

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Board Meeting

March 7, 2019

Board of Supervisors Chambers

891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: Meeting opened by R. Dean-President @ 6:05 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman; R. Dean-President; K. Hafley; M. Robie; T. Sullivan-Vice President; N. Valente, G. Long-Executive Director; Mary Cole-Admin

Board Members & Staff Absent: F. Schabram-Treasurer; Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant

Others Present: Jeff Stone, Fire Chief; Terry Stone; Bobette Parsons, NRCS; Kevin Wright, Ag Commissioner; Benjamin Stopper, Supervisor District 5; Pete Padelford; Bob Polakov.

Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 2/13/19 Minutes. Board Action – **T. Sullivan made motion to approve, S. Beckman second. On a 6-0-1 vote, minutes were approved.**
2. Approval of Finance Reports – **T. Sullivan made motion to approve, N. Valente second. On a 6-0-1 vote, Reports were approved.**
3. RCD Partners – Bobette Parsons reviewed her report. B. Dean asked if she had any ideas on how to work with BLM. BLM says their hands are tied because of a past policy. Ms Parsons would like to speak with them to find a partnership opportunity. Suggest s stakeholder meeting. Supervisor Stopper suggested speaking with Rep. McClintock.

K. Wright advised of a Hardwood Advisory meeting with partners (CalFire, GIS, Cal. Co. Govt.) to update firebreak maps. He will be speaking at the Tuesday's BOS meeting to advise on hemp regulations regarding the program for industrial hemp in the county and cannabis businesses. He will be suggesting a moratorium on hemp growing.

P. Padelford spoke of a burner meeting he and S. Beckman attended. S. Beckman to speak to later. Mr Padelford will bring maps to our next meeting.

New Business:

4. Election of new Board Officers – Nominations were made for President – Bob Dean, second by S. Beckman; Vice President – Tom Sullivan, second by N. Valente; Treasurer – Nic Valente, second by T. Sullivan; Secretary – Gordon Long, second by M. Robie. All approved on a 6/0/1 vote.
5. Support for VOAD – They are a new organization being formed to coordinate functions in case of emergency. B. Dean attended their meeting and will bring reports from them.
6. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – G. Long spoke of this \$10M grant which is a fund pool. \$1M to counties for admin expenses. It is 2-3 year project allowing work within that 100ft defensible space on private property. There will be a 40-60% reimbursement to the homeowner for future removal of bark beetle and burned trees. Home owners would apply through NRCS and will be ranked in order of priority.

7. G. Long reported that after speaking with the new owners of land in Copperopolis, they are agreeable to placing a portion of their land in a conservation easement on Lake Tulloch, which will give new public access.

Old Business:

8. Office/Boardroom Renos – G. Long reported he filed a pre-application for the Prop 68 grant (\$995K).

9. Mill Woods CalFire grant – G. Long reported that Steve Daws wrote the CEQA. We need to present to the County to for a Notice of Exemption (NOE). There is an old fire break that needs to be redone. **A motion was made by S. Beckman to approve the NOE. Second by T> Sullivan. Approved 6/0/1.**

10. Fuels reduction projects – K. Hafley reported a project to remove 200+ acres of chemise was approved. More projects for grants are coming. He would like a coop meeting with FireSafe Council to learn about their plans for projects to coordinate our efforts.

11. Trainings and Annual Submissions; Tier 1 progress – G. Long noted he has not received the 2019 Form 700s from all board members. M. Cole reported most of the board has completed their training requirements. And that the final report has been submitted to Tahoe RCD, completing the DOC grant.

12. BLM land purchases – M. Robie proposes that we, along with the County Supervisors, engage support of a lobbyist in Washington DC to help with purchasing, or at least gaining access to land-locked BLM properties that needs clearing for fire safety.

13. Board Reports = S. Beckman spoke of the Burner’s meeting he attended. It was Cal Am sponsored and was about work that has been done by private citizens. They have limited capacity in Calaveras Co so their work needs to be shared with us and others.

N. Valente reported that Cattleman’s Assn is seeking a fire pass to gain access to closed areas in emergencies. They also have been asked to get grants to clear their land. Since they don’t have experience doing this, Valente inquired if RCD could help. It was noted the Cattleman’s could have an MOU with RCD to assist in the grant writing and administration.

14. Staff Reports – G> Long reported that of the 35 projects being done for the Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation project, none are in the Motherlode region.

He has applied for another grant coordinating also with Amador and Alpine counties for a Watershed Coordinator. Also, he should be hearing back soon on the CalFire grants recently applied for.

Adjournment of meeting. Motion to close monthly meeting of the Calaveras RCD initiated by K. Hafley, 2nd by T. Sullivan. Motion carries on a 6-0-1 vote. Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, April 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Attest:

President, Robert Dean _____

Date _____

Secretary, Gordon Long _____

Date _____