

**THE PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2020**

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 4:00 p.m. on a Zoom online meeting.

MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT

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

Absent Directors: Steven (Steve) Garcia

Others Present: Sarah Jones, RCD Executive Director
Maddison Easley, RCD Employee
Kate Espinola, RCD Employee
Chris Robbins, District Conservationist, NRCS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Patti Beard moved to approve the agenda, Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Christine Johnson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on February 25, 2020. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. (Roll Call: Patti Beard, Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, and Mica Heilmann)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sarah Jones presented the financial reports. Sarah announced the District received payment from PCWA, for the remainder of the ADRIP project. As well as, Coordinated Watershed Grant and Red Sesbania. The Board accepted the financial as presented. (Roll Call: Patti Beard, Claudia Smith, Christine Johnson, Steve Jones, Mica Heilmann, and Tom Wehri)

BUSINESS

New Business:

a) Grant Opportunities

Sarah Jones reported on several grant opportunities:

- Xerces Pollinator Kit Program- An educational kit for local schools.
- CARCD – WCB – Carbon Farming project \$50,000.00.
- Prop 68 Forest Assistance Due May 31st. The District's proposal includes Landowner assistance for Private Property. Minimum grant awarded is \$750,000.00. Only 1 or 2 proposals will be awarded.
- SNC Forestry Restoration - \$100,000.00.
- Demo Volunteer Program – Fuels reduction in Truckee Area for \$30,000.00.
- Sarah proposed moving the Forestland Steward Newsletter in house. With the FSN funds Sarah would like to hire a Writer who could update and produce the Newsletter. The Writer would also help writing grants, help with our website compliance (making ADA Compliant) and write progress reports. The Board gave direction to Sarah to proceed with the Grant Writer position.

b) Prescribed Fire on Private Lands Pilot Program

Sarah Jones announced, the District submitted an application to CAL FIRE for a prescribed fire on private land pilot program. Placer RCD received \$300,000 for the pilot program. \$62,810 was included for Staff time and \$10,000 for a consultant to develop the White paper.

c) Covid-19 Response

Sarah Jones reported, in light of the shelter in place orders, Staff is working remotely. Also, the Chipper Program is suspended because the District is unable to use the inmates. Sarah is looking into other options.

d) Financial Audit

Sarah Jones informed the Board that the District needs another Auditor firm for the 2019-2020 fiscal year audit. Sarah is looking for direction to either use the same CPA Firm, but a different principal or send out a request for proposal to new CPA's. All Board members agreed to send out a request for proposal.

e) NRCS/PRCD Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Chris Robbins reported that there are no changes to the MOA since he presented it in February. The MOA needs to be signed and sent to NRCS's main office. Tom Wehri moved to approve the MOA as presented. Steve Jones seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

f) Website Compliance

Information was presented in Item A.

g) Bearcorps Intern

Sarah Jones reported the District's application for a Bearcorp Intern was approved. The intern will assist with the Healthy Soils/Carbon Farming Programs. Steve Jones moved to move forward with the Bearcorp Intern process. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

h) Conservation Project Manager Position

Sarah Jones reported the interviews for the Conservation Project Manager went well. Sarah offer the position to the top candidate. She accepted the position and will start on May 27th.

Old Business:

i) Firewise Partners Trailer Update

Sarah Jones reported the District received the liability insurance on the Firewise Partners Trailer and will be able to use at outreach projects.

j) No-Till Drill Update

No new updates.

k) Credit Card Application

Sarah Jones announced the District was approved for a \$5,000.00 credit card through Mechanics Bank.

l) Staff Reports

Sarah Jones reported she is working on finishing furnishing the new office. Also, the District is continuing to use the temporary worker to scan and develop the Districts document management system.

Maddison Easley reported the Coordinated Watershed grant is completed and she visited one of the locations yesterday. She provided photos in her written staff report. Maddison is still conducting site visits with landowners and has submitted progress reports to NRCS.

Kate Espinola announced all scheduled FSTEP Classes were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS REPORT

Chris Robbins, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service reported that application numbers are up, 37 applications in the first batching period. NRCS received a letter from the White House regarding reopening offices. The current restrictions only allow one person at a time in the office. No landowner appointments or walk-ins at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS

No report was given.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Tom Wehri reported the NACD Summer 2020 meeting has been cancelled. Also canceled is the Central Regional meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items to include: None

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Jones moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.

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

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on a Zoom online meeting call, details to follow.