



## **BOARD MINUTES**

Nevada County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors - Regular Meeting  
113 Presley Way, Suite 1, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Monday November 11, 2022, at 9:30 am

1. **Call to order:** at 9:30 am by Jim Drew. Directors present: Linda Miller (9:44am), Reed Hamilton, JoAnn Fites-Kaufman; Dave Barhydt absent. Staff present: Sandy Jacobson, Anne Solik
2. **Introductions:** Pamela Hertzler (NRCS), Tom Hartnett
3. **Approval of Agenda or Correction of Agenda:** *Hamilton moved to approve the Agenda. Second by Fites-Kaufman; Approved 3-0.*
4. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Tom Hartnett stated a correction for the minutes of October 13, 2022, stating his history as "Conservation President" rather than the reported "RCD President. *Fites-Kaufman moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction noted by Mr. Hartnett. Second by Hamilton; Approved 3-0.*
  - A. Minutes from the October 13, 2022, Regular Board meeting
  - B. Financial Statement for October 2022
  - C. Minutes from the October 17, 2022, Special Board Meeting
5. **Public Comment (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes):** No Comments.
6. **Correspondence:** Articles included in the board package, as well as a letter from the County reminding our board to complete Ethics Training by the end of December 2022. There is not any available in-person training in our area until February 2023. It is a verbal agreement that we will wait for the in-person training offered at the County in February. Jacobson also added that research about getting out of CalPERS, that still isn't clear if this is an option – that the board should be commended for paying off the unfunded liability that left the District in better financial standing. SDRMA also wrote to commend the RCD for no liability claims for 2022 giving us a higher rating. And lastly, the county wrote to inform the board that Dave Barhydt and JoAnn Fites Kaufman were reinstated four more years to the board on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Miller Entered 9:44 am

7. **NCRC D President's Report:** Dave Barhydt not present, board members took this opportunity to report on their own projects. Hamilton reported that he had three Min-Till Drill Clients that had to be rescheduled due to the wet weather. Fites Kaufman will give a full accounting under Grant Report. Miller announced she's celebrating the end of irrigation. Drew announced he attended the Farm Bureau Dinner with a good turnout.

8. **Education/Scholarship Committee:** Solik announced that Baily Ham was being paid his \$1,000 scholarship today. Staff is working on developing a spreadsheet and procedure to keep track of all scholarship recipients. Fites Kaufman also reported that she has been attending the Sierra College Forestry Committee and she had been asked to lead a hands-on technical training for Sierra College, noting that she may consider if they offer the position in Nevada County. Drew announced with the newly elected School District Board, he may be stepping down from the high-school board, but staying involved from the other side of the table.
9. **Grant Report:** Fites-Kaufman reported that she prepared a summary form for a Cal Fire Grant for consideration. Covering vegetation management activities on private land, including education and training and there may be funds for dead tree removal. She's been working with Cal Fire to move forward with projects for prescribed burns in Sacramento and if she applies for this, she may be available for non-competitive grant opportunities in the future. She added she's been working very hard to become a Cal Fire Instructor. She is planning on applying for a mid-range grant that may help us fund a new District Manager. More to come at the December meeting. She also reported on attending the Placer RCD/Truckee Measure T meeting for a million dollar fire prevention work. They are interesting in partnering in vegetation removal because Placer has places to store dead trees. She also discussed funds being available through CARCD. She would like the board to consider re-joining CARCD to be able to receive these funds. Lastly, she has been discussing hiring a professional grant writer to help with the amount of work.
10. **NCRCD Staff Report:** A written report was included in the board package. Jacobson reported that the benefits package as well as the Bylaws documentation is near completion, a final draft will be presented at the December board meeting for review.
11. **NRCS Activity Report:** Pamela Hertzler, District Conservationist – reported on the current project obligations with NRCS as well as announcing the NRCS contract funding for the State to reach 52 Million on March 1, 2023. She also noted that a new Farm Bill would be rolled out September of 2023. Awareness was made about upcoming changes in the Sierra Nevada Water Fund Pool to be contested over its stipulation of Sierra Nevada Farms having to compete with San Joaquin Farmers. Hertzler also noted that she is still acting D.C. for Jackson, and that we now have a new forester on-loan from Auburn who would be stationed in Grass Valley one day a week (Anna Gibson).
12. **Old Business:**
  - A. **NRCS Civil-Rights Review** - Hertzler reviewed with the board, the documentation for the civil rights review to be presented for signatures at the December meeting.
  - B. **By-Laws** – Jacobson reported that a review ready draft will be available at the December board meeting. Discussion on roles and duties, code of conduct and amount of board members and associates with a vote in December.
  - C. **Employee Handbook** – Discussion on policies, such as vacation, sick leave and carry over time (cap). Board was in favor of a cap. Possible vote in December.
13. **New Business:**
  - A. **Board Discussion/possible action regarding appointment of Tom Hartnett as Associate Board Member** Discussion about completing handbook before moving forward with on-boarding new associate members. Vote pending adoption of bylaws.

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- B. Road Work Signage.** Discussion about the purpose of the request. Joanne discussed her previous request to the County to provide safety to road workers. Because of the conflict between the County and agencies liability and associated red tape – **Drew moved to table the motion indefinitely, Fites Kaufman Second, 4=0**
- C. CEQA.** Tabled for a future meeting when Jacobson has more information to report.
- D. Auditors Report.** Discussion about report, the one comment because Jacobson was not able to respond because the internal controls incident happened before her employment. **Fites Kaufman moved to approve the Auditors report, Hamilton Second, 4=0**
- E. Enterprise System Policy.** Discussion about the new enterprise software law. **Fites Kaufman moved to approve the Enterprise System Policy, Hamilton Second, 4=0**
- F. District Staffing Plan.** Previously discussed under Old Business B. & C.

13. **Announcements:** Next board meeting – December 13, 2022, 4pm unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Regular Board meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Solik December 13, 2022.

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Approved by Board of Directors on 12-13-2022

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Jim Drew, Vice-Chair

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