

WSRCD Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2018, 5:38 PM – 7:50 PM

6270 Parallel Road- Anderson, CA 96007-4833

Call to Order: 5:38 PM

Attendees:

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

WSRCD Staff: Chester Anderson (District Manager), Sean Arnold (Clerk of the Board)

NRCS: Jim Spear (Assistant State Conservationist), Mindy Graves (District Conservationist)

Point Blue: Wendell Gilgert (Working Landscapes Program Director), Nathan Reese (Partner Biologist with NRCS), Alicia Herrera (Biologist with Point Blue)

Other: John Grimes

1. Consent Agenda

Betancourt (Motions) / Moore (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

The staff update received positive reviews. It is Anderson's goal to give a staff update twice a month.

2. Additions/Changes to Agenda : None

3. Public Comment Period: None

4. Correspondence: None

5. Point Blue:

A presentation of Point Blue Conservation Science's Rangeland Watershed Initiative (RWI) and the role of Point Blue's Partner Biologist, Nathan Reese, as a staff position assisting the Redding Field Office of the NRCS.

Gilgert gives an overview of Point Blue and their scientific practices. Spear explains the arrangement NRCS holds with Point Blue, why it is beneficial and necessary. The District Conservationist is the primary supervisor, but Point Blue operates a great deal on fundraising. Anderson pushes for locally led conservation, believing that is how conservation is most likely to succeed. Discussion ensues, with some believing Point Blue to be a positive addition, being able to carry out unique work.

6. SCF Update:

Resolutions are not yet ready.

7. NRCS Report:

The new administration has new vision, bringing several groups under one umbrella. These involve the Farm Service Agency, NRCS, and the Risk Management Agency. They are struggling to fill seats. The hiring freeze is lifted, but USDA is maintaining the freeze. California has gained 15 positions and should be implemented in the future. John Tiedemen's final day is April 14th, but will be coming back part time. They continue to seek foresters and engineers.

8. CARCD activities:

Ended 2017 year in black and the budget is similar to last years. An \$8.8 million water bond is coming up in November that is getting a lot of opposition. The CARCD is partnering up to eradicate a boar beetle that has been creating havoc in Southern California. The conservation strategy groups are currently working on bills. Focus has been turned toward dysfunctional RCDs.

9. Old Business: None

10. New Business:

- a. Contract with City of Redding

Regarding Cypress, there is a conflict between what the city wants and the bureau requires. It is time for Chester Anderson and Harmony Gugino to have a meeting with Kim Niemer.

11. Closed Session: None

12. Set next meeting date:

Monday, March 26th @ 5:30 PM

Adjourn: 7:50 PM

Schoefer (Motions) / Letton (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Arnold, Clerk of the Board