

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Board Meeting

March 5, 2020

Board of Supervisors Chambers

891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by S. Beckman-President @ 6:05 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman-President; R. Dean-Secty/Treas; K. Hafley; M. Robie; F. Schabram; B. Dubois-Assoc. Dir.; G. Long-Executive Director; Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant; Mary Cole-Admin

Board Members & Staff Absent: N. Valente-VP;

Others Present: Terry Stone (Central Fire); Bobette Parsons (NRCS); Jan Bray (CalAm); Kevin Bohall (CalFire); Amanda Watson (Amador RCD); Sharon Nance (NRCS)

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by S. Beckman

Public Comment: Jan Bray of CalAM reported on two projects they are working on – Stephens Grant and Bummerville BLM projects. Terry Stone reported the AmeriCorps team is still working on firewood project in the Butte Fire scar; they now can pick up logs and move to their processing site.

Business: Brady Dubois was introduced as our new board member. He was welcomed to applause.

Partners: Bobette Parsons reviewed her report. Sharon Nance the NRCS Fresno Office, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations introduced herself. She had spent the day visiting NRCS funded projects and says we are doing great work for our customers. CalFire Battalion Chief Bohall reported on proposed fuel treatment projects and provided maps. They will host a bulldozer academy which will complete some of the proposed treatments.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 2/6/20 Minutes. Board Action – **B. Dean made motion to approve, F. Schabram second. On a 6-0-1 vote, minutes were approved.**
2. Approval of Feb 2020 Finance Reports – **B. Dean made motion to approve, F. Schabram second. On a 6-0-1 vote, reports were approved.**

Old Business:

1. Common Ground Lease – K. Hafley is satisfied by the supplied financial report. He would like to readdress this in November 2020 before re-signing a new lease. Suggested to have Ms. Thompson, Common Grounds Executive Director attend the October 2020 meeting to answer any questions the board may have. The Facilities Committee will communicate with her.
2. Mill Woods Update –G. Long reported the contractor has finished the required work. CalFire toured the project and was very pleased with the work. Ms. Simpson reviewed the financial status. CCRCD has expended approximately \$23,000 of additional District funds on this project for work that was not covered by the CalFire grant. The board chose not to pursue extending the Mill Woods project per G. Long's suggestion. CalFire gave us the approval that the complete 30 acres has been treated appropriately. After discussion it was decided to close out the project as the requirements of the original scope of work have been met.
3. Facilities Committee Update – No report.
4. Carbon Hub/Carbon Farming partnership – Amanda Watson reported she met with Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Partnership of RCDs (ACT) and they submitted a proposal for funding to

develop a plan that would organize a regional Carbon Farming Hub. The Hub when developed would outreach to landowners to help identify and fund carbon farming practices. Proposal asks for \$500,000 for two positions over three years. The proposal has been turned into Carbon Cycle Institute. Soil health is topic of conversations with ranchers.

5. Update on ACT Pollinator Project – G. Long reported he is working to get protocols established. The first is a Technical Assistance grant for \$20,000. Then will work on an implementation grant for some pilot programs.
6. RCPP Updates – G. Long reported this was the original program after starting ACT. He is currently writing seven projects. It was originally just for small landowners with dead trees. Now we can offer help to large landowners.
7. Grant Status – G. Long reported that we will hear about two CalFire fire prevention grants in about two more weeks. A previous grant to complete CEQA on Forest Meadows to Murphys project that was submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy was not selected.
8. West County Committee – F. Schabram reported the Ag Dept has started their roadside spraying. M. Robie had the Cattleman’s Assn send out an email notifying their membership of the offer to spray.

New Business:

1. MOA between CCRCD and NRCS – Ms. Parsons noted this is a legal document but with no financial obligations. She explains how we all work together, making it uniform across the state. No negative impact. It reinforces the relationship between the parties. **B. Dean made a motion to approve resolution 2020-02. Second by F. Schabram. Approved 6-0-1 vote.**

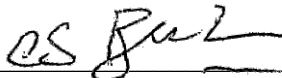
Board Member announcements – No Reports.

Staff announcements – G. Long, E.D. reported that Fire Safe Council grants are getting more competitive. He will be attending an RCD management training through the CARCD.


REMINDER: Form 700s are due from all board members.

Adjournment of meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 7:40 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, April 2, 2020** in the CCRCD Building.

Attest:
President, Sid Beckman 

Date 5/7/2020

Secretary, Bob Dean 

Date 5/7/2020