

**PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
March 23, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (District /RCD) Board was called to order by RCD Chair Claudia Smith at 4:01 p.m. on a Zoom online meeting.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

Directors Present: Claudia Smith
Christine Johnson
Thomas (Tom) Wehri
Stephen (Steve) Jones
Patricia (Patti) Beard

Others Present: Sarah Jones, RCD Executive Director
Kate Espinola, RCD Employee
Allison Erny, RCD Employee
Cordi Craig, RCD Employee
George Alves, RCD Employee
Andrew Fritz, RCD Employee
Tony Quatela, RCD Employee
Brian Pimentel, Grizzly Corp Fellow
Chris Robbins, District Conservationist, NRCS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tom Wehri moved to approve the agenda, Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment made.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Tom Wehri moved to approve the meeting minutes from the regular Board meeting held on February 23, 2021. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed with 4 yays and 1 absention.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sarah Jones presented the February 2021 financial reports. Sarah asked for direction regarding the past due accounts receivable from CalFire Special Projects. The amount was invoiced to CalFire, but the work was never completed. The Board agreed to move

that \$38,588.00 out of accounts receivable. Sarah reported the Property tax deposits are made in April, June and December. Invoices were submitted to CalFire for Auburn Shaded Fuel Break, Placer County for CWPP and NRCS for the Soil Health Agreement. The Board accepted the financials as presented.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS REPORT

Chris Robbins, District Conservationist for the NRCS Auburn Field Office reported the first batching period ended March 17th. There were 30 applications submitted and a list of who was awarded will be announced in the following weeks. Chris announced there is a new form (Form 902) for farm applications as part of the eligibility process. NRCS will be putting together an interview panel for the new Soil Conservationist position. The next batching date is in June. Chris gave kudos to the District staff for conducting the field visits.

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) HR to GO, Proposal for Services

Sarah Jones requested additional help from HR to GO. The proposal is for advisory and consulting services, \$1500.00 for 12 months. Tom Wehri moved to approve the HR to Go Proposal for services. Christine Johnson seconded, and the motion passes unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

b) CEQA–Notice of Exemption, Placer County Coordinated Fuel Break, Phase 1

Sarah Jones reported the notice of exemption was submitted in 2020, but it is required to be approved by the Board. Christine Johnson moved to approve the notice of exemption for CEQA on the Placer County Coordinated Shaded Fuel Break. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

c) Proposal Review for the Placer County Coordinated Fuel Break, Phase 1

Allison Erny presented the bid summary spreadsheet to the Board. Allison recommended selecting Guiterrez based on their bid and being able to pile burn. Tom Wehri reviewed all the bids and agreed with Allison's recommendation. Christine Johnson suggested adding verbiage in the contract that the contractor must commit to staying on the project. Tom Wehri moved to accept the Guiterrez's bid if their availability is open, if not then Red Mountain Resources would receive the contract. Patti Beard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

d) Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency – Contract #1537, Red Sesbania Maintenance and Removal Program

Sarah Jones presented the 5-year contract for the Red Sesbania Maintenance and Removal program. Tom Wehri moved to approve the contract with Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Christine Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

e) California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Tier 1 Status

Sarah Jones presented the Tier 1 status check list to the Board. The District needs an Annual and Long Rang work plan. Sarah will start working on these items when the two new Board member start. The District's Financial Consultant is currently working on updating policies. Tom Wehri would like to start looking at the Tier 2 requirements next. No action was taken.

f) Grant Update

- Urban Ag Grant - \$50,000.00 Application was submitted and we should hear back soon.
- 5 Star Urban Waters - \$50,000.00 Application was submitted and we should hear back in October.
- Monarch Mini Grant - \$15,000.00 Application was submitted.
- Healthy Soils Program – Application was submitted.
- CSDA CalFire Grants Due in May. PRCD will be applying for fuel reduction between Colfax and Applegate and possibly the Living with Wildfire Film.

g) Unfunded Cooperative Agreement for Vehicle and Space Sharing between NRCS and the Placer Resource Cooperative Agreement

Sarah Jones presented the NRCS vehicle and space sharing agreement to the Board. Steve Jones moved to approve the NRCS agreement. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passes unanimously.

(Roll Call: Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Patti Beard and Tom Wehri)

Old Business:

STAFF REPORTS

District staff provided a written update of recent activities and project updates in the Board packet.

BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS

No report given.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Tom Wehri reported the NACD voted for the summer meeting to be held in Chicago, in person.

Claudia Smith reported the Sarah and herself were asked to be at the April Board of Supervisors meeting to answer questions if they arise.

Tom Wehri reported the SCRMC Board meeting is March 24th. Tom asked the Board if SCRMC should remain active if there is no cost. The Board agreed to keep SCRMC active.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items to include – February Special Board Meeting Minutes approval

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm. Christine Johnson moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on a Zoom online meeting call, details to follow.