

Nevada County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors - Regular Meeting 113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945 Tuesday December 11, 2022, at 4:00 pm

 <u>Call to order and Roll Call:</u> at 4:03 pm by Jim Drew. Directors present: Linda Miller, Reed Hamilton, JoAnn Fites-Kaufman and Dave Barhydt absent. Associate Directors: Alana Fowler.

Staff present: Sandy Jacobson, Anne Solik

- 2. **Introductions:** Pamela Hertzler (NRCS), Calvin Nauer, Tony Romero, Agricultural Biologist, Nevada County Ag Commissioner's Office
- 3. Approval of Agenda or Correction of Agenda: Hamilton moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Miller; Approved 3-0.
- 4. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Jim Drew requested two corrections to the November 2022 minutes, 11. a mis-spell of Joaquin County, and under 12.B, change "Tabled" to "postponed". *Miller moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Hamilton; Approved 3-0.* 
  - A. Minutes from the November 11, 2022, Regular Board meeting
  - B. Financial Statement for November 2022
- 5. <u>Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes)</u>: No Comments.
- 6. **Correspondence:** Articles included in the board package, as well as a letter from Planning Department requesting comments projects in Truckee, a letter from the County reminding our board to complete Ethics Training being offered by the County January 31, 2023, and a letter from the County notifying processing \$6,000 in property tax collection fees.
- 7. **NCRCD Board Member Reports:** Hamilton reported that he would be using the min-till drill with three visits during the current week. Miller reported attending a Placer County Ag-Commissioner's meeting to discuss the Nitrogen Management letter received by many farmers in the Sierra Foothill area. She reported that the Foothill area farmers were exempt from the requirement. Drew reported on the Farm School sawmill ribbon cutting event and noted the article about the event printed in the newspaper.
- Education/Scholarship Committee: Miller discussed the need to re-evaluate the scholarship budget to better plan for any future funding of re-applications from former recipients.

- 9. **Grant Report:** Jacobson reported that we currently do not have an active grant, and that the office is busy filling out a spreadsheet listing potential opportunities. Jacobson also outlined current opportunities to be explored.
- 10. **NCRCD Staff Report:** A written report was included in the board package. Jacobson reported on looking into finding a more cost effective computer tech support group to take over the current contract that is proving to be too expensive. She is also looking into a more cost effective website host that is recommended by CSDA, specializing in special districts and compliance. Those offers will be taken out to bid and presented to the board.
  - Jacobson reported on her progress facilitating for a new meat processing plant for the area. She has been meeting with potential partners, ERC development, Environmental Health and Inspection in efforts to find pathways for a USDA inspected facility. Details to follow in January 2023.
  - Staff has been attending the Recreation Resiliency meetings to keep NCRCD in the conversation talking about trails and private property and being part of the plan. Staff also noted the desire to plan for better communication with Sierra Harvest to help with ag related projects so as not to duplicate effort.
- 11. **NRCS Activity Report**: Pamela Hertzler, District Conservationist reported on the current NRCS preparations for the next fund pool in March of 2023. She also reported that they will no longer have a Farm Bill Assistant. Pamela also reported that after 35 years, she will be retiring in November of 2023.

## 12. Old Business:

- A. By-Laws Adopt Resolution 2022-06, approving the NCRCD Bylaws. Hamilton moved to adopt the 2022-06 By-Laws. Second by Miller, Approved 3-0
- **B. Employee Handbook** Review and comment on Draft. Jacobson apologized for not have the final draft ready for approval and to be presented at the January meeting.
- **C. District Manager/Executive Director Job** Description Review and approved revised job description and pay scale. Discussion on purpose to varied levels of pay. Discussion to be continued with the hiring committee. No action taken.
- **D. Review NRCS MOU and Civil Rights Responsibilities**. Hertzler requested to postpone the vote for the January meeting.

## 13. New Business:

- A. Board Discussion/possible action re-join CARCD to be available for future grant opportunities. Jacobson reported that the membership fees for NCRCD to join the CARCD would be approximately \$5,000. Through Jacobson's discussion with other members realized the possibility of negotiation. Hamilton moved to offer CARCD \$2,000 to join. Miller 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved 3-0.
- B. Approve Administrative Policy on Associate Membership. Miller moved to approve the Associate Director Policy as presented. Second by Hamilton. Approved 3-0.
- 13. Announcements: Next board meeting January 10, 2022.