

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
June 18th, 2024

100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite A-3, Colusa, CA. 95932
CCRCD Meeting Minutes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Beth Nall, Walt Seaver, Allen Gobel, Tom Hickok, Alex Struckmeyer, Ben King

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Nas Chaudhary

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jennifer Sanders

OTHERS PRESENT: Liz Harper- CCRCD Executive Director, Tucker Bennett- CCRCD Natural Resource Coordinator, Eduardo Blancas-Alcantara- Project Coordinator, Owen Hemming- NRCS District Conservationist, Daniel Rodriguez- Project Coordinator, Madison Rico- Communications Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm

CONSENT CALENDAR

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: No agenda items were added.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting on May 21st, 2024, were presented. Harper reported that the action items on at the earlier meeting need to be voted on again due to a conflict-of-interest issue. The director with potential or perceived interest must leave the room for discussion and vote. Struckmeyer approved the minutes and agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Gobel. The motion carried with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent, 1 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Directors present received balance sheets for May 21st- June 18th, 2024. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: Umpqua checking account \$1,317.50; Petty Cash account \$95.52; CCRCD General Fund (464) \$149,658.11; CCRCD Misc. Projects (473) \$67,734.18; The DOC fund (475) \$252,504.12; CalFire fund (477) \$113,765.72; and Clearing Account fund (465) \$0.

The Board was presented with eight (8) claims to be paid in June. Eduardo Blancas-Alcantara for \$207.03; Clyde Hladky for \$1,238.40; and US Bank for \$3,632.65; Margot Flynn for \$307.53; Colusa County Farm Bureau for \$122.00; Yolo County RCD for \$3,314.52; Golden State Risk Management Authority for \$7,445.00; and Petty Cash for \$82.50.

Gobel moved to approve the claims and fund balance report for June 2024. Stuckmeyer seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Absent, 1 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

District Conservationist, Owen Hemming presented to the board about NRCS programs and their success within the year.

General Business Action Items:

#1: Harper presented the board with updated the 3-year cash flow projection for personnel. Harper updated the board on the recruitment process and new hires.

#2-4: Items will be discussed at the next meeting and ratified, as necessary.

Harper went over the board of director requirements, trainings, and forms to be filed to serve on the RCD board.

CCRCD REPORTS:

- **UPDATED NRCS Cooperative Agreement 2021:** Bennett continues to go on field visits, contract maintenance and assisting the Colusa Field Office with application deadlines and conservation plans.
- **Colusa Glenn Sub Watershed Program:** Staff attended Board meeting. Staff continue to help with reporting and notifying members of deadlines.
- **Healthy Soils Demonstration Site:** Closed

- **UPDATED 2019 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** No active work was conducted during this period. Project work has been completed and tasks left to close out this grant include compiling Tree Survey report to support replanting, completing TCN shapefile creation, and any reporting left to send off to CalFire.
- **2021 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** A Request for Proposals has been sent off to our list of qualified contractors and an updated Request for Qualifications has been sent off to a handful of potential contractors. The RFP includes work for Shaded Fuel Break construction, Forest Thinning, Mastication, Pile Burning, Oak Thinning, and Knob Cone Removal. Other bid proposal requests include Tree Planting and Right of Clearance bids. We've started meeting with contractors for site visits and RFP questions. RFP is set to close next week, with awards to be announced the following Friday and project work is scheduled to start in the Fall.
- **Department of Conservation (DOC) RFFC:** Blancas continues to work on MOOC training set to end this month and will also start the final course in CRARS technical help provider training – Farm/Ranch Planning and Design. Blancas attended webinars on Woody Biomass Innovations and Managing Invasive Species and signed up for a Grant Writing workshop in the Fall. We've been getting additional safety tools and equipment for vehicles and our UTV which includes roadside emergency equipment and fire extinguishers. We've hired a new Project Coordinator and Outreach and Education Coordinator for all grants. The Project Coordinator is currently being tasked with familiarizing himself with all grants under our Forest and Fire program and is building ability through training and workshops.
- **After the Fire RCPP:** RCPP continues to work on program implementation across partner organizations. Staff continue to stay up to date on how this program will fit into our RCD and NRCS services to producers. NRCS will be key to pointing applicants to this funding pool for projects not funded through EQIP. Bennett has applied applicants to the RCPP program.
- **TNC- Outreach and Education:** Nothing to report.
- **CARCD Monarch TA on Working:** Completed
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for HSP:** Bennett continues assisting producers with program information. Bennett is helping CDFA do certifications on past HSP grant projects. Harper and Bennett are aiding CICC with implementation of their block grant that should be released in the coming weeks. Bennett will provide TA to multiple producers on this grant.
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for SWEEP:** Bennett continues assisting producers with program information. Bennett is helping CDFA do certifications on past SWEEP grant projects. Harper and Bennett are aiding CICC with implementation of their block grant that should be released in the coming weeks. Bennett will provide TA to multiple producers on this grant.
- **NEW CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program:** Bennett and Harper have created a workplan for one producer that has turned in the necessary paperwork to move forward with a PHP plan. Bennett is working with the producer to get the rest of the necessary information pulled together to submit the plan for approval to CDFA. Bennett continues to conduct outreach to producers about this program.
- **NEW County of Colusa Fire Mitigation Coordinator:** This period we are continuing to meet with our local fire officials and have met with Colusa City Fire and Bear Valley/Indian Valley Fire. We've also had meetings with USFS officials, FWS officials in Willows, and representatives from Wilbur Hot Springs. We scheduled a meeting with Princeton Fire and Arbuckle Fire in the next coming weeks, as well as Century Ranch HOA to discuss any wildfire mitigation projects and needs. We are continuing to build out a library of wildfire mitigation efforts and to seek stakeholders for a Fire Safe Council and formation.
- **NEW CARCD/WCB Habitat Restoration:** Bennett has put together a plant list and worked with Harper to come up with amounts needed for planting scheme for Davis Ranch hedgerow project. Bennett is working with a contractor to design irrigation systems for hedgerow plantings. Continues to reach out to Vann Brothers and other producers that may fit into this program.
- **Carbon Cycle Institute:** Specific project details and updates will come in July. Flynn continues to build ability attending various workshops, grant opportunities, and aided the RCD with new hire interviews and onboarding.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, at 3pm at the NRCS Office at 100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite B, Colusa, CA 95932.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Harper-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD