

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

November 9, 2023

423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by K. Lambert – Vice President @ 6:02 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: B. Dean; M. Dvorak; S. Hodson; K. Lambert-V.P.; Y. Tiscornia; B. Cook-Assoc. Director; M. Cole-IED & Admin; D. Simpson-Fiscal Director; P. McGreevy, Project Mgr.; K. Dillashaw, Project Mgr.; D. Liechty, Project Mgr.; L. Plautz-Project Manager

Board Members & Staff Absent: J. Marsili-President; J. Osbourn

Others Present: Jesse Fowler; Gary Whitson; Jennifer Wood

Public Comment: Gordon Long offered to volunteer as a grant writer for fire prevention and forest health grants.

Gary Whitson requests before applying for a grant that we form a group meeting with all other fire prevention grantees in the county so we don't have any overlap of projects. He suggests we aim for mid October or earlier. Get a GIS of all projects-Pat McGreevy is working on such a map and requests shape files be sent to him for adding.

Order of Business:

1. Partner Comment: Jesse Fowler (Ag Dept) summarized the emails she had sent out. She also requested that someone from our RCD become a representative on the Ag Board.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Both minutes and financials were pulled for discussion.

Old Business:

1. Update on Current CalFire Grants per M. Cole:
 - Forest Meadows/Wylderidge: per RPF Bray: Contractor LCLC repaired the roadway and ditches they destroyed in their staging area on Lot 2 on October 20 to the homeowner's satisfaction. LCLC was scheduled to return to the project before the end of October (where they terminated operations in July). RPF Bray will be monitoring soil conditions closely as winter approaches.

Per E.D. Cole - However, they now are saying that with the upcoming rains next week and some equipment still needing repairs, they anticipate it being too wet and are requesting a contract date extension to come in the Spring and then take another two months to complete. We will need a Special Meeting for further discussion on this matter.

- Murphys to Forest Meadows Fuels Reduction project: Contractor Krisman has finished the NE corner of 18 acres and is moving west. RPF Struffenegger met with Gary Whitson this week to traverse the recently completed areas on Murphys to Forest Meadows. Krisman is doing a great job on a lot of tough ground. Tree spacing, pruning, final mastication all look really good. Krisman has removed literally hundreds of dead trees—all ground up nicely. He also just completed 39.3 acres. He's looking forward to getting some better ground soon.
Krisman will likely submit an invoice right after Gary provides us with the acreage. Ed also met with Dan Liechty to go over any issues that may arise while he's gone, so he can address those. They'll meet with Krisman later this week to go over any questions or issues that he may have.
- Highway 108 North Fuels Reduction Project: Per Laurie - On Monday, November 6, 2023, I inspected the east end of the project area along with Gary Whitson of CAL FIRE and Justin, the job foreman from AERI.
After some initial mechanical issues last week, AERI began full operations on Friday Nov. 3rd. They are utilizing two excavators and one skid steer. It's great to see the project underway and although it's still very early in the process, the work done to date is looking good.
- Fricot City Road Fuels Reduction Project: We held the pre-bid tour with 13 Contractors in attendance. We received 9 proposals, held our Selection Committee meeting and have chosen two contractors working each end simultaneously for your approval. Work can begin as soon as BLM has done their final tribal consultation which should be before the end of December. We anticipate a January 2024 start date.
- Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project: We held the pre-bid tour with 13 Contractors in attendance. We received 7 proposals, held our Selection Committee meeting and have chosen a contractor for your approval. We are anticipating a January 2024 start date here as well.
- NW Calaveras Fuels Reduction Project – Still waiting for final agreement from CalFire.
- Calaveras Unified School District Fuels Reduction & Demonstration Forest Project – no new updates.

SNC Grants Update:

2. Update on Current SNC Grants:

- SNC Pine Ridge Project – Per Jan Bray - Operations were completed yesterday (11/6/23)! A final inspection and GPSing will occur today (2023.11.7). Final closeout of the grant can begin soon.
- SNC Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Project: Per Jan Bray (11/6): **a.** Bordges Timber is returning to the Bummerville project late this week, restarting at the Campo Flores Center unit. We will discuss priority progression of units following Campo Flores Center. RPF Bray will be monitoring soil conditions closely as winter approaches.

1. Board Member announcements – B. Dean noted the Bureau of Reclamation is looking for a watershed coordinator.

M. Dvorak reported he used the new chipper program funded by PGE. He will be applying 65# of beer barley to his star thistle. He tried a smaller patch with success.

K. Lambert suggests a community town hall meeting for the Moke Hill project when we have a start date.

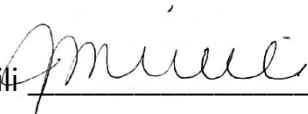
2. Staff announcements – M. Cole added to her attached Executive Director report saying thank you to the board for this opportunity to be the Interim Executive Director. She has made this position her priority and appreciates the vote of confidence.

Adjournment of meeting – Meeting adjourned @ 8:09 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.**

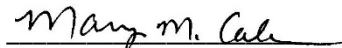
Attest:

President, Julia Marsili



Date 12/14/2023

Secretary, Mary Cole



Date 12/14/2023