCard in the amount of \$555.94, and SiteHatchery, Inc in the amount of \$875 for final payment on the CCRCD's new website. A motion was made by Nall and seconded by Hickok to approve the financial report and claims as submitted. The motion passed with 5 ayes 0 noes, 0 Abstaining, and 2 absent (Gil, Garr)

Turner inquired if the group was interested in providing a donation to the Conservation Strategy Group this year. After some discussion a motion was made by Felt to donate \$300 to the Conservation Strategy Group. The motion was seconded by Nall and passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes and 2 absent (Ramos, Garr).

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

An update on potential new project activities completed since the last meeting was given by Harper and Turner.. Harper reported on forgoing applying for the California Ag Plates for Educational Grants and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Program do to time constraints and lack of project details. A discussion developed in the process for potential projects and partners with the focus on ag and natural resource education. Premiere Mushroom grant for \$250 to support CCG will be submitted. Harper plans on attending a webinar for information on the new Specialty Crop Block Grant which could be funding for the next food guide and marketing/branding initiatives. Staff also stated they have not received word yet on the proposal submitted for technical assistance for SWEEP and HSP applicants and the CA Fire Safe Council proposal. Things were looking good for the Title III funding. Turner reported that a couple of opportunities have come up to assist other entities with existing programs. She questioned the board on their interest in staff pursuing these fee for service opportunities. The first was providing assistance to the Glenn County RCD for the Glenn-Colusa Irrigated Lands program. Workload would be heaviest from December-February but there would also be funding for staff to attend and provide help with the coalition meetings throughout the year. The board desired more information and wanted assurances that staff time would be reimburses 100%. The other potential opportunity was with the Colusa County AG Department to help support activities associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The board was open to staff exploring this opportunity also.

Turner advised the board they needed to update the district's List of Fixed Assets. Fixed assets are considered any item that has a value of at least \$1000 and expected useful life of three years. She stated the only item on the list that currently fits these criteria is the Rice Roller. After some discussion a motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Hickok to sell the Rice Roller in the next public equipment auction or outright to a buyer if offered \$1,000 or more. No decision concerning the modification of the current asset list was made and will be put back on the agenda for the November meeting. The board approved completing a list of the CCRCD's property.

Turner provided the board with a copy of a revised Salary Rate Schedule for the district. She stated she used Northern California RCD results from a survey conducted in 2015. She advised the board that a new survey needs to be conducted throughout the state but wanted to update our list so prior CCRCD rates adopted in 2004 were not included in the new survey. Turner stated she did not recommend any changes to the Executive Director's salary range as that should wait until after a new salary survey is completed. She stated that Harper could start the process through the list serve so hopefully it could be completed prior to salary negotiations for the 18/19 fiscal year. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Nall to approve the interim CCRCD Salary Schedule. The motion passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes and 2 absent (Ramos, Garr)

RCD staff and director biographies were discussed. Harper sent out a list of questions to help director formulate a personal statement for the Colusa County RCD website. Nall completed and read her bio as an example for the other directors.

CCRCD REPORTS:

Turner 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;** Harper and Turner investigated education grants and brainstormed projects, events and partners. Farm to School project coordinators were contacted for potential partnerships and how the CCRCD could help with their current project. Harper working on website; ED training on-going- went over fixed assets, filled out Tier Survey for CARCD, filled out Risk Management Survey which all were educational opportunities.
- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** The new cooperative agreement is fully executed. The final report and invoice for the 2016 agreement which ended September 30, 2018 will be completed soon.

Website progress is slow but moving toward “going live”. There are a lot of behind the scenes issues that need to be dealt with such as finding a server to host the website and who will manage the domain name. As for the website content, we are just needing to fill in gaps with past agendas and minutes, past project summaries.

Harper called in for a follow-up discussion after the Board Bootcamp. The conversation was very interesting and full of good information for directors. The three main topics were how to have tough conversations, Board Member recruitment, and thoughtfully choosing projects and funding.

Turner inquired if any directors were interested in attending the CARCD Sacramento Valley Regional Meeting in Woodland on October 17th and the Golden State Risk Management Authority’s annual conference in Corning on October 18th. Gall stated she would like to attend both.

Turner also stated that many bills were passed by legislation in August funding Cal Fire to address wildfire recovery and prevention efforts. RCDs were listed by name in some of the bills for potential partners in projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm by President Ben Felt. The next monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, November 20th at the CIP Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD

The meeting was following by the CCRCD’s annual Speak-Off Contest at 6:00 pm. The theme for this year’s contest was “How can RCDs help landowners reduce the threat of fires?”. Pierce High School was represented with two students. Morgan Erickson received first place and Emiliano Rodriguez received second place. Erickson will advance to the Regional competition to be held in Woodland on October 17th. Judges for the event included, George Green, Tom Hickok and Jim LaGrande. M.C. was Patti Turner and timekeeper was George Green. Lloyd Green Editor of the Colusa Pioneer Review was in attendance to report on the event.