

**THE PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
August 27, 2019**

**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 4:02 p.m. in the conference room at 11661 Blocker Drive, Suite 115, in Auburn, California.

**MEMBERS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Directors Present: Claudia Smith  
Thomas (Tom) Wehri  
Stephen (Steve) Jones  
Christine Johnson  
Mica Heilmann  
Steven (Steve) Garcia

Absent Directors: Patricia (Patti) Beard

Others Present: Walter Clevenger, Acting RCD Executive Director  
Susan Werner, Werner Accounting Services  
Maddison Easley, Placer RCD Employee  
Kate Espinola, Placer RCD Employee  
Jerry Reioux, Placer RCD Contractor  
Chris Robbins, NRCS District Conservationist  
George Alves  
Bob Snyder  
Suzanna Gardetto  
Connie Scheiber  
Bob and Rita Kennedy  
Dwane Willet and Julie Willet

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board Members and Staff introduced themselves to the general public in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Staff requested agenda item i) be presented before Public Comment. Tom Wehri moved to approve the amended agenda, Mica Heilmann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **i) Chipper Program Purchase of New Equipment and Fleet Insurance**

Kate Espinola presented to the Board the details of the proposed Chipper Program equipment purchase. Tom Wehri moved to approve the purchase of one truck, two tow-behind chippers and one tracked chipper. Christine Johnson provided a second, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Connie Scheiber spoke about interest in a no-till drill.
- Jerry Reieux reported that the next proposed CARCD Forestry Committee meeting is planned for September 9-11<sup>th</sup>.
- George Alves spoke about potential consulting assistance for the Chipper Program and other fire-prevention related activities.
- Bob Snyder expressed concerns and advice focused on the Chipper Program.
- Suzanna Gardetto is a science teacher at Placer High School requesting sponsorship to help her students attend the Forestry Challenge.
- Bob and Rita Kennedy expressed concerns regarding the Chipper Program.
- Dwane expressed concerns regarding the Chipper Program.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mica Heilmann moved to approve the previous minutes. Christine Johnson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Susan Werner of Werner Accounting Services presented the financial reports. The Board accepted the financials as presented.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **New Business:**

#### **a) FY 2019/2020 Budget Approval**

Susan Werner presented the FY 2019/2020 budget to the Board. Steve Jones moved to approve the budget as presented. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **b) Resolution for Adopting SDRMA Health Benefit Program**

Walter Clevenger presented the Resolution for Adopting SDRMA Health Benefits. Tom Wehri moved to approve the resolution. Christine Johnson seconded. The motion was passed with six ayes, zero nays and one absent.

#### **c) Potential Sponsorship to Local High Schools**

Katie Cantrell, a teacher at Foresthill High School, asked for \$260.00 to send four students to the 2019 Watershed Education Summit at Union Valley Reservoir in El Dorado County. Suzanna Gardetto, a teacher at Placer High School, asked for \$630.00 to send eight students to the 2019 Forestry Challenge. Steve Garcia moved

to donate \$400.00 to Foresthill High School and \$600.00 to Placer High School. Tom Wehri seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Steve Garcia declared this was the worse meeting he has ever sat through.

**d) Fire Safe Alliance Grant Update**

A Fire Prevention Education Grant meeting was scheduled for the next day, August 28th. The meeting topics to be covered included: the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break, the shaded fuel break in Applegate, and the Fire Prevention and Education grant awarded to Placer RCD on behalf of the Placer Fire Safe Alliance. Walter Clevenger and Steve Garcia provided updates on the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break, Watershed Reforestation in the Rubicon, and the North Fork of the American River Shaded Fuel Break activities.

**e) NRCS – CARCD – RCD Memorandum of Agreement**

Chris Robbins presented the details of the MOA to the Board. He explained the MOA describes creating local workgroups, led by the District, to involve landowners and conservation partners. NRCS and CARCD is soliciting comments and feedback regarding the proposed MOA. The final MOA will need to be signed around December 2019.

**f) Contractor Rate Adjustments**

Claudia Smith addressed the need to update the rates for some of the current RCD contractors, specifically Jerry Reioux and Mike Gallagher. Claudia offered to review contractor rates with Susan Werner. There was mention of the need to hire a part-time assistant to help Mike Gallagher manage incoming Chipper Program requests. The Board agreed to increase the rates for Mike and Jerry, to take effect on the next invoice submitted.

**g) Jakob Tucker's Forestry/Biological Technician Contract Status**

Walter spoke about issues involving the development, rate, and transparency of the contract for Jakob Tucker. Board members agreed this issue was resolved and contracts involving potential conflicts of interest in the future should be addressed with Board member signatures and consultation.

**h) Auburn Shaded Fuel Break Contractor Hiring Policies**

Walter Clevenger asked the Board if the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break follows the same emergency distinction as the North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break. Both the Auburn Shaded Fuel Break and the Applegate Shaded Fuel Breaks were determined by Claudia Smith as the Chairman of the Board to be considered emergencies requiring immediate mitigation and action.

**Old Business:**

**j) Credit Card Action**

There is no action at this time. This item will be updated at next Board meeting.

**k) District Manager Position Update**

Tom Wehri presented to the Board an update and report on the hiring of the District Manager Position. The next steps involve contacting the candidates that were not within the top five. Next, interviews with the top five candidates would be scheduled. The interview committee was established to include three Directors – Tom Wehri, Mica Heilmann, and Steve Garcia. The interview panel was also to include Chris Robbins and either Susan Werner or Walter Clevenger to represent staff.

**l) Staff Reports**

Walter Clevenger shared that Mike Gallagher would like the Chipper Supervisors to have a \$40.00 / hour differential rate for work during the weekend. Currently, we have nine Chipper Supervisors. There was discussion dispersing the higher rate, but recognition of the need to avoid burnout amongst the contractors. As a remedy, additional Chipper Supervisors may need to be hired. Claudia suggested not having the Chipper Crews work on Sundays. Walter reported on other project activities. Susan reported the audit will be on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Maddison shared the sign-up sheets for the Gold Country Fair booth and the Auburn Home Show, both coming up in September.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS REPORT**

Chris Robbins, the NRCS District Conservationist reported that a new Area Archaeologist was recently hired. The RCPP project calls and site visits have been increasing. Chris also announced the Civil Rights Committee for California will be meeting September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Auburn.

**BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS**

No report was given.

**DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Tom Wehri reported he had a good NACD meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items to include: District Manager position, Contractor Rate Adjustments, Credit Card Action, Additional Chipper Program Equipment Purchase, and Staff Reports.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tom Wehri moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Mica Heilmann seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled September 24, 2019, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the RCD Conference room.