

# WSRCD Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2017, 5:37 PM – 8:20 PM  
6270 Parallel Road- Anderson, CA 96007-4833

**Call to Order:** 5:37 PM

**Attendees:**

WSRCD Board: Dennis Heiman (President), Ben Letton (Vice President), Elizabeth Betancourt (Director), Carl Weidert (Director), Phil Schoefer (Director), John Moore (Director), Alan Hill (Director)

WSRCD Staff: Chester Anderson (District Manager), Ali Warren (Fiscal Officer), Kelli England (Forewoman-Field Operations), Sean Arnold (Clerk of the Board)

NRCS: Mindy Graves (District Conservationist), John Tiedeman (Engineer)

Other: Dennis Possehn

**1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Request for bids for gravel placement and contract amendment.

**2. Public Comment Period:** No members of the public addressed the board.

**3. Presentation on Crowley Gulch Habitat Project**

**Discussion:**

- Anderson introduces Kelli England and she presents on Crowley Gulch. This is a collaboration for a riparian restoration project between cottonwood community, school district, and Tehama County RCD. Cottonwood is within both districts. They applied native grass seed, straw, and jute. Had to rush before permit expired. The community hopes to eventually put in a walking path. Foot bridge was completed.

**4. Review and approve minutes January Board Meeting**

**Schoefer (Motions) / Moore (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

**5. Correspondence:** None to report.

**6. SCF**

**Discussion:**

- (Anderson) Susan Lloyd is getting paperwork in order.

**7. NRCS Report**

**7.1 Discussion regarding Irrigated Land's Program**

- (Heiman) addresses the Irrigated Land's Program. In 2004, the Water Board determined that agriculture will impact water quality. If you irrigate land for commercial use, then you are subject to program. Heiman did not feel it was properly constructed. If you are going to regulate, then it must result in improvements. If they do not need to modify, there should be some way to justify what is being done is satisfactory. There has not been much movement to change it, with the decision that we will live with what we know.
- (Tiedeman) reads letter about increased fees. Some small farms have chosen to stop irrigating commercially. He talks about expenses. Is there any measurable return? He mentions putting in a plan, relief from fee

charges.

- (Heiman) Money goes to the sub coalition and some regional board. He explains how very little goes toward on the ground improvement.
- (Hill) asks if a waiver is available.
- (Heiman) replies that there is none. He does not want to get rid of the program, but find a different way of going about having it function. Make it a certification of good operator program.
- (Tiedeman) notes how more forms and fees create more resentment and people pulling out.
- (Heiman) wants it to be a less regulatory program and more cooperative.
- (Letton) explains what information was available to work on and the confidentiality matter, willingness of landowners to share information.
- (Graves) believes they may be willing to share, if it benefits them to do so.
- (Letton) explains how the program was designed more for Sac Valley and San Joaquin, not this area. He brings up the idea of those under a certain acreage attending a weekend workshop. The agriculture lobby was against acreage limit, because why should small growers get off when collectively larger problem than large.
- No consensus.
- (Heiman) suggests going to board with a pilot alternative and (Letton) believes they would be receptive to any pilot program.
- (Betancourt) believes that it is necessary to see if agricultural support is present first.
- (Heiman) we are first going to need an alternative to present to the community.
- (Anderson) we should come with some kind of draft.
- (Heiman) will try to take lead and (Anderson) notes how this board has a good mix.

## **8. New Business:**

### **8.1 Consent Agenda**

- The consent agenda is explained to the board. Minutes, correspondence, reports, amendments, and anything that happened in the past would be reviewed beforehand and then consented upon at the meeting.
- (Heiman) everything will be in some form of writing prior to the meeting.
- (Betancourt) this will put more pressure on Anderson and Warren.
- Consent calendar items will be lumped, but items can be pulled out as needed or desired.

## **9. Financials:**

### **9.1 Report from Finance Committee re: debt restructuring discussion.**

- (Anderson) has had difficulty with the lawyer getting items done.

## **10. NRCS Report Continued:**

- (Graves) describes items that have been funded and the hiring freeze. Adding more money to Scott Small.

## **11. CARCD activities:**

- (Schoefer) explains the meeting he attended last week.

### **11.1 DOC Funding Opportunity**

- (Warren) explains the DOC Funding Opportunity. Funding is being awarded. She explains what criteria must be met and the different tiers. All training and 700 forms must be complete.
- North State STEM partnership, discussing building a STEM center. RCDs fall as a STEM employer. Wants to

see more local families get involved and realize conservation involves everyone. She wants to work on outreach programs and get schools involved. Schools put out a lot of carbon tons.

- Program does require match. Board members coming to meetings qualify for in-kind match.

## **12. District Manager's Report:**

- (Anderson) passes out reading material from Amy Stork. He believed the training went well and that the staff also worked well together. Wants training for project managers and Kelli England. We can take on new projects and he is happy with the staff. Analia Bertucci will be serving the role of half time grant writer and half time coordinator.
- (Warren) Website will be live at the end of the week.

## **13. Financials Continued:**

### **13.1 January & Year to Date Financials**

- (Warren) Not much change, but she notes small items. The items that were in the 90 day column are getting removed.

**Hill (Motions) / Letton (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

## **14. Old Business:** None to address.

## **15. New Business:**

- (Anderson) Bid for gravel injection, same spot as last time. Want another 14,000 as soon as possible.

**Schoefer (Motions) / Letton (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

- (Anderson) Erosion control, want to continue monitoring with an additional \$3000.

**Schoefer (Motions) / Letton (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

- (Anderson) sending drought workers for Lomakatsi Restoration.

**Hill (Motions) / Schoefer (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

### **15.2 PG&E Conservation Easement Funding Agreements for Kilarc (\$95,000) and Lake McCloud (\$98,000)**

**Weidert (Motions) / Letton (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**

- Morgan Stanley is briefly discussed.

### **15.3 Reporting from DM**

- The quarterly newsletter is discussed.

### **15.4 Consent Agenda Continued**

- Ali Warren and Susan Lloyd shall put together something verbal for financials.
- (Weidert) all policies should be reviewed once a year.

### **15.5 Policies and Procedures update**

- (Anderson) explains the setup for Maureen Teubert and her daughter Charlotte. He is not certain how to go about the arrival of new children to the RCD. Suggests babies/kids at work policy.
- (Schoefer) believes it may be better not to have a policy.
- (Hill) believes it necessary to have a way to enforce rules.
- (Letton) recommends seeing whether it is okay with all or most of staff, since some are sensitive to their work environment.
- (Moore) your policy will need to be in writing.

### **15.6 Day in the District**

- (Anderson) just put in a grant for \$2000. It is expected to be in May.

**16. Planning Referrals:** None to Report.

### **17. Set next meeting date**

- Monday, March 27, 2017 / 5:30 PM

**Adjourn:** 8:20 PM

**Letton (Motions) / Moore (2<sup>nd</sup>) / Motion unanimously passed.**