

**Colusa County**  
**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Beth Nall, Walt Seaver, Allen Gobel, Tom Hickok

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Nas Chaudhary, Ben King, Alex Struckmeyer

**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

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:** No agenda items were added.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes for the meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, were presented. Nall approved the minutes and agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Gobel. The motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Directors present received balance sheets for the period of March 19<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: Umpqua checking account \$1,400.00; Petty Cash account \$100.00; CCRCD General Fund (464) \$165,867.43; CCRCD Misc. Projects (473) \$93,784.27; The DOC fund (475) \$254,582.39; CalFire fund (477) \$174,294; and Clearing Account fund (465) \$0.

The Board was presented with twelve (12) claims to be paid in May. Eduardo Blancas-Alcantara for \$766.61; Clyde Hladky for \$1,238.40; and US Bank for \$2,889.57; Tucker Bennett for \$62.20; Margot Flynn for \$247.23; Elizabeth Harper for \$ 197.11; Stephen G. Smith for \$6,180.00; Colusa County Farm Supply for \$575.56; Feather River RCD for \$4000.00; Glenn County RCD for \$4000.00; Western Shasta RCD for \$4000.00; and GTS Forestry, Inc for \$49,416.50.

Harper presented the board with April claims to be ratified.

Nall moved to approve the claims and fund balance report for May and April 2024. Hickok seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

**PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:**

District Conservationist, Owen Hemming presented to the board that there will be a new NRCS engineer starting at the beginning of June.

**General Business Action Items:**

#1: Harper presented the board with updated Mid-Year Budget Adjustments for fiscal year 2023-2024. The board reviewed adjustments needed for each fund. Nall moved to approve the Mid-Year Budget with new adjustments as presented. The motion was seconded by Gobel and was carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

#2: Harper presented the board with a three-year personnel cash flow projection report. In addition, Harper showed salaries for three new employees. Hickok moved to approve the hiring of 3 new employees. The motion was seconded by Nall. The motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

Harper reviewed conflict of interest issues with Hickok for the next few business items. Harper is seeking consultation from Golden State Risk Management on if the board members can remain in the room for business discussions. If Hickok removed himself, the board would lose a quorum and would not be able to conduct business. The board agreed

to move forward with reviewing the following business items with Hickok present to keep a quorum. If Harper is advised that it is a true conflict of interest and/or conflicts with ethical practices the RCD will rediscuss and vote accordingly at the next meeting. Hickok abstained from voting but didn't leave the room.

3. Harper presented an existing contract with Wycoff for biomass utilization with \$36,000 left unspent. The board discussed if the funds could be spent on biomass utilization work through an amendment. Gobel moved to approve the amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nall. The motion carried with 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 1 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

4. The board was presented with a new draft Request for Proposals for an upcoming work on the Forest Health 21 grant. The board reviewed the draft RFP. Gobel moved to approve the draft and for it to be sent to contractors on the approved bidder's list once completed. The motion was seconded by Nall and the board approved the draft RFP with 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 1 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

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

#### **CCRC D 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:** We are continuing to review our findings from last year's tree survey and have developed an additional tree replanting treatment with a total of 8,000 sugar pine seedlings on over 100 acres of areas that had both historic records of natural sugar pine stands and showed some of the lowest percentage of seedling survivability and natural regeneration. We have also developed 2 additional treatments to close out pile burning operations as well as additional oak thinning. We have completed 106 acres of replanting Sugar Pine seedlings, roughly 350 piles burned across 51 acres, and 141 acres of Oak thinning and release on private inholdings for FH19 which has closed out this grant on the ground treatments. Treatment verification and data management for reporting to CalFire is what remains for this grant. Quarterly reporting was completed during this month.
- **2021 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** We've met with Gary (LTO) and Steve (RPF) to continue buttoning up verification maps and to condense treatments to finish with spending the budget down as we're nearing the completion of acres needing to be treated. Upcoming treatments include Oak Thinning and current proposed treatments include additional Knob Cone Removal as well as Shaded Fuel Break construction which will result in additional slash piles for more pile burning operations in the fall and upcoming winter seasons. Following a site visit to plan out the remaining treatments for this grant, we have begun developing a Request for Proposals for the remaining treatments. Treatments include Invasive Plant Removal, Infested and Hazard Tree Removal, Thinning, Oak Thinning and Release, construction of shaded fuel breaks, mechanical and hand piling, and pile burning. Quarterly reporting was completed during this month as well.
- **Department of Conservation (DOC) RFFC:** Blancas has completed an annual Wildland FireFighter Red Card Certification training from the Mendocino National Forest as well as an S212 Chainsaw recertification course. Blancas has also attended a prescribed burn webinar from the CA Air Quality Control Board as well as a GeoDesign for Conservation webinar hosted by ESRI. Blancas and Harper continue to attend monthly meetings with grant partners and are scheduled to attend a workshop in May as part of the Inner Coast Collaboration for Regional Priority Planning training. We have also begun purchasing initial PPE and fire suppression equipment for supporting prescribed burn operations. Blancas had completed a preliminary update to our Safety Training Program and will continue to add materials as needed to our monthly safety talks. Liz and Blanca continue to meet with our lead partners monthly and were able to attend an additional training held by our collaborative on the Regional Resource Kit and data resources. Blancas has also started a MOOC on GIS for Climate Action by Esri as well as a Private Forest Landowner workshop held by NRCS and partners.

- **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.
- **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 assisting 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 assisting 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:** Blancas and Harper have continued to work with the County on grant deliverables and continue to meet with planning partners. We have updated our RCD website to include a video recording of the community meeting PowerPoint presentation and have posted the additional materials and brochures that were used during the meetings. We are currently planning to meet with the individual Fire Chiefs for a one-on-one meeting to discuss project plans for each fire district. Blancas and Harper are continuing to meet with our local Fire Chiefs and other fire mitigation stakeholders to keep gathering information on mitigation projects and efforts around the county to help build a county-wide fire mitigation library. Currently we have met with Williams, Sac River, and Maxwell Fire Protection Districts and have also met with one of CalFire's new Battalion Chiefs, Trevyn Close. We have also hosted a meeting for our stakeholders regarding the formation and logistics of a county-wide Fire Safe Council that had Tanya Meyer, Yolo FSC Coordinator speak on her experiences with Yolo's FSC. We are planning to have another meeting with stakeholders in June, with Glenn County RCD coming to speak on their success with fire mitigation projects and building relationships with stakeholders.
- **NEW CARCD/WCB Habitat Restoration:** Tucker fi Tucker is working with multiple nurseries to get plants for planting in early winter on Davis Ranch hedgerow project. Continues to reach out to Vann Brothers and other producers that may fit into this program.
- **Carbon Cycle Institute:** Flynn supported a grant to fund her position to assist Sutter, Yuba, and Yolo Counties in Carbon Farm Planning and applied for a grant to conduct market research on a biochar program in the Sac Valley Region. Additional funds for capacity building in the Sac Valley (additional regional staff) from DOC are on hold due to the budget deficit. She continues to collect data for the Sac Region Carbon Assessment and meeting with RCDs to determine priorities for upcoming funding from CDFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3pm at CCRCD Office at 100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite A-3, Colusa, CA 95932.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Harper-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD