

**Colusa County**  
**RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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**November 4, 2015**  
**CCRCD Meeting Minutes**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Bob Alvernaz, Gil Ramos, Ben Felt, Kim Gallagher, Jay Dee Garr, Tom Hickok and Beth Nall

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Jim LaGrande

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Patti Turner-CCRCD Executive Director,

Ben Felt CCRCD-President called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the Colusa Industrial Park Conference Room.

**PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:**

Turner reported that the next batching period for NRCS Farm Bill programs is December 18<sup>th</sup>. She stated the NRCS might provide a five minute report on Farm Bill program applications at the Colusa County Grower Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> along with copies of the NRCS 5-Steps to Assistance handout and the El Nino flyer.

Turner gave an update on the Glenn County RCD Soil Health Coordinator hired through a Cooperative Agreement with the NRCS. The Soil Health Coordinator will be an employee of the Glenn County RCD and his work will be focused in Glenn County.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Ramos to approve the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Alvernaz and passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 absent.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Directors received a balance sheet for the period of October 7 to November 3, 2015. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: checking account \$1,250; petty cash account \$82.56; CCRCD General Fund (03200) \$32,865.27; sales tax (03201) \$0, CCRCD Misc. Projects (032025) \$8,499.23; Upper Stony Fuel Treatment (032031) \$0; Specialty Crop Block Grant (032026) \$4,975.11 and Clearing Account fund (032001) \$0.

The Board was presented with four (4) claims for approval: Petty Cash claim in the amount of \$167.44; Patti Turner mileage claim in the amount of \$62.68, Gary Evans Upper Stony Fuel Treatment Project Manager in the amount of \$585.00 and U.S. Bank CalCard expenses in the amount of \$45.00. A motion was made by Garr and seconded by Ramos to approve the financial report and four claims as submitted. The motion passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent with the exception of the Turner claim which passed with 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent and 1 abstaining (Alvernaz)

**CCRCD DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

The floor was opened to discuss potential new projects for the CCRCD. Turner reported the Specialty Crop Block Grant program has a new Request for Proposals out. She and Andrea had some ideas for a project for nutritional awareness for youth but she felt it strayed from the CCRCD's mission. Nall brought up the idea of doing a project that provided crop signage to identify specialty crops along the I-5 corridor. The board supported this concept and Turner stated she would try and come up with a concept proposal to submit prior to the December 4<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Turner stated that the CCRCD had receive two bids as a result of the Fuel Break RFP for the Upper Stony Inholders Alliance Fuel Treatment project. The CCRCD's Project Manager-Gary Evans recommended the Board accept the proposal from GTS Forestry Inc. After some discussion a motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Ramos to accept the bid from GTS Forestry and instructed Felt to sign the contract on the District's behalf. The motion passed with 6 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 absent and 1 Abstaining due to a conflict of Interest (Hickok)

Turner reported that Evans requested the Board to postpone approving a Forest Health proposal as there was only one bid received and he believed there was a mistake on the amount for one of the units. He also stated most of the work could not be

completed prior to the Forest Service doing the prescribed burn treatment to the area. The Board agreed to not accept the bid at this time.

Turner reported on the opportunity for the CCRCD to participate in a Leadership Academy sponsored by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. She gave a quick overview of what is expected of the participating RCDs staff and directors during the one year program. Both Ramos and Gallagher expressed an interest in participating in the program along with Turner. A motion was made by Nall and seconded by Alvernaz for the CCRCD to participate in the CARCD Leadership Academy. The motion passed with 7 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 absent.

A short discussion was held on the Draft Associate Director policy that was included in the meeting packets for the Board to review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Gallagher and seconded by Nall to approve the policy as drafted. The motion passed with 7 ayes, 0 noes and 0 absent.

Turner stated the last policy the CCRCD needs to develop to meet Tier 1 of the California RCD standards is a Volunteer Policy. She had obtained a sample from a neighboring RCD but felt our policy needed more information and since we are not currently using volunteers we have the time to develop a more detailed policy. She stated she would like the policy to serve as a guideline for when and how to use volunteers. The Board recommended Turner gather more examples from other RCDs and talk to GSRMA on when and how the CCRCD should address Workers Compensation Insurance for individuals assisting the District. This matter was tabled until a future meeting.

#### **CCRCD REPORTS:**

Turner presented a written report on the progress of the District's active projects completed since the last board meeting that were not previously discussed during the meeting. Some of the highlights included:

Colusa County Grown-Specialty Crop Grant: All invoicing is up to date and the Annual Report has been submitted. Turner is starting to plan the Agri-tourism workshop and steps for the sustainability of Colusa County Grown. The CCRCD will submit an application to Premier Mushroom for funding to assist with a CCG Stakeholder dinner.

Forest Service Cooperative Agreement: The new Forest Service Grant Administrator for the project is Nick Matheson not Rick Mowery at the Mendocino Supervisors Office. Progress Reports and Invoicing are up to date. The Forest Service is planning to apply a prescriptive burn to the footprint of the last treatment area in the spring of 2016. Evans plans on meeting with Matheson in the near future to submit the District's modified budget and narrative.

Audubon and Sycamore Family Trust: Liz continues to work on the new and existing planting sites. The first SLEWS day was held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The students from the Colusa High School Environmental Science Academy planted 600 trees and shrubs.

UC Davis Assistance-The District has not been contacted by Rachael Long yet to help with fall planting.

Turner reported on the CARCD Sacramento Valley Region Spring Meeting she attended on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The CCRCD's Speak-Off contestant, Sarah Marsh, took first place at the regional contest held during the meeting.

Turner announced the CCRCD's Christmas Dinner will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, after a short meeting, at Louis Cairo's Restaurant in Williams.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm by President Ben Felt. The next regular monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** at Lois Cairo's Restaurant in Williams at 5:00. The meeting will be followed by a no-host social event were no business will occur.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Turner-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD