

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

February 4, 2021

RCD In-Person & Virtual via GoToMeeting
423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by S. Beckman-President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman-President; B. Dubois; K. Lambert; T. Robertson; M. Robie; G. Long-Executive Director; Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant; Mary Cole-Admin

Board Members & Staff Absent: K. Hafley;

Others Present: Bobette Parson, NRCS; Kaylee Dillashaw-Tanner Logging

Public Comment: None

Introduction: S. Beckman introduced our two new board members – Tyler Robertson and Kent Lambert.

Partners: Ms. Parsons reported NRCS has a new Range Conservationist. She updated us on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Land Easement Program (ALE) and Pollinator project with Zerces Society.

Ms. Parsons reviewed her NRCS Report.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 1/7/21 Minutes. Board Action –**M. Robie made motion to approve, B. Dubois second. On a 5-0-1 vote, minutes were approved.**
2. Approval of January 2021 Finance Reports –**M. Robie made motion to approve, B. Dubois second. On a 5-0-1 vote, minutes were approved.**

Old Business:

1. Update on Projects: *reported on by E.D. Gordon Long*
Received five applications for the CEQA contract for the Murphys to Forest Meadows project. The contractor hired is Ed Struffenegger. His planning work will be done by April then we will do requests for proposals for mechanical contractors to treat approximately 730 acres. The 730 acres will be broken into sub-units. Full completion is slated for the end of 2022. Some will be done by hand, while most will be done with mastication machines.
2. Building Sale – S. Beckman first brought up to speed the new board members (Robertson and Lambert) with some background information of the decision to sell. He then reported on the next steps to be taken. It was recommended we find a specialist is selling government land. It was noted we can sell the building to the general public, but it must be offered to other government entities before it can be sold publicly. We have to follow the Rules of 2020 Surplus Lands Act. S. Beckman will continue his research.

New Business:

3. New grant opportunities – G. Long reported he is working on getting Mariposa on board to join our Amador/Calaveras/Tuolumne RCD group.

Future projects ideas include existing fuel break projects in each county that need maintenance; home hardening from wildfire program; seedling or seed distribution program; SNC grant to use for recreation trail; internment of woody biomass into soil for carbon sequestration.

Reports:

- 5. Committee Reports – None.
- 6. Other Items for Consideration – Election of Officers – need nominations.
- 7. Board Member announcements – S, Beckman noted that we need our board of director information posted to our website. M. Cole will do this. S. Beckman will contact the county to get Board position vacated by R Dean’s resignation in December advertised on their website so we can fill.
- 8. Staff announcements –None.

Adjournment of meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 6:47 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 4, 2021** via GoToMeeting.

Attest:

President, Sid Beckman _____

Date _____

Secretary, _____

Date _____

Project Name/#	PGE Division	Fire Safe Council will also be the fiscal sponser	County	City/Town project is located in	Project Description	Project Type select one (Shaded Fuel Break, Fuel Break/Reduction, Chipper Program, Ingress/Egress Access Roads)
2021 Calaveras County Butte Fire Scar Ingress/Egress Project	Stockton	Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD)	Calaveras	Rail Road Flat, Mountain Ranch, Sheep Ranch, Swiss Ranch		

The central mandate of this Project is to remove woody fuels along important community access roads near PG&E facilities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) along private roads in the communities of Rail Road Flat, Mountain Ranch, Sheep Ranch, and Swiss Ranch, Calaveras County. These communities and access roads were hit hard by the 2015 Butte Fire. The resprouting of brush and oaks have been overwhelming in these areas. These private roads are not maintained by County or State. This work will provide:

1. Increased ingress/egress along chosen roads
2. Increase needed horizontal and vertical spacing of evacuation corridors, and
3. Provide increased fire-safe regions for firefighting crews and equipment.

Chosen road segments will be cleared of brush and small trees (10" and smaller at DBH) for 20 feet on both sides of the road. All work will be accomplished on targeted roads that are within 1000 feet of PG&E facilities (distribution lines). This Project adheres to the 2016-2017 Calaveras County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CCCWPP). According to the CCCWPP, there are many communities and neighborhoods identified as priority areas where roadside ingress/egress fuels reductions would be beneficial, including ones we chose for this grant. All the communities identified here are considered "Communities At Risk" by CALFIRE. These portions of Calaveras County have been impacted over the last nine years by drought, beetle infestations, human caused ignitions, and high erratic winds during the fire season, in addition to the 2015 Butte Fire. Work will be accomplished by mastication conducted by heavy equipment operators and hand crews. Debris will be chipped and left on the landscape to protect against erosion and deter flash fuel and brush regeneration. If local residents request chip material, we would leave material in piles for easy distribution.

The Calaveras County RCD will distribute and make available PG&E literature describing the work, and its benefits to landowners and residents.

In 2018, PG&E initiated a program in many regions of their Service Area to increase facility clearance. Where possible, we would extend facility clearance in these higher risk zones that PG&E has deemed important. These private roads are often the only evacuation routes available to residents when a natural disaster occurs. Since these roads are privately maintained, they do not receive the attention that is warranted to maintain proper road-side clearance for evacuation routes and for fire-fighting activities. The CCRCD has shown our ability to administer and implement a successful PG&E grant. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 PG&E granted the CCRCD fuels reduction grants to remove fuels along private roads with PG&E infrastructure. All three projects that were

Ingress/Egress Access Roads

Estimated Project Budget cost	Firesafe Contact name	Firesafe contact phone number and email

Gordon Long- Calaveras Resource Conservation District	530-604-3588, glong@calaverasrcd.org
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Fuels Reduction @ \$3,500/
acre

20 ft wide breaks on each
side of chosen roads

1 acre = 40' x 1,092'

22 acres x 1,092' = 27,300

feet linear treatment

\$3,500 x 22 acres = \$77,000

Project Management=

\$12,000

12% Admin Fee on \$77,000 =

\$9,200

Total Requested: \$98,200