

Colusa County
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
January 16th, 2024

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Beth Nall, Walt Seaver, Alex Struckmeyer, Tom Hickok

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Nas Chaudhary, Allen Gobel, Ben King

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jennifer Sanders

OTHERS PRESENT: Liz Harper- CCRCD Executive Director, Tucker Bennett- CCRCD Natural Resource Coordinator, Alexandra Berlier- CCRCD Office Assistant/Bookkeeper, Owen Hemming- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items A) Acceptance of the agenda and B) Approval of Meeting Minutes were presented. The directors discussed the importance of approving financials as a separate item. Struckmeyer moved to approve approval of minutes and acceptance of the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Hickok. The motion was approved with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Directors present received balance sheets for the period of December 19th, 2023, through January 16th, 2024. The CCRCD's fund balances were as follows: Umpqua checking account \$1,400.00; Petty Cash account \$100.00; CCRCD General Fund (464) \$143,189.87; CCRCD Misc. Projects (473) \$54,955.42; The DOC fund (475) \$49,559.74; CalFire fund (477) \$213,337.18; and Clearing Account fund (465) \$0.

The Board was presented with four (4) claims to be paid in January. Colusa County Farm Supply for \$958.98; Eduardo Blancas-Alcantara for \$7.00; Clyde Hladky for \$1,238.40; and US Bank for \$1,496.49.

Struckmeyer moved to approve the claims and fund balance report for January 2024. Nall seconded the motion. The motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

PUBLIC/PARTNERS COMMUNICATIONS:

Hemming reported on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that the agency is hiring for the Colusa Field Office. He was also happy to report that wages were adjusted for this fiscal year for all federal employees.

General Business Action Items:

#1: Harper presented the board with a list of items wanted for the upcoming farm show booth. Items included banners advertising RCD services and an RCD tablecloth. The cost and items were presented by Berlier. The banners and tablecloth will be used for all outreach events that CCRCD is present at. Nall moved to approve the purchase of outreach materials, Struckmeyer seconded the motion and the motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, 3 Absent, 0 Vacant.

#2: Harper requested a budget adjustment from the board to cover costs of the farm show booth outreach materials. The budget adjustment was already made and approved by the board in August, but the board reviewed the updated budget for General Fund: Special Department Expenses from \$1000 to \$4000. Hickok moved to approve the budget adjustment. Nall seconded the motion and the motion carried with 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 3 Absent, 0 Abstain, 0 Vacant.

Harper went over the board of director requirements, trainings, and forms to be filed to serve on the RCD board. Harper also requested directors and staff sign up to table at the farm show booth.

CCRCD REPORTS:

- **UPDATED NRCS Cooperative Agreement 2021:** Tucker is managing multiple contracts for NRCS. He is being trained to do engineering certifications for Colusa County. Tucker is currently going through training on conservation desktop and CART

assessment tool to be able to create plans from start to finish. Tucker is conducting field visits; project assessments will begin ranking soon.

- **Colusa Glenn Sub Watershed Program:** Staff attended Member meeting and internal training on call log and reporting assistance. The staff members that are going to be aiding with this program are Harper, Berlier, and Bennett. The Colusa RCD has received calls from members, but the reporting period will begin later in January.
- **Healthy Soils Demonstration Site:** Closed
- **UPDATED 2019 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** We have been working on gathering materials for drafting an RFP for contracting work for pile burning and potential collaborating with Yolo RCD. We are continuing to map our tree survey transect and create a report of our sapling survivability survey. We are also working on auditing our treatments and verifying that articles treated are correct.
- **2021 CalFire Forest Health Grant:** We have been working on gathering materials for drafting an RFP for contracting work for pile burning and potential collaborating with Yolo RCD. Continue to audit project TCN acres from earlier contractor work and to decide where gaps are in shapefiles for reporting to CalFire.
- **Department of Conservation (DOC) RFFC:** We have started our new course in the Technical Assistance program at CSU Chico- Soil Health Management, Blancas attended a Tehama- Glenn Fire Safe Council Meeting and 2 webinars from Esri regarding Science for Global Biodiversity.
- **After the Fire RCPP:** RCPP continues to work on program implementation across partner organizations. Staff continue to stay up to date on how this program will fit into our RCD and NRCS services to producers. NRCS will be key to pointing applicants to this funding pool for funding projects not funded through EQIP.
- **TNC- Outreach and Education:** Nothing to report.
- **CARCD Monarch TA on Working:** Completed
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for HSP:** Tucker has been working with potential applicants to get their application packets together so we can get their projects submitted. CCRCD will be working with the tribe that has been awarded a block grant for HSP, Harper developed SOW with Sutter and Yolo to continue services in our counties.
- **CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA for SWEEP:** Tucker has been working with potential applicants to get their pre-application packets together so we can get their projects submitted. Solicitation for direct to farmer has been paused so Tucker has been reaching out to producers and updating them and letting them know of the CICC block grant. CCRCD will be working with the tribe that has been awarded a block grant for SWEEP. Harper developed SOW with Sutter and Yolo to continue services in our counties.
- **NEW CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program:** PHP is a program that incentivizes landowners to establish pollinator habitat on their farms. This program isn't gaining traction in Colusa County. Staff are seeking new ways to engage with farmers on the benefits of this program. Bennett is working to get producers to be incentivized up to \$30,000 to cover crops in their fields.
- **NEW County of Colusa Fire Mitigation Coordinator:** Blancas and Harper continue to work with the County of Colusa on plan development. The Fire Chiefs Association met with CCRCD and the County planners to kick-off the partnership planning efforts. Blancas presented to the fire authorities their role in the Fire Mitigation project development and overall county coordination of projects and programs. Blancas has been reaching out to partners, organizations, and community members to plan the Community Kick-Off Meetings. CCRCD is meeting with the Fire Chiefs again to determine logistics of the community level meetings.
- **NEW CARCD/WCB Habitat Restoration:** Staff met with Davis Ranch to get a firm timeline and idea of funding for implementation. Tucker will create a draft plan by February 15th to include planting areas and irrigation sites. Tucker continues the Hedgerow maintenance plan.
- **Carbon Cycle Institute:** Harper organized an interview panel and applicants. Interview occurred last week, job was offered and accepted Friday. The new hire will start Wednesday January 17th, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, at 3pm at CCRCD Office at 100 Sunrise Blvd. Suite A-3, Colusa, CA 95932.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Harper-Secretary/Treasurer-Colusa Co. RCD