

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)
Board Meeting
February 9, 2017
Calaveras Board of Supervisors Chambers
891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: Meeting opened by President R. Dean @ 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: R. Dean- President, T.- Vice President, G. Long- Secretary, N. Valente, F. Schabram, K. Hafley

Board Members Absent: M. Robie

Others Present: Joe Navari- CRT, Bill Airola -local rancher, Pat McGreevy- CalAm Forestry Group & grant writer, Brady Debois, SPI forester

Pledge of Allegiance

General Public Comment:

Regular Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes. Board Action- T. Sullivan made motion, F. Schabram second. On a 6-0-1 vote, minutes were approved.
2. Presentation by Joe Navari of the California Rangeland Trust, based in Sacramento (CRT). Joe gave a brief description of the history of CRT and it's purpose. Currently they have conservation easements on 291, 000 acres on 62 easements. They actively work with special status species in CA, since that is where the funding for easements are focused. Some species include the CA tiger salamander, red- and yellow legged frogs, and other vernal pool species. They work closely with USFWS, CA Dept of Conservation, NRCS, WCB, etc. They also work within the frameworks of groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, and working landscapes. Bill Airola recently received a CRT conservation easement on his Oak Canyon Ranch, which was a 6-7 year process. His ranch was placed at the top of the priority list since it was under pressure to be subdivided into homesites. Joe says that there are 450,000 acres on their current waiting list for funding. There is a significant list of hurdles to pass before an easement can be actualized.
3. Ad hoc committees. No action
4. Use of seed money from Regional RCD Board. R. Dean reports that Harold Singer of the Regional RCD didn't send the check of \$500. Bob believes he should have it in hand prior to the next RCD meeting. Discussion to hire Mary Cole to work as contractor to develop needs for the RCD to qualify for Tier 1 funding. There was also discussion of whether the money would be better spent on insurance through CARCD. Bob to find out more about insurance. Board action: H. Hafley motioned to hire M. Cole to work on getting paperwork together for Tier 1 funding through the CARCD. F. Schabram 2nd. On a 5-1-1 vote, motion passes. N. Valente nay vote.

5. Discuss nomination of Board Member to take on the position as RCD treasurer. F. Schabram volunteers to treasurer for a one year term. N. Valente motions to approve F. Schabram as RCD treasurer. T. Sullivan 2nd motion. On a 6-0-1 vote, the motion passes.

6. Work schedule to accomplish tasks for Tier 1 accreditation. T. Sullivan provided a handout on strategic planning process. To go to governance ad hoc committee. Action tabled.

7. CalFire Healthy Forest Grant.. Pat McGreevy of the CalAm Forestry Group. He's assisted on many grants in Calaveras and Amador County. His specialty is GIS and map building. He is now leary to assist on grants for the County and Calaveras Public Utility District due to prior difficulties with those entities. He would be willing to assist with grant writing activities for the Calaveras RCD. Currently his focus in on the CalFire Healthy Forest Grant program, but the final guidelines have not been published. Maybe see these guidelines published in March? He would like to know what capacity the Calaveras RCD could provide. He helped write several grants that were submitted by the Amador RCD, and believes the Calaveras RCD should be available to serve as facilitator and recipient for similar grants in the future. His focus is on the Mokelumne watershed for one of these Healthy Forests grants. A discussion about the BLM's concept of a "Community Forest". Shouldn't we include the Calaveras River watershed into this framework? Motion by N. Valente to continue pursuing grant opportunities with Pat McGreevy. K. Hafley 2nd motion. Motion passes on a 6-0-1 vote.

8. Discussion of office space offer from CCWD. Action tabled.

9. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Writing Workshop. Potentially set for mid-late March. Other possibility would be to conduct it in June. Motion to continue pursuing this grant writing workshop by K. Hafley, 2nd by T. Sullivan. Motion passes on a 6-0-1 vote.

10. Board Member Announcements. None

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, April 13, 2017

Meeting adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

Attest:

President Robert Dean _____

Secretary Gordon Long _____