

*Colusa County*  
**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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**100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite A-3, Colusa, CA. 95932**  
**CCRCD Meeting Minutes**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Beth Nall, Allen Gobel, Ben King, Tom Hickok

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Nas Chaudhary, Walt Seaver, Alex Struckmeyer

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jennifer Sanders

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Liz Harper- CCRCD Executive Director, Tucker Bennett- CCRCD Natural Resource Coordinator, Alexandra Berlier- CCRCD Office Assistant/Bookkeeper, Eduardo Blancas- CCRCD Fire and Fuel Management Project Coordinator, Supervisor Jose Merced Corona- County of Colusa, Karandave Kang- Sutter County Resource Conservation District, Avis Kalfsbeek- Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:** No agenda items were added.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes for the meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were presented. Gobel approved the minutes and agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Hickok. The motion carried with 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 1 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Directors present received balance sheets for the period of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: Umpqua checking account \$1,400.00; Petty Cash account \$100.00; CCRCD General Fund (464) \$208,693.30; CCRCD Misc. Projects (473) \$32,675.95; The DOC fund (475) \$261,402.74; CalFire fund (477) \$182,466.65; and Clearing Account fund (465) \$0.

The Board was presented with eight (8) claims to be paid in February. Smith & Newell for \$275.00; Eduardo Blancas-Alcantara for \$16.74; Clyde Hladky for \$1,238.40; and US Bank for \$1,961.74; Stephen G. Smith for \$2,240.00; Margot Flynn for \$64.32; Sutter Co RCD for \$9,109.06; and Elizabeth Harper for \$ 230.36.

Gobel moved to approve the claims and fund balance report for February 2024. Hickok seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

**PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:**

Supervisor Corona had no County report.

District Conservationist, Owen Hemming updated the board on the application deadlines for NRCS programs.

CCRCD Director, Ben King, reported on his comments to the Board of Supervisors to explore impacts of long-term water agreements the county and Colusa County landowners are working for the Sites Water Project. King questions Sites Water Project agreements and urges stakeholders to consider a future where most water is moved out of the county jeopardizing local agriculture and ecosystems.

**General Business Action Items:**

#1: Harper presented the board with the Mid-Year Budget Review for fiscal year 2023-2024. The board reviewed and took a hardcopy of the mid-year review home to approve in March's meeting.

Harper went over the board of director requirements, trainings, and forms to be filed to serve on the RCD board.

**CCRCD REPORTS:**

- **UPDATED NRCS Cooperative Agreement 2021:** Tucker is managing multiple contracts for NRCS. He is being trained to do engineering certifications for Colusa County. Tuckers' focus for NRCS has been on rangeland conservation plans and irrigation systems.
- **Colusa Glenn Sub Watershed Program:** Staff attended Member meeting and internal training on call log and reporting assistance. The staff members that are going to be helping with this program are Harper, Berlier, and Bennett. The Colusa RCD has received calls from members, but the reporting period will begin later in January.
- **Healthy Soils Demonstration Site:** Closed
- **UPDATED 2019 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** We have been continuing to map our tree survey transects and create a report of our sapling survivability. We've continued to audit our treatments and verify that acres treated are correct, and deciding where gaps are in shapefiles for reporting to CalFire. We had a small burn window in early February to burn a hand full of piles on Hickok's and Justin's properties up on the hill.
- **2021 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** Both this project and FH19 have received pile information from Gary so a final draft of a Pile Burning RFP will be completed shortly. Continue to audit project TNC acres from earlier contractor work and to decide where gaps are in shapefiles for reporting to CalFire. We've completed Quarterly Reports for this project and FH19.
- **Department of Conservation (DOC) RFFC:** We have started our new course in the Technical Assistance program at CSU Chico- Soil Health Management, Blancas attended a Tehama- Glenn Fire Safe Council Meeting and 2 webinars from Esri regarding Science for Global Biodiversity.
- **After the Fire RCPP:** RCPP continues to work on program implementation across partner organizations. Staff continue to stay up to date on how this program will fit into our RCD and NRCS services to producers. NRCS will be key to pointing applicants to this funding pool for funding projects not funded through EQIP.
- **TNC- Outreach and Education:** Nothing to report.
- **CARCD Monarch TA on Working:** Completed
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for HSP:** Tucker has applied interested applicants into the Healthy Soils Program solicitation that was open at the beginning of this month. He continues to give interested producers application information for when the program opens back up. Harper developed SOW with Sutter and Yolo to continue services in our counties.
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for SWEEP:** Tucker has been working with potential applicants to get their pre-application packets together so we can get their projects submitted. Solicitation for direct to farmer has been paused so Tucker has been reaching out to producers and updating them and letting them know of the CICC block grant. CCRCD will be working with the tribe that has been awarded a block grant for SWEEP. Harper developed SOW with Sutter and Yolo to continue services in our counties.
- **NEW CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program:** Tucker has reached out to landowners to confirm interest in the project funding. Tucker has been out on field visits with interested producers to help them come up with ideas for projects. 2 producers are wanting to move forward with the application.
- **NEW County of Colusa Fire Mitigation Coordinator:** Blancas and Harper continue to work with the County of Colusa on plan development. Blancas has been reaching out to partners, organizations, and community members to engage with and invite to the Community Kick-Off Meetings. We have been gathering handouts and outreach materials for our meetings and have developed worksheets for gathering information on wildfire hazards, risks, and mitigation efforts. We are meeting with the Fire Chief's again to review the Community Kickoff Meetings and supplemental materials.
- **NEW CARCD/WCB Habitat Restoration:** Tucker conducted a maintenance plan for existing hedgerows at Davis Ranch. Tucker is working without partner Heritage Seed to come up with a final plant list so we can get plants on the ground for Davis Ranch in March of this year.
- **Carbon Cycle Institute:** Margot Flynn started work. She organized and ran a governance committee, meeting all RCDs in the region, and created a work plan for the coming year. Flynn is working directly with CARCD and CCI to develop the hub roles across CA.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3pm at CCRCD Office at 100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite A-3, Colusa, CA 95932.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Harper-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD