



BOARD MINUTES

Nevada County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Tuesday June 8, 2021, at 6:00 pm

1. **Meeting called to order:** at 5:59 pm by David Barhydt
Directors present: David Barhydt, Jim Drew, Linda Miller, Patti Kiehl, Robert Ingram
Staff present: Anne Solik, Sabrina Nicholson; NRCS DC Pamela Hertzler
2. **Introductions:** Jim and Debbie Bierwagen
3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** *Robert Ingram moved to approve Consent Agenda. Second by Linda Miller. Approved 5-0.*
4. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** Dave Barhydt mentioned that Reid Hamilton will attend our next board meeting and welcomed Jim and Debbie Bierwagen who were attending by invitation.
5. **Correspondence/Articles:** News articles were e-mailed to the Board. New articles on table were passed around.
6. **President's Report:** Dave Barhydt talked about meeting with our Sheriff Shannan Moon, three of her deputies, and County Supervisor Ed Scofield, primarily having to do with cannabis and how their hands are tied. Our current DA isn't usually interested unless it's a "slam dunk" case for the prosecution. Dave noted that in Humboldt County, they have found that when Fish and Wildlife and Department of Water Resources are involved (due to pollution) that charges tend to stick little better. In Nevada County, if the illegal grow is near an irrigation canal or a stream they can investigate without a search warrant, but if the gate's closed – they need a search warrant. The Sheriff's department is talking about buying a drone.

Dave attended an NID ag roundtable with Debbie Totoonchie, Joe Fisher, and Lauren Oest (representing agriculture), the new GM for NID, Jennifer Hanson, and two NID board members. This was a conversation to go over water rates, drought, future plans on water storage, as well as NID's tendency to sell raw water during a drought to new customers while simultaneously asking current raw water customers to conserve their water by 20%. He felt the talk was beneficial. Dave mentioned the new GM has no background in irrigation, but wants to be involved with customers, and he's sure she's willing to go to properties to see the process. They will all meet again next week.
7. **Education/Outreach/Personnel/Scholarship Committee:** Linda mentioned the Ag in the Classroom meeting had been re-scheduled and asked if Staff called those people on the committee who had not yet replied to the meeting invitation. She felt that since only she and Debbie Totoonchie had replied out of the 10 people on the committee, that it was too many people to disregard. Staff informed Linda that the office has the question of committee member participation as the number 1 item on the agenda for the next meeting. Linda and Dave also felt that the office was too late to reach out to teachers.

Jim Drew mention he talked to Linda Melugin about the scholarship applications, to have the kids narrow down their choices rather than multiple colleges and career goals. This is the last week of school for most schools and they are planning on going back to school full time in August. Nevada Union is planning on going back on a 4x8 schedule – kids will be in class for a longer time, but not in the same classes every day giving students more opportunities for internships, etc. Bear River has a similar schedule, but different from Nevada Union. Both Ag programs and shops at the high schools are fantastic.

8. **NCRC D Activity Report:** A written report was included in the mailed Board packet.

Sabrina reported that she spent a lot of time on the budget. She also presented a long list of places to distribute the Farm Trail Map. Sabrina passed out a list of VHS tapes for the board to decide what information would be good to place on the new website.

Patti Kiehl was interested in knowing what was going on with the non-native invasive plant (NNIP) issues in Truckee. She specifically wanted to know how Mayor Klovsstad responded to our offer to help train Truckee's Trail Hosts in NNIP identification. Sabrina said she had e-mailed the Mayor twice but the Mayor has not responded yet. Dave Barhydt asked if the office had handed out all of the weed booklets yet. Sabrina responded that several had been distributed to western Nevada County nurseries and at our Sequoia seedling giveaway.

9. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler reported that NRCS hired a new employee – Valerie Bullard, Agronomist and Soil Scientist to start August 2nd. She is coming from NRCS's Lodi Plant Materials Center. Pamela said Valarie will be a real asset for Nevada County with a recent surge happening in farming applications. They are entering their 4th funding period with quite a few range and farming apps to submit. They are starting a new program that is a combination of their EQIP program and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to be called EQIP CIC [CIC stands for Conservation Incentive Contracts]. This program was going to be rolled out nationwide, but at the last minute they decided to roll it out to only 4 pilot states and California is one of those four. They still don't know how much money California will receive but the current focus is on drought, the San Juaquin Valley, forestry, and the Klamath Basin. CIC will allow applicants to implement regular EQIP conservation practices with enhancements from CSP with a one-month turn-around.

Pamela announced that State Conservationist Carlos Suarez extended her detail as Acting Area 1 Conservationist for an added 100 days, returning mid-October. She is working to help find a temporary DC to fill in during her absence. Pamela also noted she is still planning on being involved with the soil tunnel display for the Fair this summer.

10. **Old Business:**

A. **Board approval of 2021/2022 Budget:** Sabrina presented copies of her suggested budget and asked if anyone had questions or changes. Staff was asked to look at options for healthcare coverage. There was one minor format change otherwise no changes were made. ***Jim Drew moved to approve the 2021/2022 Budget as presented. Second by Robert Ingram. Approved 5-0.***

11. **New Business:**

A. **Board discussion/possible action regarding addition to Personnel, Policies, & Procedures Manual:** Board discussed rewording of *Maximum Annual Leave Carry Over* section of the manual to address unaccrued sick leave. The following language was suggested, "Employees are not eligible to receive payment for unaccrued sick leave or vacation time without the written approval of the Board President." ***Jim Drew***

moved to approve adding the following sentence to the Maximum Annual Leave Carry Over section of the District's Personnel, Policies, and Procedures Manual, "Employees are not eligible to receive payment for unaccrued sick leave or vacation time without the written approval of the Board President." Second by Patti Kiehl. Approved 5-0.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Closed Session began at 6:50 pm.

Closed Session ended at 8:36 pm.

Regular Board meeting reconvened at 8:37 pm.

- B. **Employee Issues** (Closed Session): Clarification discussion about Sabrina attending board meetings, delivering reports, and classes to take.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

12. **Announcements:** Next board meeting – July 13th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik June 10, 2021.



Approved by Board of Directors on _____

7-13-21



David Barhydt, President

