

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
February 21st, 2023

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

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Nas Chaudhary, Alex Struckmeyer

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jennifer Sanders, Kim Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT: Liz Harper- CCRCD Executive Director, Owen Hemming- Natural Resource Conservation Service Acting District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Harper requested to add Discussion Item E to discuss computer upgrades and hiring a financial consultant to review and develop best practices for the RCD's fiscal management and reporting. Gobel moved to accept the new discussion item. Nall seconded the motion and it passed with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

NRCS Acting District Conservationist Owen Hemming reported the Natural Resource Conservation Service will roll out a program that focuses on soil health practices. Also, the NRCS Colusa Field Office will appoint a new DC within the new year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting on January 17th, 2023, were approved. Gobel motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Seaver. The motion carried 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Directors present received balance sheets for the period of January 18th, 2023- February 21st, 2023. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: Umpqua checking account \$1,195.00; petty cash account \$100.00; CCRCD General Fund (464) \$6,189.99; CCRCD Misc. Projects (473) \$19,896.32; CalFire fund (477) 142,923.75 and Clearing Account fund (465) \$0.

The Board was presented with five (5) claims to be paid in March. Colusa County RCD- Elyse Blaker in the amount of \$164.38; Ted Kingsley for \$316.29; Clyde Hladky for \$1,200.00; Petty Cash for \$365.00; and US Bank for \$777.85.

King moved to approve February claims and financial statement. The motion was seconded by Gobel and carried with were approved 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.

CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

The Board of Supervisors appointed two new CCRCD directors, Alex Struckmeyer and Ben King on January 31st.

Harper presented the board with the Activate Human Resources proposal. King said the focus for a consultant should be on staff recruitment and retention strategies. Also, the directors wanted to add to the scope an assessment of other RCDs in the region to understand their organizational, staff and project capabilities compared to CCRCD. Before the board decides to approve the proposal and move forward with consulting with Activate, the board requested an in-person presentation from Melissa Ortiz. No action was taken.

Harper presented the board with CalFire Forest Health contracts from December 2021 to December 2022 to review and ratify. Harper presented Forest Health 2021 treatment contracts that included Pest Management, Mechanical Piling, Mastication along roads and private lands in the Mendocino National Forest. Harper presented on the Forest Health

2019 treatment contracts that include Prescribed Fire, Planting, Biomass Utilization, and Site Preparation/Mechanical Piling on private land in the Mendocino National Forest. Nall moved to approve the most recent Forest Health contracts for both 2019 and 2021 grants. Gobel seconded the motion and the motion carried with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.

Harper presented the board with the draft Mid-Year Budget Review but found discrepancies in QuickBooks mostly expenses that had wrong account numbers or misclassified. Harper will audit financials and will present the board the Mid-Year Review for the current fiscal year, 2022-2023, alongside the Draft budget for the new fiscal year, 2023-2024.

Harper requested the directors consider the CCRCD hire a financial consultant to review current practices and help create a financial system employing the best practices. No action was taken.

Computer upgrades for staff are needed. The board discussed staff needs and asked that the technology obtained be paid for through grant funds. There is funding from Forest Health 21 and RFFC to meet staff needs, which include computers and software. King moved to buy functional technology for staff. The motion was seconded by Gobel, and the motion carried with 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 2 Absent.

CCRCD REPORTS:

Blaker provided a written and verbal summary of the activities associated with the CCRCD projects during the past month. They reviewed the tasks not previously discussed during the meeting.

- **NRCS Cooperative Agreement 2021:** NRCS Outreach and Education on programs and advertised job at Farm Show, reviewed job description, met with Owen on position. Met with Wendy on contract extension and more funding.
- **Colusa Glenn Sub Watershed Program:** Took a handful of calls and helped with reports.
- **Healthy Soils Demonstration Site:** Biomass sampling and field day preparation.
- **2019 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** Reporting, invoicing, JEs to move reimbursement funds, GIS mapping completed projects
- **NEW 2021 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** USFS call to plan for future work and existing project work agreements, reporting, invoicing
- **New Department of Conservation (DOC) RFFCP:** Presented our program developments since the beginning of the grant with RFFC regional partners, meetings
- **NEW After the Fire RCPP:** Meeting and training for new program, met with DC in Colusa on program rollout and how it will look in Colusa
- **TNC- Outreach and Education:** Nothing to report.
- **CARCD Monarch TA on Working:** Nothing to report.
- **NEW CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for HSP:** Blaker worked with Harper on application checklist handout
- **NEW CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for SWEEP:** Blaker worked with Harper on application checklist handout

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, at 3pm at the RCD office.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabeth Harper-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD