

Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District

SPECIAL BOARD

MEETING

March 10, 2021 @ 3:30pm

Sierraville School

Sierraville, CA

TELECONFERENCE INFORMATION

Note: this is audio ONLY

Phone Dial-in: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 952 0469 0582

Approved

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 3:34 pm.

2. Roll call – Directors present: Rick Roberti, Annie Tipton, Chad Smith, Bryan Griffin

Not Present: Dave Goicoechea

Others in Attendance: Supervisor Paul Roen, Beth Christman, Victoria Fisher, Brandon Pangman (Sierra County), Tim Beals (Sierra County), Joe Tipton, Kristi Jamison Lisa Wallace, Mat Kilmurray, Supervisor Dwight Ceresola, Tracy Schohr (UCCE)

Attendance via Teleconference: Quentin Youngblood, Shane Starr

3. Approval of Agenda

**Director Tipton motioned to approve the agenda. Director Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

4. Public Comment

*None.

5. Announcements

*Tracy announced that Butte County has formally passed a livestock disaster access pass program and provided some flyers in reference to this. This program will assist producers in getting behind lines during a disaster event. They are hoping to see this used as a model program to be implemented by other counties in the future. Also, Tracy is continuing to provide information to the drought monitor and recently FSA has announced some drought relief payments that will be forthcoming.

6. Discussion/Action: Lacey Meadows Restoration Project, Beth Christman

***Project Presentation:** Victoria Fisher read out loud the Sierra County Resolution 2016-024 Truckee River Watershed. Beth Christman, from the Truckee River Watershed Council, then began a slideshow presentation on the proposed Lacey Meadows Restoration Project. It was noted that they are currently in the middle of their CEQA application phase, with the grading permit being submitted around spring 2022 to Sierra County and the construction phase beginning once the permit is issued. They anticipate a very short construction season to begin late summer/early fall when the water flow is low. Should it be a wet year with water flow remaining strong they have a diversion plan that will be put into place to continue the flow of

water. Some questions were asked about the log jams being used in the project design, potential effects on base flows and whether DWR has been involved in the project permitting. Beth responded that they anticipate seeing flow patterns changing the most during snow runoff with little adverse effect to base flows. There is consensus that it is possible that DWR was not advised of the project. The Sierra Valley RCD Board noted that DWR needs to be involved in the process. Beth offered to hold a field trip this summer with anyone wishing to get on the ground to see what they will be doing. Lisa Wallace, upon hearing Tim Beal's concerns on behalf of the County and his commentary to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board (Lahontan Board), asked that the SVRCD consider making parallel comments to the Lahontan Board. Supervisor Roen expressed mutual concerns over the base flows being affected. Supervisor Ceresola asked if the TRWC would be working to remedy low base flows following the close of the project should it be impacted negatively and Beth responded that they have a strong commitment to their work and would seek improvements on the project should the base flow be affected. Director Tipton expressed concern over a lowered base flow and felt that data would be needed in order for her to feel more confident about the project.

***Open Floor Q&A:** Some Q&A took place during the project presentation. The board followed up with a series of questions regarding the design structure and concerns over the base flow. Director Roberti asked about bonding and the response was that the contractors and design teams are bonded. Estimated cost of this project is about \$2 million. Brandon Pangman with Sierra County offered advice that performance measures, with a mitigation plan should the base flow be impacted, be built into the project. The board requested that some monitoring data be provided at a later date and Beth agreed that she will get that out as soon as her draft is complete. Beth and Lisa expressed that they were very happy to work with the SVRCD to address concerns, and to include mitigation measures in project design to assure rectification if base flows are impacted by project. They also offered to attend a future meeting with more information for the Board.

The Board took a short break at 5:15pm, readjourning at 5:24pm.

***Board Action:** The Board discussed what action they should take. Concerns were outlined and defined.

Director Tipton motioned to draft a comment letter addressing concerns of the board to be submitted to Lahontan and Sierra County with the help of UCCE. Director Griffin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm