

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

June 9, 2022

423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by S. Beckman-President @ 6:30 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman-President; M. Dvorak; K. Hafley-Vice President; K. Lambert; G. Long-Executive Director; Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant Mary Cole-Admin; Laurie Plautz-Program Manager

Board Members & Staff Absent: B. Dubois

Others Present: Ben Cook; Jessie Fowler; Allison Tokunaga (USDA/NRCS); Matt Harrison (CalFire); John Osborne (OES)

Public Comment: None.

Partner Comment: Jessie Fowler reported that the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors approved CCRCDC as a voting member of the Hardwood Advisory Committee. Allison Tokunaga - Rangeland Management Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported that a new forester is coming on board. Matt Harrison – CalFire San Andreas Battalion, reported that he will look into why we did not receive one of the CalFire grants. Also that the Hwy 12/49 Central Hill project is a high hazard fire area that will be worked on with weed eradication and fuels reduction.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 4/14/22 Minutes. Board Action – **Keith Hafley made motion to approve, K. Lambert second. On a 4-0-1 vote, minutes were approved with two typo edits corrected.**
2. Approval of April & May 2022 Finance Reports – **Keith Hafley made motion to approve, K. Lambert second. On a 4-0-1 vote, financials were approved.**

Old Business:

1. Update on Murphys to Forest Meadows – G. Long reported that three Contractors are working. A few callers have reported a fire in the area of the work when it actually was dust clouds. We received certification from Cal Fire on two units that were completed. Waiting for map redraw for one unit. There is \$150,000 left from advances that will be paid out upon receipt of invoices from Contractors. Work on the project will shut down at end of June until later this fall for wildfire fire safety.

L. Plautz reported on Forest Meadows to Wylderidge and that ten bids were received. The Committee has chosen one Contractor with work to start in the fall at the end of fire season.

G. Long reported for the Pine Ridge project that a Contractor was selected. A formal letter of protest was received and after consultation the original award was rescinded and CCRCDC will restart the request for proposals process. There was then some discussion about improving procedural policy for selecting contractors. Further discussion will be under Item O.B. #4 Bylaws.

G. Long reported that the Hwy 108/Fricot City Fuel Break work to develop requests for proposals has begun.

2. Approve Building Sale & Lot Split – S. Beckman reviewed the history of the CCRCD office building. **K. Hafley made a motion to approve the expense of \$4,500 to Dillon & Murphy to perform a lot split. Second by K. Lambert. On a 4-0-1 vote, agreement was approved.**
3. Building Tenants Update – G. Long reported discussing with UCCE and requesting \$0.65/sq ft plus 2/3 of utilities for the new rent rate. This would be approximately \$1,000/mo. UCCE proposed that they could only afford \$500/mo. under their current budget. K. Hafley made motion to offer the rate of \$0.50/sq ft plus utilities on a one-year lease, K. Lambert second. Then after some discussion, this was withdrawn and **S. Beckman made motion to accept \$500/mo. plus 2/3 of utilities on a one-year lease, M. Dvorak second. On a 4-0-1 vote, motion was approved.**
4. CC RCD Bylaws – K. Hafley made motion to table, S. Beckman second. After discussion the motion was rescinded. **M. Dvorak made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to review and draft bylaws and present to the Board by the August 2022 meeting, K. Hafley second. On a 4-0-1 vote, the ad hoc committee consisting of Dana Simpson, Kent Lambert and lead by Mike Dvorak was approved.**

New Business:

1. Financial Audit - David Farnsworth, CPA, presented his audit for 2020/21 fiscal year, ending with a recommendation that we have legal counsel review any new policies before presenting them to the Board. **K. Hafley made motion to approve the audit report, M. Dvorak second. On a 4-0-1 vote, report was approved.**
2. Presentation by John Osborne, Good Neighbor Authority – Mr. Osborne, OES, presented the Good Neighbor Agreement recently approved between Calaveras County and the USDA Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest which provides for cooperation between the two agencies for forest, rangeland and watershed restoration services.
3. New grant awards – G. Long shared that of the two Cal Fire grant proposals recently submitted, we were not approved for the NW Calaveras Fuels Reduction project but did win the Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction grant. Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded the Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Rd. Project to CCRCD. These grants have not yet been signed, so they are not yet executed.
4. Grant Management and Submissions – S. Beckman noted that there has been some confusion about our policies on this, so we need to standardize the process. He suggests we form an ad hoc committee to write this policy. The volunteers on this committee are Sid Beckman (lead), Keith Hafley, Laurie Plautz, Gordon Long and Dana Simpson. Ms. Simpson will be the liaison between this and the ad hoc Bylaws Committee.


Reports:

1. Committee Reports – None.
2. Other Items for Consideration – None.
3. Board Member announcements – K. Lambert expressed appreciation for the audit presentation and kudos to D. Simpson and G. Long for their good work.
M. Dvorak reported working on the prescribed burn of 1.6 acres on Pool Station Rd.

- 4. Staff announcements – G. Long reported he attended a meeting with UC Extension and Amador RCD to discuss upcoming programs.

Adjournment of meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 9:06 pm.

Next meeting will be newly scheduled for **Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 6:30 pm.**

Attest:
President, Sid Beckman 

Date 7/14/2022

Secretary, Brady Dubois 

Date 7/14/22