

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

September 18, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director, Liz Harper-CCRCD, Emily Harmon-CCRCD, Wendy Krehbiel-NRCS

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

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

Wendy Krehbiel from the NRCS gave a report on activities of the Colusa Field Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Nall to approve the July 17, 2018 corrected minutes and August 21, 2018 as mailed. 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 17, 2018. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1,418.98; petty cash account \$100.00; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$47,859.40; sales tax (03201) \$0; CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$17,531.61; DOC Fund (032027) has a balance of \$8,591.95 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The Board was presented with two (2) claims to be paid in September. Liz Harper in the amount of \$336.27 for mileage associated with travel for her and Nall to the Board Bootcamp in Oakhurst and other local mileage for training and site visits and Liz Harper for one meal for Nall and her associated with the Board Bootcamp. A motion was made by Hickok and seconded by Gallagher to approve the financial report and claim as submitted. The motion passed with 4 ayes 0 noes, 1 Abstaining (Nall), 2 absent (Gil, Garr)

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

A discussion was held concerning the following potential new projects. California Ag Plates for Educational Grants, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Professional Development Program, and Premiere Mushroom grant for \$250 to support CCG. The board was open to pursuing these grants. Harper updated the board on the Technical Assistance Grant from CDFA to help with Climate Smart Ag Grants (HSP/SWEEP). We have not heard back from CDFA yet. The other grant concept proposal for NRCS Underserved Farmers was sent to CARCD for them to apply for the total sum and divvy among interested RCDs state-wide.

Turner advised the group that Kandi Manhart representing the Glenn-Colusa Subwatershed group has asked the CCRCD if staff could assist Colusa County producers with annual electronic reporting on a fee for service basis. The Board approved staff looking further into this request but had concerns about associated staff time commitments and adequate reimbursement rates. Turner also reported that the County is looking into hiring additional help for Mary Fahey with the Statewide Groundwater Management Act duties.

Turner explained an issue that came up with the NRCS Cooperative Agreement to start on October 1st. The NRCS was unable to pay the CCRCD 10% indirect cost for the new contract because the CCRCD had a prior rate higher than that approved by their past cognizant federal agency. The CCRCD had two options the first was to halt the finalization of the new agreement, start the process of the NRCS approving the CCRCD's new in-direct cost rate and begin the agreement process over again. The second option was to modify the new agreement to include 0% in-direct cost and proceed to close the agreement by the end of September, CCRCD staff would then begin the process to obtain a negotiated in-direct rate with the NRCS and once that was approved the agreement would be modified again to the new rate. Turner stated she advised the NRCS to go with option two so there would not be a lapse in salary available to keep Harmon employed fulltime with the CCRCD after the current agreement expires on September 30th. Gallagher made a motion that Turner and/or Felt sign the agreement with NRCS once it is completed. The motion was seconded by Hickok and passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes and 2 absent (Ramos, Garr)

Turner advised the group that the CCRCD local Speak-Off Contest will be held on October 3rd in the conference room at 6:00 pm. The board agreed to keep the cash awards at the same amount as last year. Judges will be Hickok, LaGrande, Green and Harmon will be the alternate.

Turner inquired if the Board desired to hold a short meeting prior to the Speak-Off in-lieu of the regularly scheduled October 16th meeting. The board approved this recommendation.

Turner explained a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, and Western Shasta RCDs to share resources between districts to facilitate conservation or restoration of natural resources. The agreement was created out of a concern to address restoration of areas destroyed by this year's catastrophic wildfires. The board was supportive of MOU and staff was instructed to pursue the finalization of the document.

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;** Work has continued to complete the new CCRCD website. The monthly CCG Board meeting was held on September 17th, staff attended. Staff and Felt attended the first Farm to School stakeholder meeting at Education Village on September 5th. Nall and Harper attended the Board Bootcamp in Oakhurst on September 7th and 8th. Plans are being made for the next Durable Collaboration teleconference to be held in October. Grant proposal created and submitted to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Title III proposal was written and submitted to BOS and received approval for next step, 45-day public comment period. Reviewed and commented on MOU between multiple RCDs to work on fire restoration projects.

- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement:** Harmon assisted NRCS to finalize contracts prior to batching period four due date. She has performed soil health assessment samples for producers and completed her first independent resource inventory field visit, as well as prepared a NAP letter for drought emergency funding for Colusa County. Harper assisted Harmon on Soil Sampling on two site visits. Still working toward computer clearance. Reviewed our cooperative agreement report from last quarter and current milestone requirements. Completed a write-up for Colusa County demographics focusing on how to better serve under-represented populations. Site visit for potential cover crop in walnut orchard.

Harper showed the current website in-progress. Pictures and content uploaded. Harper still needs to link content from media folder and edit repeated content on pages. Harper is meeting with Jason Cox with SiteHatchery Wednesday, September 24th, 2018 to get the site prepped to "go live".

Nall reported on bootcamp being an amazing and inspirational experience. It brought clarity to the leadership role of board members and the importance of their participation. Nall came home with goals which included outreach to schools regarding RCD educational events namely, the upcoming Speak Off. Nall and Harper both commented on the biggest take-away was defining the WHY of an organization- What is the reason for doing what we do.

Turner announced that Harmon will also attend the 2018 CARCD Conference in San Diego. Her registration and flight will be booked once the new agreement with NRCS is finalized.

Harper met with CAFF and a local walnut grower to go over cover crop options. Harper also asked about two other cover crop opportunities with local growers and CAFF's only concern was their organization limited time for soil sampling.

Harper, Felt, Turner attended the Farm to School stakeholder meeting. They reported on the five aspects of the plan which will include a crop demo site, native planting, hedgerow and walking path, greenhouse and raised beds, and educational program development. Nall expressed interest in being a part of the education sub-committee. There were numerous comments on the sites poor soil quality and water system capacity.

Turner announced the CARCD Sacramento Region Fall Meeting and Regional Speak-Off Contest has been rescheduled to October 17th in Yolo County. She provided a flier for all that are interested.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm by President Ben Felt. The next monthly meeting will be held at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3, 2018 at the CIP Conference Room. The meeting will be directly following by the CCRCD Annual Speak-Off Contest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD